

This walking tour results from the tree inventory which volunteers compiled in this neighborhood during the summer of 1994. Every tree located in the public right-of-way and in the front yards of private homes was identified, measured, and mapped on survey forms designed by committee volunteers. This information forms a database that will aid the city forester to determine more easily which areas need more trees and what species do best in certain locations. Trees notable for their size and age, the Heritage Trees, will receive special recognition.

In a second phase of the project, the group hopes to begin tree stewardship and educational programs throughout the city. The third phase of the project will use the inventory to create a master plan for future tree plantings in the surveyed areas: the Goosetown, Longfellow, and North Side neighborhoods; Woodlawn Circle; Plum Grove; and Oakland Cemetery.

The Heritage Tree Project hopes to serve as a model for other neighborhoods that share its goals of planning and planting for the Iowa City of the future. Many cities in the United States are currently initiating similar projects.

We hope that you will appreciate the beauty and diversity of these trees which contribute so much to the quality of life in Iowa City.

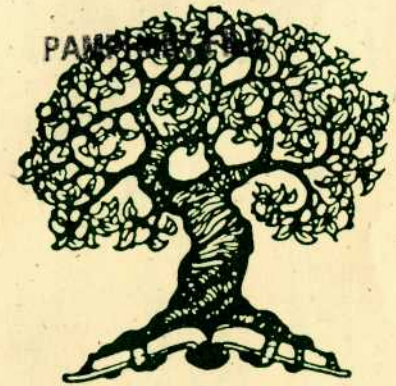
TOUR ETIQUETTE: While you stroll and enjoy the beauty of this neighborhood, please be courteous. Many trees are located on private property, so please be content to view them from the sidewalk. Street addresses are given only to help you locate the trees. Please respect the privacy of the residents and do not disturb them.

HERITAGE TREE PROGRAM
c/o Neighborhood Services Coordinator
Civic Center
410 E. Washington Street
Iowa City, IA 52240

Iowa--
Iowa City--
Trees

A TREE WA
IN THE
Longfellow
Neighborhood
IOWA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAR 28 1996



HERITAGE TREES
OF IOWA CITY

HERITAGE TREES is a group of citizen volunteers who work with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, neighborhood associations, Project GREEN, the City Council and the Forestry Division of Iowa City to preserve, maintain, and replenish Iowa City's trees. We thank these groups for their contributions to the Heritage Trees endeavor.

Longfellow Neighborhood and Its Trees

The Longfellow neighborhood covers about one-half square mile and is bounded on the north by College Street, on the south by the railroad tracks, on the west by Lucas Street, and on the east by Seventh Avenue. The neighborhood has a rich history dating back to the establishment of Iowa City as the territorial capital.

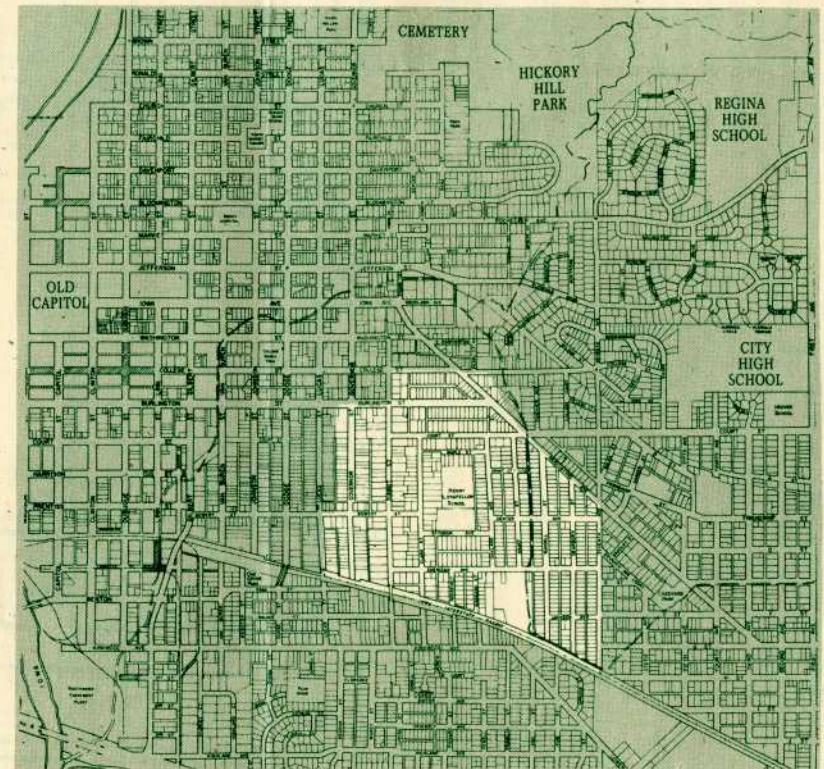
In the original plat of 1839, the southeast corner of the city limits extended to where today the stone obelisk stands at 331 South Summit Street. The 1854 map of Iowa City shows that much of the adjoining area was occupied by the Strohm Nursery. Shortly thereafter Nicholas Oakes began a brickworks in the area which today is occupied by the Longfellow School recreation field. He also built the large brick house at 1142 Court Street that was later home to the artist Grant Wood. In 1856 the area's first railroad was built along the right-of-way occupied by the existing tracks. In preparation for the Civil War, local soldiers gathered at "Camp Pope," an area adjoining the railroad. In 1880 the gentle ridge area that makes up South Summit Street was officially incorporated into the expanding city limits.

By 1910 more than three-quarters of the houses now found along South Summit Street had been constructed. In what today is the Historic District, the broad roadway, spacious front yards, and wooded lots created the park-like atmosphere which is a legacy from its well-to-do nineteenth-century residents. In 1917 Longfellow School was constructed, and residential development continued southeastward into the Oakes, Rundell, and East Iowa City additions. In those areas the houses and lot sizes were smaller, with bungalow and quaint cottage styles predominating.

Public transportation to these early suburban developments was provided between the world wars by a streetcar line which was accommodated by the extraordinary width of Rundell Street.

Today as the neighborhood and its trees continue to be renewed, the current residents are planting newly available ornamental trees and shrubs, as well as replanting old favorites. The purpose of this tour is to acquaint you with the delightful variety of trees in this neighborhood, including both the magnificent mature Heritage Trees and their younger companions.

SITE OF THE LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD

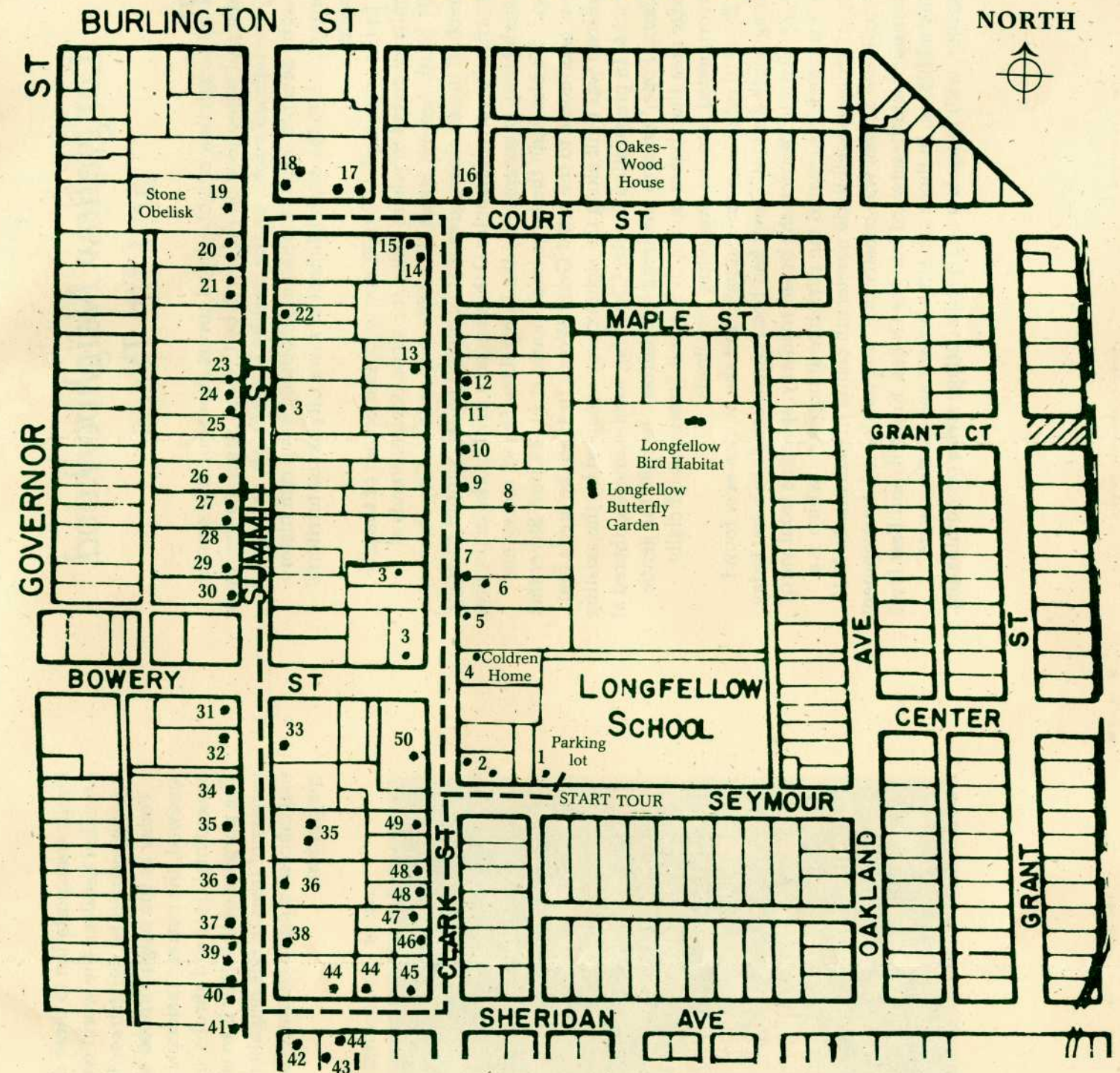


LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD TREE WALK

- 1 **128 Seymour.** Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) c. 1850. This is probably the oldest ginkgo tree in Iowa City. Ginkgos were introduced from China, where this primitive gymnosperm has survived from the time of the dinosaurs.
- 2 **614 Clark.** Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) c. 1975. The common name refers to the distinct fringe around the cap of the large acorns. Bur oaks are native to the Midwest in grassy uplands, where they grow slowly into large trees with widely spreading branches.
- 3 **1030 Bowery, 527 Clark, 430 Summit.** Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) c. 1840+. These majestic trees are the oldest in the neighborhood and likely pre-date the founding of the city.
- 4 **602 Clark** (Mary O. Coldren Retirement Home). Pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) c. 1975. Unlike the bur oak, this tree has leaves with sharply pointed lobes and a columnar trunk.
- 5 **542 Clark.** Concolor fir (*Abies concolor*) c. 1925. This tree is native to the mountains of the western U.S. and Canada. The tentlike growth form of this and other conifers helps them minimize damage to branches caused by winter snow and ice loading.
- 6 **534 Clark.** Red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) c. 1975. This conifer is native to Iowa, and its presence on rocky outcrops was the basis for local names such as Cedar River, Cedar Rapids, and Cedar Falls. Cedar trees should not be planted near apple trees, because they share certain fungal diseases.
- 7 **528 Clark.** Amur maple (*Acer ginnala*) c. 1975. This small, shrubby maple with small, three-lobed leaves is from Siberia.
- 8 **520 Clark.** Yellow bud hickory (*Carya cordiformis*) c. 1895. This is a large, long-lived tree found in local upland forests. The nuts are bitter-tasting and inedible.
- 9 **512 Clark, also 447 Summit** and southeast corner of Summit and Sheridan. Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*) c. 1905. This very distinctive tree has large heart-shaped leaves, showy clusters of white flowers, and large beanlike seed pods.
- 10 **506 Clark.** Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) c. 1970. Abundant white flowers are produced in spring, followed by small inedible fruits.
- 11 **428 Clark.** Japanese yew (*Taxus cuspidata*) c. 1925. This shrubby tree (and its companion Colorado spruce) were probably originally intended as small foundation plantings. Today dwarf varieties of yew are available for such purposes.
- 12 **428 Clark.** Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens*) c. 1925. This tree is native to the Rocky Mountains, and several varieties are now available which have especially blue coloration.
- 13 **427 Clark.** Star magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*) c. 1990. This shrubby tree produces showy fragrant white flowers in the early spring.
- 14 **1029 E. Court** (southwest corner of Clark and Court). Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) c. 1875. This tree was grown for its edible nuts and its dark heartwood, which was prized for Victorian furniture.
- 15 **1029 E. Court.** Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) c. 1920. As the scientific name suggests, this conifer is native to Canada and the northeastern U.S. and therefore grows best in cool moist sites.
- 16 **1040 E. Court.** Flowering crabapple (*Malus* sp.) c. 1960. Many varieties of crabapple are now available which have showy spring flowers and attractive small apple-like fruit. This particular variety has a weeping growth habit, in which the branch tips droop downward.
- 17 **330 S. Summit** (southeast corner of Court and Summit). Saucer magnolia (*Magnolia soulangiana*) c. 1935. In early spring these trees produce spectacular pink/white flowers, when they escape the late spring frosts.
- 18 **330 S. Summit** (southeast corner of Court and Summit). River birches (*Betula nigra*) c. 1935. As the name suggests, this birch commonly grows along the Iowa and Cedar rivers and thrives in moist soils.
- 19 **331 S. Summit.** The stone obelisk marks the southeast corner of Iowa City as it was designated in 1839 by city fathers Chauncey Swan, John Ronalds, and Robert Ralston. Near the curb is a small bronze disk placed by the U.S. Coast and Geologic Survey.
- 20 **405 S. Summit.** Silver maples (*Acer saccharinum*) c. 1970 and c. 1920. The backs of the leaves have a white or silverish color. Compare the young tree to the old tree, which has been pruned and cabled to prevent further wind and ice damage, to which these trees are prone.
- 21 **409 S. Summit.** Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) c. 1945. In Victorian times its dark coloration and weeping branches made the Norway spruce a popular choice for cemetery plantings.

- 22 **412 S. Summit.** Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) c. 1975. These trees are commonly found in upland forests in this area. This tree is still too young to produce the long strips of peeling bark and edible nuts that characterize mature trees.
- 23 **419 S. Summit.** American elm (*Ulmus americana*) c. 1965. Until the 1960s, when Dutch elm disease destroyed most of these trees in this area, they were among the largest and most common street trees.
- 24 **419 S. Summit.** Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) c. 1915 and c. 1940. This is the kind of maple that is tapped to produce maple syrup and used for lumber. Its abundance along Summit Street provides spectacular autumn leaf coloration.
- 25 **419 S. Summit.** Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) c. 1970. This conifer is native to the northeastern U.S. and Canada. The needle-like leaves are very fragrant when crushed.
- 26 **435-437 S. Summit.** Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*) c. 1990. This shrubby Asian maple is near the limit of its winter hardiness zone. The purple-leafed variety 'Bloodgood' is the most commonly planted form in this area.
- 27 **447 S. Summit.** Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) c. 1940. Hackberries are native to the eastern two-thirds of the U.S. and provide probably the closest approximation to the appearance of the American elms.
- 28 **447 S. Summit.** Slippery elm (*Ulmus fulva*) c. 1925. This tree, native to the eastern two-thirds of the U.S., is similar to the American elm in many respects—including its vulnerability to Dutch elm disease.
- 29 **513 S. Summit.** Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) c. 1950. These trees are native to Iowa and do well in this area. They produce especially large acorns and have dark red leaves in the fall.
- 30 **519 S. Summit.** Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*) c. 1975. The needle-like leaves are grouped in pairs. This pine dominates in the Black Forest of southern Germany and Austria. Compare this relatively young tree with no. 32.
- 31 **603 S. Summit.** European mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*) c. 1960. This tree produces clusters of small white flowers that develop into clusters of small bright-orange fruits.
- 32 **609 S. Summit.** Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*) c. 1905. Young trees (like no. 30) have a pyramidal shape with the lowest branches sweeping to the ground. Mature trees have shed the lower branches and have columnar trunks with fissured bark.
- 33 **602 S. Summit.** Japanese tree lilac (*Syringa reticulata*) c. 1985. These shrubby trees produce big clusters of white fragrant flowers in the late spring. There are larger specimens in front of Grant Wood House at 1142 Court Street.
- 34 **621 S. Summit.** Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) c. 1885. Native to the northeastern U.S. and Canada, this tree has long slender flexible needles arranged in groups of five. Other especially handsome specimens are found at 624 S. Summit and on the east side of the 700 block of Oakland Avenue.
- 35 **624 S. Summit.** Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) ca. 1895. This tree is native along the Iowa and Cedar rivers. It has highly divided leaves 1-3 feet long with many small leaflets. The fruit consists of large dark brown pods that remain on trees until late winter.
- 36 **709 and 710 S. Summit.** Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) c. 1855 and c. 1990. Tulip trees are native to the eastern half of the U.S. Compare the large tree with lightning damage to its offspring across the street. These trees produce large, greenish, tulip-shaped flowers in early summer. There is another large specimen at 903 Dearborn.
- 37 **715 S. Summit** (flanking entrance walk). Dwarf alberta spruce (*Picea glauca* var. *albertiana*) c. 1975. The dense cone-shaped trees flanking the sidewalk are a dwarf or slow-growing variety of the white spruce.
- 38 **718 S. Summit.** Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) c. 1920. This tree is closely related to the black walnut and is also native to this area. Unfortunately, its numbers are being reduced by a canker disease.
- 39 **725 S. Summit.** Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) c. 1965. These trees, native to Iowa, are now commonly planted along streets. The seeds and pollen are produced on separate trees. Seedless trees are usually preferred, to avoid production of volunteer seedlings.
- 40 **725 and 733 S. Summit.** Honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) c. 1965 and c. 1985. Honey locusts are native to Iowa and are widely planted because of their delicate, almost fern-like compound leaves. Today the most commonly planted cultivars are thornless and seedless varieties like 'Sunburst' and 'Moraine.'
- 41 **733 S. Summit.** Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) c. 1980. This tree is native to China. Pollen and seeds are produced on separate trees. Trees of heaven are generally unpopular because they spread rapidly from suckers and seeds and have an odor that some people find disagreeable.

TOUR ROUTE



- 42 **802 Summit** (second tree around corner on Sherman). White ash (*Fraxinus americana*) c. 1980. These native trees produce pollen and seeds on separate trees. Seedless cultivars are available.
- 43 **1011 Sherman.** European purple beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) c. 1990. Purple- or copper-leafed varieties of European beech will in time grow into picturesque mature trees similar to the one near the entrance to the Woodlawn Historic District at the end of Iowa Avenue.
- 44 **1011 Sherman and 1014 Sherman.** Red maple (*Acer rubrum*) c. 1955. At the time Iowa City was settled, this tree was rare in the area. Today the many examples planted along Sherman Street make a spectacular sight in the fall when their leaves turn bright red.
- 45 **739 Clark.** Red mulberry (*Morus rubra*) c. 1975. A native tree having a wide variety of different leaf shapes, the red mulberry is seldom planted because most homeowners consider its fallen fruit messy.
- 46 **739 Clark.** Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) c. 1965. This most commonly planted of the non-native maples produces attractive yellowish flowers with sweet fragrance in the spring. In exposed locations it is prone to winter sun damage.
- 47 **725 Clark.** Purple Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) c. 1940. This variety has dark purple leaves through the entire growing season. The leaves remain on the tree late into autumn.
- 48 **717 and 715 Clark.** American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) c. 1945. Native to this area, American sycamores naturally grow in flood plains of rivers and creeks. Some homeowners object to them because they frequently shed leaves, numerous small branches, and patches of bark from their upper trunks.
- 49 **705 Clark.** White paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*) c. 1965. These trees are native to only the northernmost parts of Iowa. As they mature their chalky white bark peels in large sheets. Unfortunately, birch borers can damage these trees.
- 50 **1029 Bowery** (near southwest corner of Clark and Bowery). Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*) c. 1875. This shrubby tree was introduced into rural Iowa to provide windbreaks and living fence posts. The pollen and seeds are produced on separate trees. The fruit resembles a bright green orange, locally referred to as a hedge apple.