

Jefferson Park Avenue Utility Friendly Arboretum

Unfortunately, there are many conflicts between trees and overhead utility lines in many urban as well as rural settings. We all have seen disfigured trees with crowns sheared off the top (topped), branches totally cut on one side or completely removed in the middle, just to provide space for overhead utility lines. Furthermore, conflicts between trees and utilities have caused power disruptions, costly clean-ups and increased utility costs, not to mention safety hazards.

Much has been written about co-existence of trees and utilities (www.utilityfriendlytrees.org) and Utility Friendly Arboreta have sprung up, which were planned to both test and evaluate a variety of utility compatible trees, or just showcase them for the public to see and learn about.

The Charlottesville Tree Commission is proud to announce that the City is now home to one of 5 Utility Friendly Arboreta in the State of Virginia (www.utilityfriendlytrees.org). As of April 24, 2015, Arbor Day, the median strip of Jefferson Park Avenue, from the bridge over the railroad to the Fry Spring Swim Club, in the Fry Spring Neighborhood will be a showcase of small utility friendly trees. Although the City has planted and maintained this strip with utility line compatible tree species over the years, the Tree Commission wanted to educate the public about trees and utility conflicts, and choose this site for that purpose. The JPA Arboretum is now marked by signs indicating the site as a small tree showcase and selected trees have small signs with identification information; Latin and common names, a small silhouette of a mature tree, and a so called QR code which can be scanned and read by apps on a cell phone and connects the user to a website with more information about the particular tree, including cultivation, growth habit and conditions, mature size, and other information.

The Charlottesville Tree Commission hopes that the Utility Friendly Arboretum will educate and inspire people to choose utility compatible trees for planting and growing on their own property, in particular if the only space available is close to or under a power line, so that conflicts can be avoided in the future.

A list of species planted in the Arboretum follows.

Acer griseum - Paperbark Maple

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=q110>

Amelanchier arborea- Serviceberry

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=h290>

Cercis canadensis- redbud

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=h550>

Cercis canadensis 'Forest Pansy' – redbud

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=r400>

Cercis reniformis 'Oklahoma' – redbud

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b970>

Cornus florida – American flowering dogwood

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c280>

Chionanthus retusus- Chinese fringe tree

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=282979&isprofile=0&>

Crataegus viridis 'Winter King' – Green hawthorne <http://>

www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c410

Prunus incisa x *campanulata* 'Okame' – Okame cherry

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st522>

Prunus x *yedoensis* – Yoshino cherry

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=i720>

Styrax japonica 'Snow charm', snowbell

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c153>

Syringa reticulata 'Ivory silk' – Ivory Silk TM Japanese tree lilac

<http://www.jfschmidt.com/pdfs/ivorysilklilac.pdf>