

Overview

Asheville's GreenWorks Treasured Tree program honors unique and special trees in the community. Identifying Treasured Trees on A-B Tech's campus recognizes the contributions that these special trees add to the campus and the community. Over recent years, Asheville's urban tree canopy has declined with these trees serving vital functions in reducing the urban heat island effect, absorbing excess runoff from storm events, and reducing airborne pollutants. By having designated Treasured Trees on campus, A-B Tech shows a commitment to preserving campus trees and maintaining the urban tree canopy, therefore, helping to alleviate a variety of environmental problems.

To learn more about the trees
on campus and other flora:



abtech.edu/about/green/trees-campus

Treasured Trees



GreenWorks



340 Victoria Road
Asheville, NC 28801
abtech.edu
(828) 398-7900



A-B Tech's Treasured Trees



Tree #1 - American Beech - *Fagus grandiflora*

Located between Ferguson, Elm & Coman buildings
Native to Eastern US
Deciduous



Became a Treasured Tree on Dec 2019, due to age, beauty and being located in the center of campus. This tree is approximately 200+ years old. The Beech Tree Deck, which protects the tree's roots by surrounding the area, is a general meeting spot in the center of campus. Beech trees used to be home to migrating (now extinct)

Passenger Pigeons who landed in such great numbers that they broke limbs off of the trees. Edible beechnuts open in the Fall and are produced after the tree reaches 40 years old. Beechnuts are eaten by birds and mammals (chipmunks and squirrels).

Tree #3 - Ginkgo - *Ginkgo biloba*

Located between Magnolia and Sycamore buildings
Native to China
Deciduous



This tree became a Treasured Tree in 2022 and it is also a Memorial Tree in honor of Sarah Gnilka, Biology Instructor. The tree can be found at the center of the campus's first pollinator garden. The exact tree age is unknown, but it is over 50 years old with some Ginkgo's living as long as 3,000 years. Ginkgo's are ancient trees - with leaf fossils dating back to 270 million years ago. Brought to the US in the late 1700's, seeds and leaves are used in medicine to improve blood circulation and memory loss. With their tolerance to pollution, Ginkgo's are often used in urban settings. Ginkgo's have fan shaped leaves and produce beautiful, brilliant yellow Fall colors.

Tree #4 - Douglas Fir - *Pseudotsuga menziessii*

Located between the Magnolia building and the Magnolia parking lot
Native to Western Coast US
Coniferous

Became a Treasured Tree in 2022 as it is an impressive example of a Douglas Fir and is part of a unique group of special tree species on top of the Magnolia and Fernihurst hill. These trees may even have been planted by Frederick L. Olmstead, the famous landscape architect. This 80 to 100-year-old tree was struck by lightning around 2019 and even though the top died, the tree still lives. This species was historically used for railroad ties, telephone/telegraph poles and naval masts. Seeds are eaten by songbirds, squirrels, rabbits, and other small animals. Deer, elk, and mountain sheep/goats eat the twigs.



Tree #5 - Southern Magnolia - *Magnolia grandiflora*

Native to Southeastern U.S
Located between the Magnolia building and the Magnolia parking lot
Coniferous

This tree became a Treasured Tree in 2019. It is an impressive specimen with multiple tree trunks growing together, and is part of a unique group of special trees potentially planted by Frederick L. Olmstead. The tree is likely 80 to 100+ years old. The campus Magnolia Building was named after the Magnolia trees in this location. The Genus Magnolia was named after Pierre Magnol – a Botanist who transplanted the tree to Europe 300 years ago. Parts of the tree are eaten by squirrels, opossums, rabbits, birds, bears and wild turkeys.

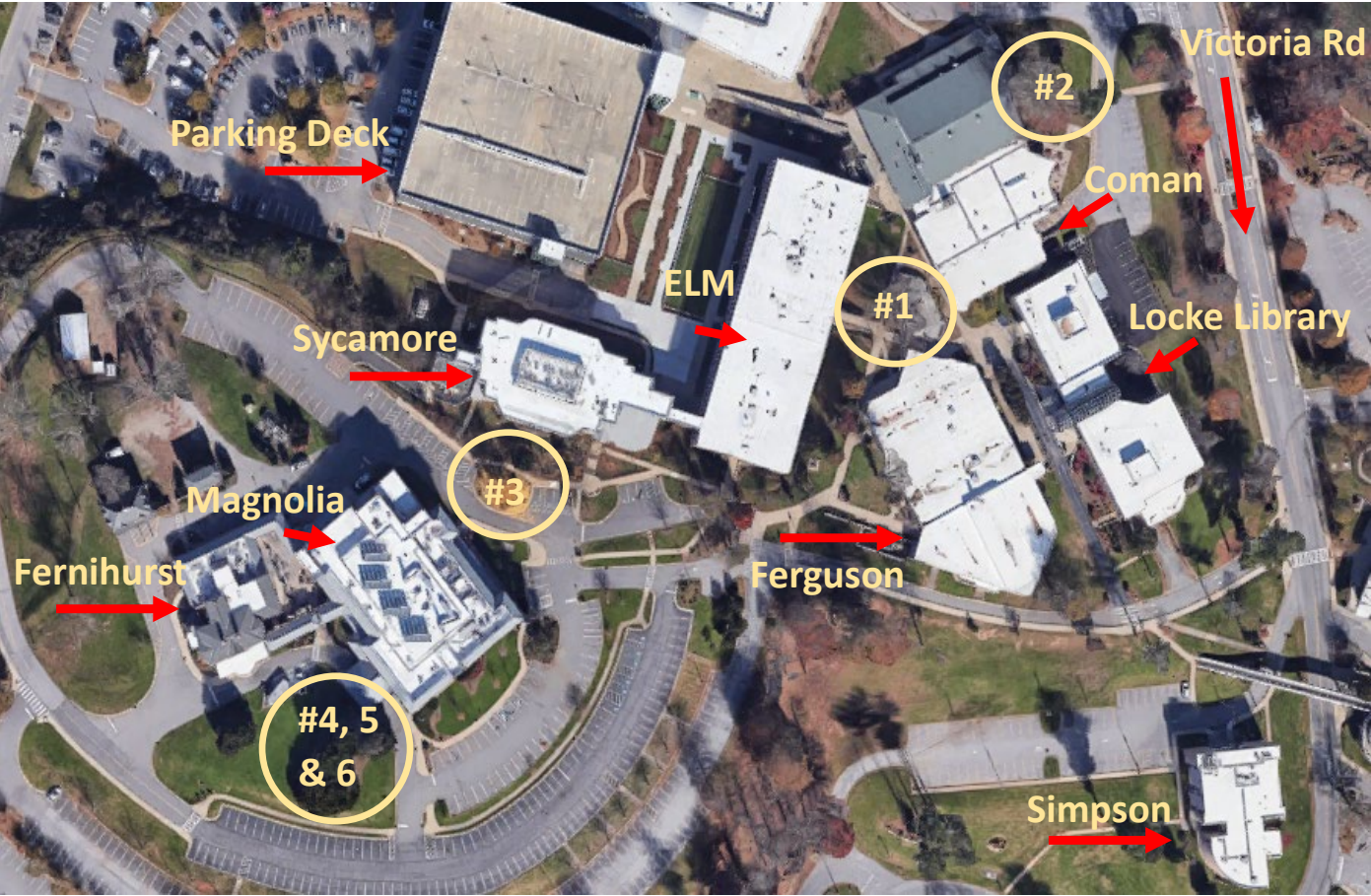


Tree #2 - White Oak - *Quercus alba*

Located between the Coman building and the Coman parking lot
Native to Eastern US
Deciduous



Became a Treasured Tree in 2020, as it is a beautiful and majestic example of a White Oak. This White Oak is approximately 200+ years old. Oaks support more moth & butterfly species than any other native tree (these species lay eggs, eat the leaves, and use the tree for shelter). Oaks are a very important food source for animals. Leaf buds are a vital food source to birds. While plentiful acorns are produced in the Fall and are high in protein and essential oils. These small packets are important energy sources for wildlife - bears, deer, rodents etc.



Tree #6 - English Yew - *Taxus baccata*

Native to Europe & Asia
Located between the Magnolia building and the Magnolia parking lot
Coniferous

Became a Treasured Tree in 2020 as it is an amazingly wide and wonderful example of an English Yew. It is part of a unique group of special tree species potentially planted by Frederick L Olmstead. This tree is 80 to 100+ years old, but Yews can live up to 1000+ years. Yews are thought to be the tree of the dead and are often found in cemeteries and church yards in Europe. Their wood is used to make long bows. Seeds, leaves etc. are poisonous and can cause the heart to stop, however some birds and badgers eat the bright red fleshy aril around the seed and deer eat the greenery in winter. Taxol, used in cancer treatment, is produced from certain species of Yew.

