



The Trees of Cherry Park

To learn more about Cherry Park's trees and other street and park trees in East Hills, check out the tree map on the East Hills web site, www.easthillscouncil.org. You'll also find the East Hills urban forest plan on the website.

You can find out the annual benefits of trees from www.treebenefits.org, a web site that calculates values based on the region of the country, the tree species, and its diameter. You may be surprised to learn how much trees are benefiting you!



The compact neighborhood playground at Cherry St. and Eastern Ave. was acquired for purchase in 1911. A popular children's song celebrating the park was written by Grand Rapids Native Carol Johnson, and has been sung at school concerts at GRPS elementary schools!

Cherry Park offers lots of recreational opportunities, including basketball and tennis courts, a horseshoe pit, playground equipment, and a summertime wading pool.



The Trees of Cherry Park

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The Trees of Cherry Park



Cherry Park
At Cherry and Eastern

Can You Find These Trees?

Black Locust (7)

- Native species
- Fragrant white flowers in the spring
- Yellow fall leaves
- The wood is so strong that in the 1800s the British credited the success of the U.S. naval fleet in the War of 1812 to Black Locust lumber, used to build ships.



Black Walnut (2)

- Native species
- Catkins (scaly clusters of flowers) composed of many tiny green flowers, in spring.
- Yellowish green fall color
- Fallen leaves and roots produce a natural herbicide called juglone, which makes it difficult for many plants to grow under black walnut trees.
- Wood is valued for furniture making because it doesn't shrink or warp.
- Walnuts are an important food source for wildlife



Northern Catalpa

- Large orchid-like flowers, white with yellow and purple spots and stripes, in the spring
- Yellow green fall color, turning to black.
- Heart-shaped leaves are 6-12" long—among the largest tree leaves in Michigan.
- Catalpa, American Indian name; is also called Cigar Tree or Indian bean, refering to the long, beanlike seedpods.



Pignut (Red) Hickory (1)

- Native
- Gray shaggy bark, often peeling into long thin strips
- Yellow fall leaves
- Green nuts turn brown when mature. They are not edible. Called Pignut Hickory because the nuts were considered suitable only for pigs.
- Wood was once used for wagon wheels, and saplings for broom handles.



Red Maple (2)

- Native
- Red flowers and winged seeds, called samaras, in spring.
- Red to orange fall color.
- Leaves have three points and red stalks.
- One of the most drought-tolerant maple species in Michigan



Pin Oak (1)

- Native (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*— or non-native if it's *Quercus palustris*)
- Shiny green leaves with narrow "fingers" ending in a point.
- Deep red to reddish brown fall color.
- Our newest park tree—planted in October 2009.



Sugar Maple (1)

- Native
- Winged seeds, called samaras, turn from green to tan.
- Orange to red fall color.
- Source of maple syrup and maple sugar. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup.
- Break in a twig, branch or trunk leaks sugary water in spring, attracting birds, bugs and mammals, which drink the sap.
- Extremely hard wood, valued for furniture and floors



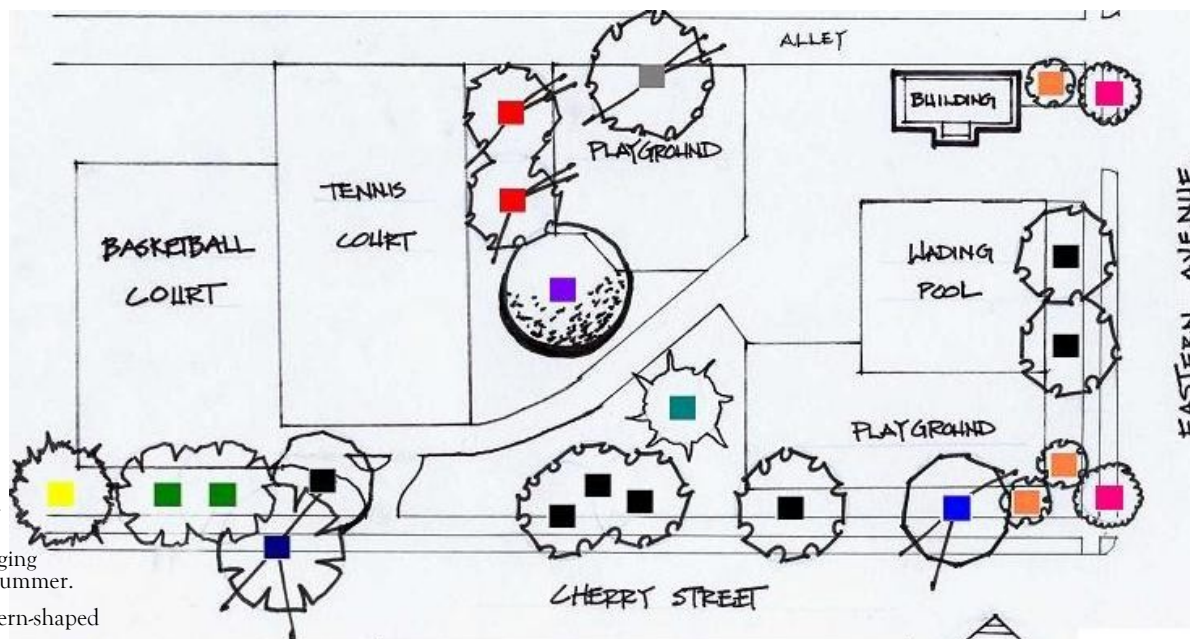
Golden Rain or Varnish Tree (1)*

- Bright yellow hanging flower clusters in summer.
- Papery brown lantern-shaped seed pods in fall.



Bradford Pear (2)*

- Native to Korea and China
- Flowers in early spring
- Pyramidal shape
- Orange, red and maroon fall color



KEY		
Black Locust	Pignut Hickory	Cherry or Plum
Black Walnut	Pin Oak	Ash
Northern Catalpa	Red Maple	Bradford Pear
Golden Rain or Varnish Tree	Sugar Maple	

Weeping Cherry (3)**

- Slow growing ornamental
- Branches can cascade to the ground
- Showy flowers in the spring
- Considered a specimen tree



* Dave's Garden Website

Source: *Trees of Michigan Field Guide* by Stan Tekiela

** About.com