

# Trees at the Joseph McDowell Historical Catawba Greenway



## American Beech

The nuts from this tree are an excellent food for many wild birds and animals.

**Wood Type:** Hardwood

**Mature Height:** 60 to 80 feet high

**Mature Diameter:** 2 to 3 feet

**Uses:** Furniture, flooring, carpenters' tools, novelty wares and food containers.



## American Hop Hornbeam

This tree has very strong, hard and durable wood and is known as "ironwood" or "leverwood."

**Wood Type:** Hardwood

**Mature Height:** 20 to 30 feet high

**Mature Diameter:** 7 to 10 inches

**Uses:** Tool handles, mallets, and other small articles. Several young hop hornbeams planted in a row can be pruned to develop an attractive hedge.



## American Sycamore

This tree is also called "buttonwood" and is considered one of the largest hardwood trees in North America.

**Wood Type:** Hardwood

**Mature Height:** 80 to 110 feet

**Mature Diameter:** 3 to 8 feet

**Uses:** Chopping blocks, tobacco boxes, furniture, interior finish and products such as chip board and flake board.



## Black Cherry

This tree is often called wild cherry and the cherries from this tree are food for wild animals and birds.

**Wood Type:** Hardwood

**Mature Height:** 60 to 100 feet high

**Mature Diameter:** 1 to 5 feet

**Uses:** Furniture, interior finish, tools and tool handles. Cherry lumber is one of the most valuable in the eastern United States.



## Black Locust

Often called "yellow locust," this tree is native only to the mountains of North Carolina although it is widely planted across the state.

**Wood Type:** Hardwood

**Mature Height:** 30 to 70 feet tall

**Mature Diameter:** 1 to 2 feet

**Uses:** Fence posts, poles, split rails, insulator pins, decking and in other places where hard, strong, decay-resistant wood is needed.



## Black Walnut

This tree is the most valuable of all the hardwoods. The meat of the nut is sweet and edible and is a favorite food for squirrels.

**Wood Type:** Hardwood

**Mature Height:** 50 to 90 feet high

**Mature Diameter:** 2 to 3 feet

**Uses:** Furniture, cabinetwork and gun stocks.

**\*\*Fun Fact:** A **deciduous** tree loses its leaves annually.

**\*\*Fun Fact:** All trees reproduce by producing seeds, but the seed structure varies.

**For more tree information, please visit** [www.ncforestservice.gov](http://www.ncforestservice.gov)



## Flowering Dogwood

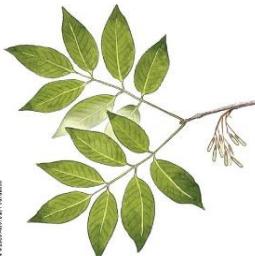
The dogwood has the distinction of being North Carolina's state flower.

**Wood Type:** Hardwood

**Mature Height:** 10 to 20 feet tall

**Mature Diameter:** 4 to 6 inches

**Uses:** Textile shuttles and spools and for handles and mallets.



## Green Ash

This tree is common along rivers and low grounds in the North Carolina Piedmont and lower mountains.

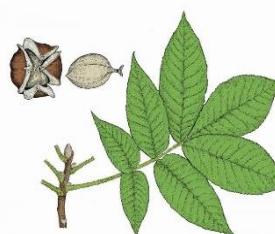
**Wood Type:** Hardwood

**Mature Height:** 50 to 60 feet tall

**Mature Diameter:** 18 to 24 inches

**Uses:** Tool handles and baseball and softball bats.

**\*\*Fun Fact:** In general, **hardwood** comes from a deciduous tree which loses its leaves annually and **softwood** comes from a conifer, which usually remains evergreen.



## Mockernut Hickory

This and other hickories are very desirable as both forest and shade trees. The meat of the nut is sweet and is enclosed in a very thick shell.

**Wood Type:** Hardwood

**Mature Height:** 50 to 70 feet high

**Mature Diameter:** 1 to 2 feet

**Uses:** Tool handles and in sporting goods.



## River Birch

The river birch is the only native birch found at low elevations in the South.

**Wood Type:** Hardwood

**Mature Height:** 70 to 80 feet high

**Mature Diameter:** 1 to 3 feet

**Uses:** Furniture and other products, where its close-grained properties make it valuable.

**\*\*Fun Fact:** Hardwoods tend to be slower growing and are therefore usually more dense.



## Red Maple

The red maple is also known as "swamp maple" or "soft maple" and is found throughout North Carolina.

**Wood Type:** Hardwood

**Mature Height:** 40 to 50 feet high

**Mature Diameter:** 1 ½ to 2 ½ feet

**Uses:** Furniture manufacturing, turnery (turning on a lathe) and woodenware and as pulpwood.



## Yellow Poplar

Also known as the tulip tree, this tree grows best in deep moist soils along streams and in lower mountain coves.

**Wood Type:** Hardwood (but soft enough to work with easily)

**Mature Height:** 90 to 110 feet high

**Mature Diameter:** 2 to 5 feet

**Uses:** Cut into lumber for interior and exterior trim, veneers, flake and chip boards, turnery (turning on a lathe) and other high-grade uses.

**Tree Identification Signs Courtesy of the City of Marion, McDowell Technical Community College, and the NC Forest Service.**