

Lathrup Village Arboretum Proposal

Arboretum- a botanical garden devoted to trees

The Lathrup Village Tree Committee is interested in developing the City-owned greenspace located at Bungalow Drive and Rainbow Drive into the Lathrup Village Arboretum. An arboretum is the planting, maintenance and preservation of trees that grow in the environment of the State of Michigan for the purpose of public education and engagement. With an approximate square footage of 22,000, this undeveloped vacant greenspace is ideal for an arboretum dedication.

Currently, there are 4 California crab trees that exist on the east side of the greenspace. These trees are in decline and would be slated for removal. A White oak is also located on the north end which was planted during a previous Arbor Day. The greenspace was the location of the first Arbor Day tree planting after the formation of the Lathrup Village Tree Committee. A River birch was planted, marking the second species in the area that would begin the make up of the arboretum. With the funding supplied by the Michigan DNR and DTE Energy, 3 additional trees were planted in the location during the spring of 2025; Dawn redwood, Swamp White oak and Ginkgo were planted on the northwest side of the park. These trees were planted in their locations based on the future mature height of each tree species.

Future plans include a fully planted area with a mix of Michigan native and non-native deciduous trees, shrubs and vegetation, ADA accessible walking paths, informative plaques for each tree and seating areas for families coming together beneath the tree canopies. The specific species planted will have predetermined locations which will be a part of future Arbor Day Celebrations, grant fundings and community donations. A planned layout will allow for proper placement to ensure each tree receives the appropriate amount of sun, water and protection. 12 additional trees have been measured out and chosen based on mature size, species tolerance, soil condition, sun tolerance and benefits to the environment.

Community members will have the opportunity to leave their mark on the Lathrup Village Arboretum. There are three potential ways for community members to donate to this development:

1) Tree Donation: a community member can donate the cost for the City to purchase and plant a species selected from the planned tree list. A donation of a tree will show a lasting impact to future generations as the tree grows in the arboretum area. Donated trees will be planted with a plaque thanking the individual or group. *(Outer barrier tree plan on accompanying map, interior plantings to be planned in the future)*

2) Informational Plaque Donation: Donations made towards tree species information plaques. This will create an educational environment for all and inform readers of a tree's specific history as well as the impact it has on the environment.

3) General Arboretum Development Donations: Donations of any amount can be made to help continue the development of the arboretum aiding in funding; ongoing maintenance, improvements and future expenses.

Accreditation:

Arbnet.org is the global network for arboreta. The accreditation program certifies public and private lands as arboretums that meet 1 of 4 levels of accreditation requirements. Accreditation application will be submitted once the Lathrup Village arboretum meets the level 1 requirements

- Arboretum plan
- Governing group (Tree Committee)
- 25 labeled taxa (woody plant species)
- One tree related program a year (Arbor Day planting, community demonstration, ect)

There are currently 12 accredited arborea in the State of Michigan.

Lathrup Village will be setting a new precedent with this unique project. It has opportunities for developing community education and stewardship surrounding trees. The main goals of the project include – plant more trees in an undeveloped vacant area, cultivate an education program for the public on the importance and benefits of trees, preserve a dedicated area for trees to thrive within the City, and give residents, families and community members a centralized location to gather, learn and appreciate trees.

Lathrup Village Tree Committee

Brandon Wynn- Chair

Reed Boskey - Vice Chair

Roger Lynn- Secretary

Nancy Perchard- Community Outreach

LATHRUP VILLAGE ARBORETUM

Tree Placement Map

- Previously planted
- Planned planting





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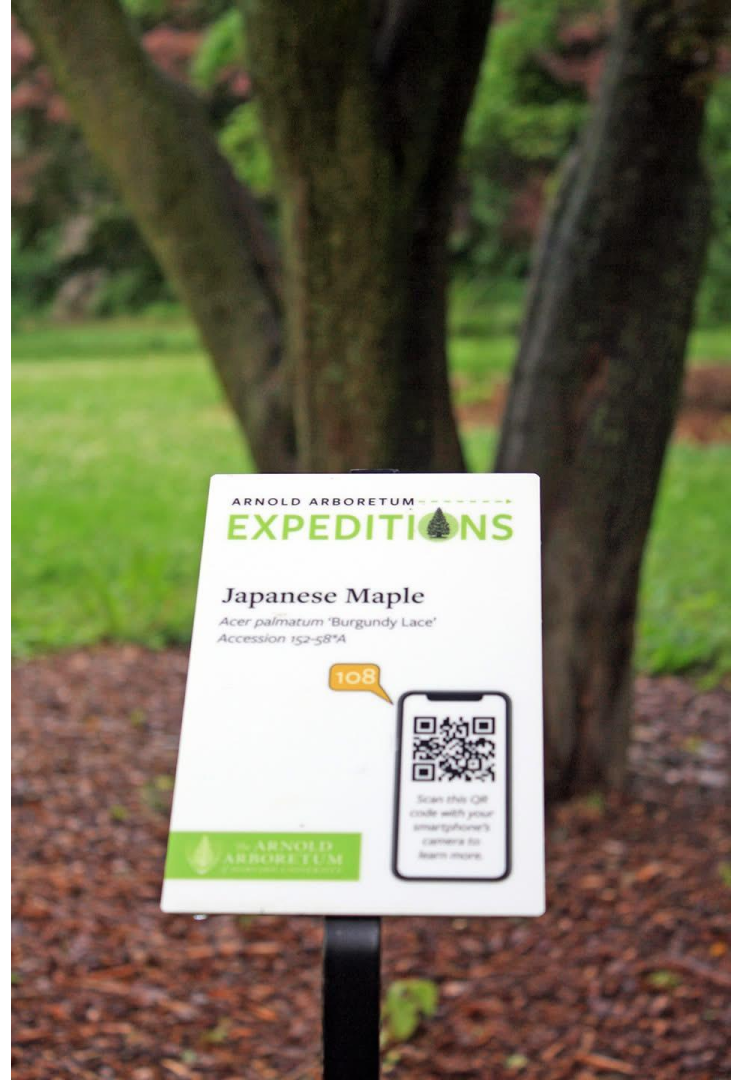
LATHRUP
VILLAGE
ARBORETUM

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EXAMPLES



THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM'S COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION

FRANKLIN TREE *Franklinia alatamaha*

THREAT LEVEL
Extinct in the wild

NATIVE TO
Southeastern
United States

The two Franklin trees growing in the Explorers Garden are over one hundred years old—the oldest and largest such trees in the world. John and William Bartram first discovered the Franklin tree in 1765 along the Altamaha River in southeastern Georgia, only a few decades before the species completely disappeared from the wild. William returned in 1776 to collect seed from the plant and successfully germinated it in his family's garden in Philadelphia. In 1884, the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University received a Franklin tree that was grown in the Bartram's family garden. Notoriously challenging to establish, two cuttings from the original plant were sited on the southwestern slope of Bussey Hill, one of the mildest environments in the Arboretum. Horticulturists worked hard in the early years to protect the young plants from Boston's harsh winters. Through their efforts, these trees have persisted into their old age.

Did You Know?

- 1. Named after William Bartram named this species to honor Benjamin Franklin, a good friend of his father, the early American botanist John Bartram.
- 2. A relative of *Stewartia* and *Cassia*, the Franklin tree is a member of the tea family (*Theaceae*).
- 3. In temperate climates, the Franklin tree blooms through late summer and early fall—unusually late for a woody plant—and displays its showy blossoms alongside brilliant autumn foliage.

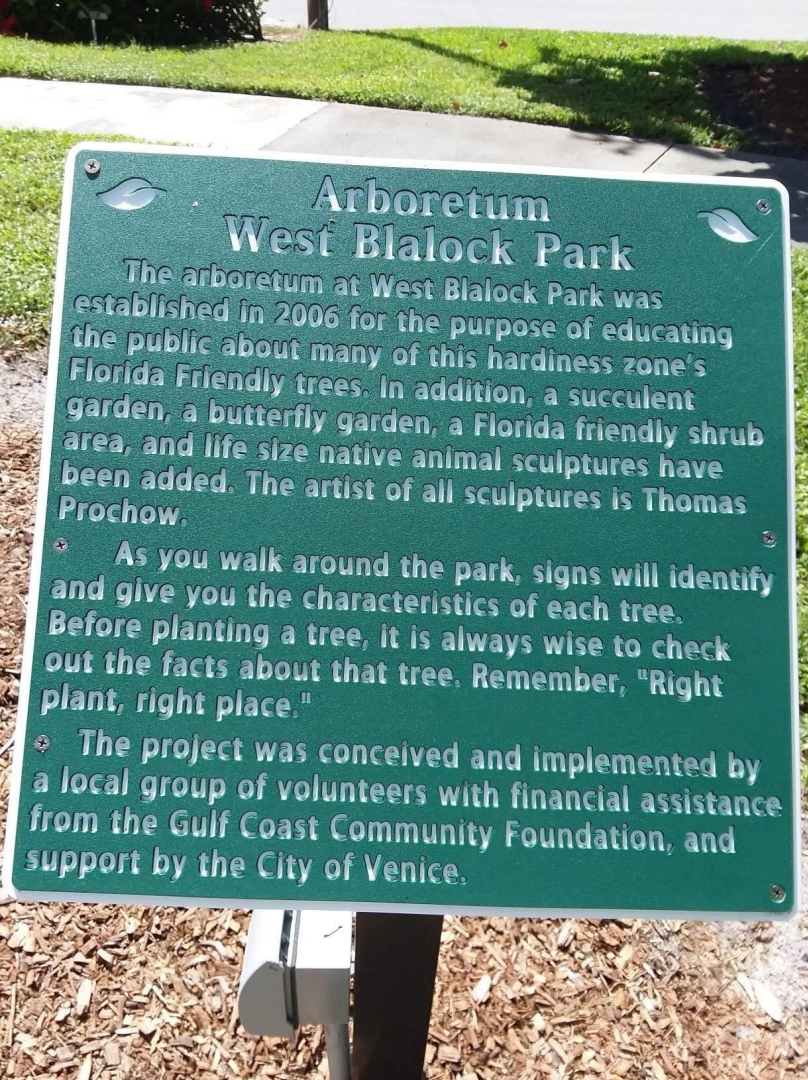
which like his father, William Bartram (above) spent years cataloging the native flora of the American South. In 1999, the United States Postal Service honored the Bartrams with a stamp illustrating the Franklin tree.

The seed of the Franklin tree develops over two growing seasons (uncommon among woody plants). In autumn, you can observe flowers and ripening fruit capsules on the tree at the same time (pictured above). Take a look!

Historical artist Charles E. Faxon spent thirty-six years as the assistant director of the Arnold Arboretum library and herbarium. His drawing of the Franklin tree can be found in the Arboretum's horticultural library.

The Franklin tree is a favorite of late summer and early autumn pollinators. Above, a group of European honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) gather pollen from its spectacular citrus-scented flowers.

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Arboretum West Blalock Park

The arboretum at West Blalock Park was established in 2006 for the purpose of educating the public about many of this hardiness zone's Florida Friendly trees. In addition, a succulent garden, a butterfly garden, a Florida friendly shrub area, and life size native animal sculptures have been added. The artist of all sculptures is Thomas Prochow.

As you walk around the park, signs will identify and give you the characteristics of each tree. Before planting a tree, it is always wise to check out the facts about that tree. Remember, "Right plant, right place."

The project was conceived and implemented by a local group of volunteers with financial assistance from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, and support by the City of Venice.



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