



The Maryland Big Tree Program

By Ray Iturralde and Frederic C. Chalfant, Baltimore City Forestry Board

The Baltimore City
Forest Conservancy
District Board



Since May 2017, your Baltimore City Forestry Board has been having fun hunting down and measuring Big Trees, in parks and on private properties where permitted. We have succeeded in getting **54** city trees designated as State or City Champions for their species. Other trees are deemed 'Notable' for being unusual, exemplary, or having historical significance. Check out www.mdbigtrees.com to view all the big tree listings. Hope this flyer will interest you in Big trees.

The **Maryland Big Tree Program** is associated with the Department of Natural Resources Forest Service, which provides technical assistance when needed. The MBTP is sponsored by the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards, which provide major policy guidance. THIS IS A TOTALLY VOLUNTEER-BASED PROGRAM!! Nominated Trees are measured and rated on a competitive points system. State Champ has the highest, then City, then Notable.

Maryland Big Tree Points = Height (feet) + Circumference at Breast Height (inches) + 1/4 Maximum Crown Spread. See mdbigtrees.com for more info on measuring. Some species don't really have to be big to be champs. For instance, a Live Oak, in Bolton Hill, with a circumference of a mere 16", a height of only 14' and a spread of 16' is our city's current champ for the species at 36 total points! The Maryland State Champion Live Oak, located in Easton, is rated at 46 points. For info on how to register a Big Tree, contact John Bennett at mdbigtreetprogram@aol.com. New Champions are listed below and those species in need of a city champion are on the back of this page. One great benefit, besides being outdoors admiring trees, is that your tree ID skills will be challenged and enhanced. Happy hunting!



Scarlet oak – Baltimore City Champion

Cir 170" Hgt 83' Sprd 94 277 points. JHU Homewood



Southern red oak – Baltimore City Champion

Cir 172" Hgt 81' Sprd 92 276 points. JHU Homewood



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New Champion Trees!

2017 was a great year for big trees in Baltimore with **54** new City champions including **13** new State champions (*). There are hundreds of other champion tree species in Baltimore, this list is just the most recent. **Listed by order of points**

- Taxodium distichum*** (bald cypress) [375 pts] Clifton Park
Liriodendron tulipifera (tulip tree) [372 pts] Wyman Park (co-champ)
Ulmus americana (American elm) [331 pts] Gwynns Falls Pkwy
Quercus phellos (willow oak) [293 pts] JHU
Quercus lyrata (overcup oak) [286 pts] Clifton Park *
Quercus macrocarpa (bur oak) [281 pts] Patterson Park
Quercus coccinea (scarlet oak) [277pts] JHU
Quercus falcata (southern red oak) [276 pts] JHU
Ulmus pumila (Siberian elm) [264 pts] Patterson Park
Metasequoia glyptostroboides (dawn redwood) [260 pts] Cylburn
Ailanthus altissima (ailanthus) [258pts] Guilford Gateway Park*
Juglans regia (English walnut) [255 pts] Bolton Hill
Quercus bicolor (swamp white oak) [253 pts] Clifton Park
Acer saccharinum (silver maple) Carroll Park [253 pts]
Quercus velutina (black oak) [253 pts] Upper Chinquapin Run Park
Quercus stellata (post oak) [246 pts] Clifton Park
Fraxinus pennsylvanica (green ash) [236 pts] Waverly
Gleditsia triacanthos (honeylocust) [236 pts] Wyman Park Dell *
Aesculus hippocastanum (horse chestnut) [218 pts] Druid Hill Park
Tilia cordata (littleleaf linden) [214 pts] Patterson Park
Cedrus deodara (Deodar cedar) [208 pts] JHU
Nyssa sylvatica (black tupelo) [207 pts] Greenway
Carya illinoensis (pecan) [205 pts] JHU
Carya tomentosa (mockernut hickory) [203 pts] Evergreen
Picea abies (Norway spruce) [202 pts] Guilford
Quercus accutissima (sawtooth oak) [200 pts] Wyman Park
Sassafras albidum (sassafras) [200 pts] Druid Hill Park
- Acer pseudoplatanus*** (sycamore maple) [199 pts] Patterson Park *
Quercus cerris (Turkey oak) [198 pts] Patterson Park *
Carya glabra (pignut hickory) [196 pts] Evergreen
Prunus serotina (black cherry) [196 pts] Waverly
Tsuga canadensis (eastern hemlock) [195 pts] Evergreen
Platanus acerifolia (London planetree) [193 pts] Patterson Park
Broussonetia papyrifera (paper mulberry) [192 pts] Wyman Park *
Cedrus atlantica (Atlas cedar) [183 pts] Cylburn
Cedrus atlantica (Atlas cedar) [183 pts] Cedarcroft
Quercus nigra (water oak) [171pts] JHU
Juniperus virginiana (eastern redcedar) [166 pts] JHU
Styphnolobium japonicum (Japanese pagoda tree) [165 pts] Bishop Sq Park
Populus heterophylla (swamp cottonwood) [154 pts] Druid Hill Park *
Pyrus calleryana (callery pear) [148 pts] Patterson Park *
Ilex opaca (American holly) [145 pts] Evergreen
Taxodium ascendens (pond cypress) [144 pts] Cylburn
Cunninghamia lanceolata (China fir) [135 pts] JHU *
Koelruteria paniculata (golden rain tree) [128 pts] Wyman Park
Pinus echinata (shortleaf pine) [127 pts] Stratford Road
Cryptomeria japonica (Japanese cedar) [123 pts] Guilford
Prunus subhirtella (winter-flowering cherry) [119 pts] Patt Park *
Tetradium daniellii (bee-bee tree) [105 pts] Bishop's Square Park
Picea glauca (white spruce) [93 pts] Cylburn *
Chionanthus retusus (Chinese fringetree) [87 pts] Cylburn *
Prunus cerasifera (cherry plum) [41 pts] Patterson Park (2 trees) *
Quercus virginiana (southern live oak) [36 pts] Bolton Street



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CHAMPIONS WANTED!

Do you know a tree that has what it takes to be a champion? It could be right in your block, as was for us. There are over 100 recognized species that are in need of a city champion. These are just some the more common trees without champions and what it takes in points.

Quercus montana (chestnut oak) [244 pts]
Celtis occidentalis (hackberry) [224 pts]
Magnolia acuminata (cucumber tree) [221 pts]
Populus deltoides (eastern cottonwood) [221 pts]
Catalpa bignonioides (southern catalpa) [208 pts]
Catalpa speciosa (northern catalpa) [208 pts]
Gymnocladus dioica (Kentucky coffeetree) [194 pts]
Acer rubrum (red maple) [193 pts]
Robinia pseudoacacia (black locust) [182 pts]
Acer platanoides (Norway maple) [181 pts]
Betula nigra (river birch) [172 pts]
Acer negundo (boxelder) [169 pts]
Paulownia tomentosa (royal paulownia) [158 pts]
Cladrastis kentukea (Kentucky yellowwood) [137 pts]
Diospyros virginiana (persimmon) [130 pts]
Pinus virginiana (Virginia pine) [126 pts]

Populus grandidentata (bigtooth aspen) [125 pts]
Chamaecyparis thyoides (Atlantic white cedar) [118 pts]
Salix nigra (black willow) [99 pts]
Cercis canadensis (eastern redbud) [92 pts]
Carpinus caroliniana (American hornbeam) [85 pts]
Amelanchier arborea (downy serviceberry) [74 pts]
Cornus florida (flowering dogwood) [73 pts]
Magnolia virginiana (sweetbay) [67 pts]
Ostrya virginiana (eastern hophornbeam) [67 pts]
Asimina triloba (pawpaw) [63 pts]
Hamamelis virginiana (witch hazel) [36 pts]
Rhus typhina (staghorn sumac) [32 pts]
Lindera benzoin (spicebush) [31 pts]
Cephalanthus occidentalis (buttonbush) [23 pts]
Chionanthus virginicus (fringetree) [20 pts]

If you need help in the identification of a potential champion / notable tree and in the application process, you may contact us.

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Betula nigra (river birch)
status pending [158 pts]



Broussonetia papyrifera (paper mulberry)
[192 pts] Wyman Park *