



Village of North Chevy Chase Champion Tree Walk



The Village Environment Committee measured all 259 village trees in the summer of 2020 to help track tree health - and to find our champions! The trees on this walk are the largest of their species. They are along our streets, in the village right-of-way. See the back for fun tree details. Enjoy the walk!

Our champion trees

Each starred tree is the village champion of its species

- 1 Black Walnut** — Village champion. 3801 Inverness Dr. Canopy is 91 feet across, trunk is nearly 3 feet wide at chest height (35 inches). One of only 2 Black Walnuts in the village tree survey.
- 2 American Sycamore** - Village champion. 9009 Kensington Pkwy. 104 feet tall, trunk nearly 4 feet wide at chest height (45 inches). The biggest of 4 Sycamores in the village tree survey.
- 3 Sugar Maple** - Village champion. 3601 Inverness Dr. 8.5 feet around the trunk at chest height (102 inches). To distinguish from other maples, check the leaves. Sugar Maples have "U" shapes between lobes and smooth leaf sides with few teeth. Other common maples in the neighborhood are Red and Silver Maples.
- 4 Eastern Redbud** - State champion. 3703 Inverness Dr. Trunk is 9 feet around at chest height (112 inches), twice the size of the next largest village Redbud. One in every 20 village homes has a redbud tree in the village tree survey.
- 5 Red Oak** - Village champion. 8907 Montgomery Ave. Our champion Red Oak is declining, following root damage from the recent sidewalk expansion. Let's enjoy the last few seasons of this beautiful old tree. The Red Oak at 3803 Montrose will be our next champion.
- 6 Sassafras** - Village champion. 3605 Kenilworth Dr. An unusually old and large Sassafras, 7 feet around at chest height (83 inches), 50 feet high. One of 3 Sassafras trees on the village survey. Look for leaf variations - leaves can have either 1, 2 or 3 lobes, on the same tree.
- 7 Willow Oak** - **#1 Village champion**. 3714 Stewart Drwy. The biggest tree in the village. This massive oak is 88 feet high and 96 feet across, with a trunk that is 15 feet around at chest height. Its Tree Score of 293 is 17 points higher than our #2 tree (our Champion Red Oak). It just edges out our champion Red Oak for the top spot.
- 8 Twin Willow Oaks** - 8804 Kensington Pkwy. This home's current family planted these trees 60 years ago. These front-yard shade trees add beauty and also significantly increase the home value (an estimated \$14,000, studies show). Trees are a great investment.
- 9 Tuliptree** - 3801 Kenilworth Drwy. One of the neighborhood's giants, at 119 feet high. The 4 other Tuliptrees along our streets are lovely but not so large. Tuliptrees nearly always have the clear, straight trunk you see here.
- 10 White Oak** - Village champion. 3704 Inverness Dr. At 12 feet high and the only White Oak on the village survey, this is the smallest of our champion trees. White Oaks provide habitat for more insects, birds and other wildlife than any other type of tree in North America. Some day this small tree will be a majestic giant, maybe 80 feet tall.

Trees for health...

Eleven extra shade trees in a block give a neighborhood-wide boost in health equivalent to being 1 to 7 years younger

Finding the champions

Champion trees have the highest Tree Score. The Score is the trunk circumference (inches) + height (feet) + one-quarter of the average crown spread (feet).

We measured height with a compass or Smartphone Level app (to measure the angle from ground to tree top) and a surveyor's measuring tape for distance, followed by a little trigonometry.

Our #1 Village Champion Tree, a Willow Oak, has a Tree Score of 293 (3714 Stewart Drwy). Our smallest village tree is a 5 foot high Japanese Maple on Stewart Driveway with a Tree Score of 13.

Outstanding trees

Biggest trunk:

15 feet around. Willow oak at 3714 Stewart Drwy.

One of a kind:

Water Oak at 8813 Kensington Pkwy, the only one in the village.

Widest:

104 foot wide canopy. Pin oak at 8811 Montgomery Ave.