



THE MAIN LIBRARY AND ART CENTER TREE WALK BEGINS ALONG NEWELL ROAD AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE MAIN LIBRARY PARKING LOT.

**1. London Plane (*Platanus acerifolia*)**  
 ~ Street trees along Newell Road  
 The most widely planted urban forest tree in the world, it tolerates a broad range of soil and urban conditions. Powdery mildew and anthracnose may cause premature leaf drop. This stand, planted as street trees along Newell Road, has become large and healthy because it receives ample water from the adjacent lawn.

**2. Chinese Tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*)**  
 ~ Trees at corner of red brick fence  
 This group of seven trees shade a plaque honoring Kathryn Stedman, Palo Alto resident and landscape architect for the Eichler home featured in Life Magazine circa 1955. She lived next door to the library. In the South, this tree is considered a weed but is good for this area because of its stunning fall color and resistance to oak root fungus.

**3. Hollywood Twisted Juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* 'Kaizuka' formerly known as *J. chinensis* 'Torulosa')**  
 ~ Front of library along red brick fence  
 With this tree, you get the windswept form without the wind, becoming more impressive as it ages. A common foundation plant, these were planted on completion of the Main Library in 1958.

**4. Jelecote Pine (*Pinus patula*)**  
 ~ In parking lot divider, farthest west  
 One of the fastest growing pines in the world, it is well suited for this area because of its drought tolerance and resistance to oak root fungus. The slender needles look beautiful swaying in the wind.

**5. Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)**  
 ~ Trees in middle of parking lot divider  
 Highly resistant to Dutch elm disease, it requires minimal pruning and makes an excellent street tree. This tree generally has a weeping form and some of the most beautiful bark of any tree. It commonly grows to 60 feet.

**6. Red Horsechestnut (*Aesculus camea*)**  
 ~ Left of entrance to library  
 This tree is commonly planted as a street tree. Its striking, long, spiky flowers come in red, pink or white. This tree provides a canopy about 30 feet wide by 40 feet high. It benefits from some summer water.

**7. Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*)**  
 ~ Next to drive-through book return  
 With spectacular fall colors of scarlet, crimson, orange and yellow, this moderately-sized tree is used as a street tree in Palo Alto. Fruit on the female tree are not edible (the edible version is a relative), become bright red, turn to a deep blue-red, and remain on the tree for several months.

**8. Italian Stone Pine (*Pinus pinea*)**  
 ~ End of parking lot by community gardens  
 This is the tree of early Roman and Renaissance paintings. It is also the source of pine nuts. The tree becomes very large, making it inappropriate for a small garden. Beautiful red-brown bark is common on mature trees.

**9. Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)**  
 ~ Along sidewalk between library and art center  
 This is a very nice stand of about a dozen trees. They are a favorite small to medium-sized garden tree. Verticillium, a common soil fungus, can cause branches to die back.

**10. Camellia (*Camellia japonica*)**  
 ~ Along sidewalk between the Japanese maples and redwoods  
 Although it is normally not considered a tree,

this large specimen was moved to this location in the early 1960s. It is now well over 100 years old. In the spring it has beautiful deep pink flowers.

**11. Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)**  
 ~ Grove next to art center parking lot  
 This stand was probably planted when the library was built in 1958. Fossils found in different parts of the world indicate that there have been up to 15 species of redwoods throughout the world. They have a massive root structure in the top several feet of soil.

**12. Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*)**  
 ~ Next to art center parking lot, behind redwoods  
 Native to the California foothills, this tree has year-round interest – in spring for its brilliant magenta flowers and in summer for its blue-green foliage. In fall it turns yellow and red and in winter the bare branches are picturesque against gray skies.

**13. Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)**  
 ~ Back of library along red brick fence  
 Considered the oldest cultivated tree on earth, ginkgos are extinct in the wild. As an herbal remedy, they are thought to improve memory. Female trees are generally not planted due to foul-smelling fruit.

**14. Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*)**  
 ~ Along Newell Rd. underneath redwoods  
 Planted in 2000 in memory of Arnold  
 ~ continued on other side



# Main Library And Art Center

This is one in a series of  
Self-Guided Tree Walks put together by  
Canopy: Trees for Palo Alto  
to educate the public about the urban forest  
that sustains and enriches our lives.

TREE SELECTION BY  
Kevin Raftery

ISA Certified Arborist and Faculty Member  
at Foothill College

UPDATED BY  
Jana Dilley and Marty Deggeller  
SUMMER 2003

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
GATHERED FROM THE

Sunset Western Garden Book, and  
Plants That Merit Attention—Trees

distinct flowering periods, spring through fall.  
Cut back old flower stems and dead branch  
ends after each wave of blossoms.

## 23. Camphor (*Cinnamomum camphora*)

~ Street trees along Embarcadero Road

Native to China and Japan and commonly  
used as a street tree in Palo Alto. This row  
along Embarcadero has thrived because of  
the abundant lawn watering.

---

“No shade tree?

Blame not the sun

but yourself.”

~ Ancient Chinese Proverb

---

JOIN CANOPY TO PLANT, CARE FOR  
AND LEARN ABOUT TREES

CANOPY

TREES FOR PALO ALTO

3921 East Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, California 94303

PHONE 650.964.6110

FAX 650.964.6173

E-MAIL [info@canopy.org](mailto:info@canopy.org)

WEBSITE [www.canopy.org](http://www.canopy.org)

This publication was funded by the California ReLeaf  
2003 Capacity-Building Grant Program and the California  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

enough space for this tree to be elegantly  
displayed.

## 19. Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* ‘*Atropunicea*’)

~ Far side of art center front wall along entrance  
road

Purplish-black leaves in spring turn to a copper  
color in fall. Notice that two-thirds of the way  
up the trunk a small lateral limb has grafted itself  
to the main trunk—this is extremely rare. The  
grayish trunk becomes more wrinkled as it ages.

## 20. Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)

~ In parking lot divider - a row flanked at either  
end with Red Horsechestnut (*Aesculus carnea*)

In addition to their stunning wood and  
bright summer flowers, Crape Myrtles provide  
beautiful fall color. To guarantee a tree resistant  
to powdery mildew, choose one of the ‘Indian  
Tribe’ cultivars. Good for small gardens and  
drought tolerant.

## 21. Grecian Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*)

~ Rear of art center building, right of entrance to  
courtyard

Commonly used to spice spaghetti sauce, this  
Mediterranean plant is similar to the California  
Bay but of a different genus. Often seen in old  
European gardens clipped into formal hedges  
or topiaries. Tolerant of most soils.

## 22. Coral Tree (*Erythrina crista-galli*)

~ Inside courtyard along studio wall

Heartiest of Coral trees and often seen in  
Hawaii and Southern California, this is native  
to the rainy sections of Brazil. Depending on  
the environment, there can be as many as three

Soforenko, Canopy’s first treasurer. This tree  
was planted as an understory tree beneath  
the nearby redwoods.

## 15. Yew Pine (*Podocarpus macrophyllus*)

~ Right side of entrance to art center

Not a pine at all, it is usually kept as a hedge  
or formal column. This specimen is unusual  
because it has been permitted to grow to  
its natural shape. It is sometimes confused  
with *Afrocarpus elongates* (formerly  
*Podocarpus gracilior*), which looks and grows  
quite differently.

## 16. Saucer Magnolia (*Magnolia* *soulangeana*)

~ Left of art center entrance

Resistant to oak root fungus, it has beautiful  
late winter flowers up to 6 inches across.  
Many named varieties are available in the  
nursery trade. A worthy specimen tree in a  
lawn or other prominent location in the  
landscape.

## 17. Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)

~ Along art center wall next to entrance road

This is an extraordinary specimen because  
of its size and the bend in the trunk.  
At some point it probably tipped over and  
was left to continue growing.

## 18. Plume Cryptomeria (*Cryptomeria* *japonica* ‘*Elegans*’)

~ Along art center wall next to entrance road

This cultivar has a totally different growth  
habit from the species, with its soft and tex-  
tured foliage that turns bronze in the winter  
and unusual swooping growth habit. Provide