



Where can I see these trees at Oak Point?

1. **Bur oak** [Old Oaks trail]
2. **Cottonwood** [Timber Chase]
3. **American Elm** [Elm Motte]
4. **Sycamore** [Sycamore Pass]
5. **Pecan** [Timber Chase, Vista Trail]
6. **Cedar Elm** [Elm Motte]
7. **Bois d’Arc** [Bois d’Arc Trail]
8. **Black Willow** [Willow Springs]
9. **Eve’s Necklace** [forest edges]
10. **Hackberry** [Caddo Trail]
11. **Ash** [Rowlett Creek Trail]
12. **Shumard Red Oak** [Bobcat Run]
13. **Redbud** [Redbud Way]
14. **Boxelder** [parallel to Lake]
15. **Black Walnut** [parallel to Lake]



City of Plano, Texas

Oak Point Park & Nature Preserve



TREE IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Learn to recognize 15 trees found in North Texas

Trees of the Blackland Prairie

In the mid-1800s North Texas was part of the immense Great Plains, a region of huge meadows, miles of open prairie with ‘mottes’ or groups of trees in the uplands amid a veritable “sea of grass”. The Texas prairie was dotted with trees along watercourses or where favorable soil or topographical conditions helped create the southern region of the North American grasslands.

Early pioneers in North Texas settled along Rowlett Creek, joining the Caddo tribes who lived in what is now Collin County. Just as we enjoy the shade of trees today, the early residents of Texas also benefited from them too. Trees provided protection from the sun, abundant wildlife habitat for hunting their next meal, and pure water kept clean by the canopy of leaves.

Some of the same trees viewed by long-ago residents can be seen today where old growth has been preserved. Native species that thrive in our area are still the most likely to withstand the extremes of our climate: drought, floods, high heat, and heavy soils. Learn to recognize these valuable natives while you enjoy Oak Point Park & Nature Preserve.



Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
L-r: Flower, seed pods, leaf [4 in. length]



Boxelder (*Acer negundo*)
L-r: Tree form, bark, leaf [9 in. length]



Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)
L-r: Nuts, bark, leaf [14 inch length]

LEAVES

BARK

FLOWERS

FRUITS

To Know Them is to Love Them



Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)†
L-r: Tree form, acorns, leaf [7 in. length]



Bois d'Arc (*Maclura pomifera*)†
L-r: Fruit, bark, leaf [5 inch length]



Eve's Necklace (*Sophora affinis*)
L-r: Flowers, berries, leaf [8 inch length]



Shumard Red Oak (*Quercus shumardii*)†
L-r: Fall color, acorns, leaf [6 in. length]



Cottonwood (*populus deltoides*)
L-r: Tree form, bark, leaf [4 inch length]



American Elm (*Ulmus Americana*)
L-r: Tree form, bark, leaf [4 inch length]



Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
L-r: Seed ball, bark, leaf [7 inch length]



Black Willow (*Salix nigra*)
L-r: Tree form, bark, leaves [4 in. leaf]



Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*)
L-r: Nuts, bark, leaf [13 in. length]



Cedar Elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*)
L-r: Flowers, bark, leaf [1 inch length]



Hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*)†
L-r: Berries, bark, leaf [2 inch length]



Green Ash (*fraxinus pennsylvanica*)
L-r: Seeds, bark, leaf [10 inch length]

†The largest bur oak in the region stands in Bob Woodruff Park south. It has been estimated to be more than 500 years old.

†Bois d'arc is also known as Osage Orange, named for a native tribe while referring to the unusual fruit of the tree.

†Hackberries are enjoyed by cedar waxwings who spread the trees from place to place.

†Oak acorns are one of the most nutrient-dense foods consumed by wildlife.