

DOWNTOWN ELKINS TREE WALK



CREATING AN URBAN FOREST CANOPY

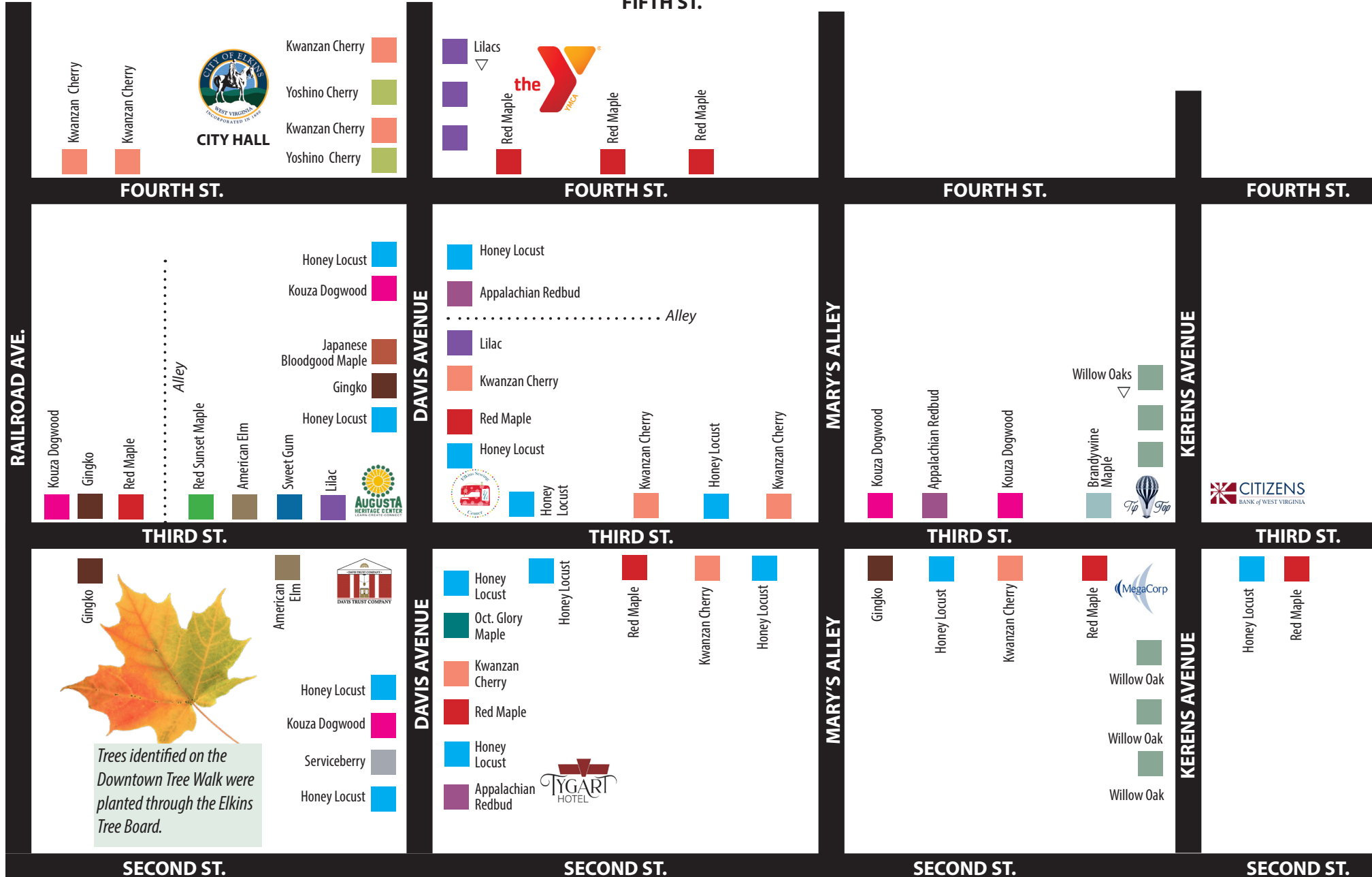
More than 15 years ago, planning began to increase the number of downtown trees. The newly established Elkins Tree Board obtained grants to improve the urban landscape.



Elkins has had trees downtown for more than a century. However, the trees you see today were chosen for their capacity to thrive in an urban environment. The types are varied to ensure their survival in case there is a species-specific disease outbreak or an infestation.

Having trees downtown creates a welcoming environment and cools temperatures. They also take in CO² and provide oxygen.

The Tree Board currently maintains and supports the city's urban forest-whether in our parks, neighborhoods or downtown. Each day we *Grow Elkins Greener*.



KNOW YOUR DOWNTOWN TREES

KWANZAN CHERRY

The Kwanzan cherry is the most popular cultivar of all the double flowering cherries, thanks to its stunning pink blossoms, good fall color and beautiful form. It is a splendid tree that can be planted in containers, along walks and streets and in buffer strips. The Kwanzan cherry can even be used as a bonsai tree.

KOUZA DOGWOOD

With an intriguing branching structure and a heavenly array of blooms, the Kouza dogwood is truly a standout tree. This delicate beauty is an excellent choice for landscapes and urban areas. While it can be planted in small spaces, it flourishes with plenty of room for its spreading root system. Enjoy visual interest all year long with stunning white flowers in the spring, and scarlet-colored leaves in the fall.

YOSHINO CHERRY

The Yoshino cherry (also known as the Japanese flowering cherry) is the darling of the flowering tree world and the star of such renowned events as the National and International Cherry Blossom Festivals. This stand-out tree is, of course, known for its vibrant display of white-pink blossoms and faint almond fragrance in the springtime. In the summer, this tree will be a highlight in the yard with its beautiful branching pattern, glossy bark and dark green leaves.

APPALACHIAN REDBUD

This redbud cultivar was actually discovered along a roadside in Maryland. Clusters of fuchsia-pink to red flowers appear for a few weeks in early spring, followed by the iconic heart-shaped redbud leaves that turn yellow in the fall. Its smaller size makes the Appalachian redbud a great choice to plant in lawns, along streets or near patios.

BLOODGOOD JAPANESE MAPLE

A fresh, richly-hued focal point of any landscape, the Bloodgood Japanese maple is known for standing out with

amazing color. Its foliage stays scarlet for more than just a few weeks like many other varieties and it's a small tree, growing to only 15 feet. Bloodgood roots are well-behaved, perfect for accenting corners or crevices near foundation walls and will grow in partial shade or full sun.

HAPPIDAZE SWEETGUM

Prized for its striking appearance and vibrant seasonal color, the Happidaze sweetgum adds year-round charm to any outdoor space. In addition to the lush foliage, it produces spiky fruit clusters known as "gumballs" that add a unique, visual interest to the tree. These clusters will require some clean up, as they fall on the ground December through April.

RED MAPLE (VARIOUS)

Valued for its beauty, adaptability, and shade, the red maple is one of the most recognizable trees in North America. True to its name, this tree features something red in each of the seasons—buds in winter, flowers in spring, leafstalks in summer and brilliant foliage in autumn. This pageant of color, along with the red maple's relatively fast growth and tolerance to a wide range of soils, makes it a widely planted favorite.

BRANDYWINE MAPLE

This impressive tree is a cross between two other fall favorites, October Glory and Autumn Flame. As a result, it produces more intense, consistent scarlet foliage than other maple varieties. It's also smaller than most maples, making it a great choice for those who want color payoff but have limited space.

RED SUNSET MAPLE

The Red Sunset Maple is a remarkable variety of red maple celebrated for its sturdy branches and deep, glossy green foliage. This tree not only adds significant shade but also enhances the beauty of any home's landscape. In spring, it showcases small clusters of red flowers. As autumn arrives, its

radiant green canopy shifts to stunning shades of bright red and orange.

WILLOW OAK

Often referred to as a "handsome tree," this member of the mighty oak family comes with a stand-out feature: willow-like leaves. The willow oak is frequently planted along streets and in parks and golf courses because of its size, striking appearance and relatively fast growth.

JAPANESE TREE LILAC

The Japanese tree lilac is larger than the shrub lilacs and blooms a little later in the spring. It produces large clusters of small creamy-white, fragrant flowers. It is native to Japan. The tree lilac has reddish-brown, cherry-like bark with elongated lenticels.

AUTUMN GOLD GINKGO

Ginkgo biloba is a large, deciduous tree that matures to 100' tall and is considered to be a living fossil. It is the only surviving member of a group of ancient plants believed to have inhabited the earth up to 150 million years ago. Leaves turn bright yellow in fall. Ginkgo trees are commonly called maidenhair trees in reference to the resemblance of their fan-shaped leaves to maidenhair fern leaflets. Nurseries typically sell only male trees which do not produce the fruits or yellow flesh around the seed which emit a noxious, foul odor.

SKYLINE HONEY LOCUST

The Skyline honey locust features pyramidal growth with a central leader. It is a thornless and nearly seedless variety that typically grows to 40-45' tall. Leaflets cast a sun-dappled shade. Leaves turn an attractive yellow in fall. Tolerant of wind, high summer heat, drought and saline conditions making it a good urban street tree.

PRINCETON AMERICAN ELM

The Princeton elm is a cultivar of the American elm, known

for its resistance to Dutch elm disease and its upright, vase-shaped form. It is a fast-growing shade tree, reaching heights of 50-70 feet and a spread of 30-50 feet. It is tolerant of many adverse site conditions. Its dark green foliage turns yellow in the fall.

SERVICEBERRY

Serviceberry is in the rose family and native to Europe, Africa, North America and temperate Asia. It is one of the first shrubs to flower in the spring, just before the dogwoods. It acquired the name serviceberry because it blooms as soon as the ground starts to thaw when our ancestors were able to dig graves and bury their dead after the winter. It also derives the common names of shadbush and shadblow from the fact that the masses of flowers tend to open at the same time that shad ascend the rivers in early spring to spawn.

OCTOBER GLORY MAPLE

October Glory is a female cultivar that, as the cultivar name suggests, is perhaps best noted for its exceptional fall color. It grows to 40-50' tall with an oval rounded form. Attractive red flowers appear in early spring before the foliage emerges. Leaves retain good green color well into fall (longer than many other maples). Orange to red fall color for this cultivar

Support for the Grow Elkins Greener initiatives comes from individual donors, the City of Elkins and the West Virginia Division of Forestry grants. For more information and downloadable guides go to cityofelkinswv.com.

