

Heritage Tree Tour

March 18, 2020

1. Riverside Park Pecans – Time at tree: 10 minutes Leave at 1:30

900 Oakhurst Scenic Dr. Riverside Park

This grove of pecan (*carya illinoensis*) trees is believed to be a remnant from an early farm dating to the time of the City's founding. The trees provide a restful, calming space along the Trinity River, just 2 miles from downtown.

2. Traders Oak – Time at tree: 12 minutes Leave at 1:45

1300 Samuels Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76102 Traders Oak Park

The Traders Oak (*quercus virginiana*) may be the most well-known tree in Fort Worth. Camp Worth (later Fort Worth) was established in 1849 at the junction of the West and Clear forks of the Trinity River on the bluffs overlooking the surrounding valley. Federal regulations prohibited merchants within one mile of the military outpost so Henry Clay Daggett and Archibald Franklin Leonard constructed a log cabin trading post in a group of sprawling live oak trees growing near Cold Springs. Soldiers, settlers and Native Americans all came to trade goods and relax at the springs in what became the first successful business in Fort Worth. The first election (in now Tarrant County) was held in front of the store in 1850 and Birdville was decided as the county seat. The first Tarrant County Court was also conducted within the trading post. When the fort was abandoned in 1853, Daggett and Leonard moved the trading post to a vacated structure on the bluffs. This tree still proudly grows, as it has for well over 200 years, marking the location where the trading post once stood on this historic site.

3. DFW Champion Texas Ash – Time at tree: 23 minutes Leave at 2:10

620 Samuels Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76102 Pioneers Rest Cemetery

This Texas ash (*fraxinus albicans*) is the largest of its kind in the 25 county DFW region. It's located inside Pioneers Rest Cemetery, established in 1849 (the same as Camp Worth). The cemetery is the burial place of founders such as: Major Ripley Arnold, Edward H. Tarrant, members of the Daggett family, 11 soldiers from the camp/fort, and numerous others. This tree was recently treated to protect it from the Emerald Ash Borer.

4. Veterans Memorial Park Grove – Time at tree: 12 minutes Leave at 2:35

4120 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76107 Veterans Memorial Park

Four oak trees grow in the center of this small park and serve as living tributes to the brave men and women who have served our country. The oaks, each a different species, were planted between 1932 and 1995 by organizations wishing to honor veterans and their families. The park is located within what was once Camp Bowie—a training camp for the 36th Infantry Division which deployed to France during WWI. Following demobilization of the camp in 1919, the land was quickly claimed for development and Arlington Heights Blvd was renamed Camp Bowie Blvd to honor the encampment. The park is host to numerous other monuments and markers and is well worth a visit.

5. 1904 World's Fair Red Oak – (Restroom Break) – 20 minutes Leave at 3:05

3301-3399 W Lancaster Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76107 - In front of Will Rogers Tower

This red oak (*quercus shumardii*) was purchased and planted with remaining funds from the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition and was dedicated to the individuals that served on the Executive Committee of the panel representing Texas. The original dedication plaque is located near the base of the tree.

6. John Peter Smith Oak – Time at tree: 10 minutes Leave at 3:20

3210 W Lancaster Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76107 Kimbell Art Museum Parking Lot

This live oak (*quercus virginiana*) grows on property once owned by Fort Worth pioneer Major Khleber Van Zandt. The land was donated to the City and was used as a school site and later became home to the FWISD administration building. In 1982 during the centennial celebration of the school district, the tree described as "likely the oldest living thing in our entire school district" was named the John Peter Smith Oak, in honor of the founder of the public-school system in the City. John Peter Smith is known as "the father of Fort Worth" for his countless contributions to the City. The tree is now owned and cared for by the Kimbell Art Museum.

7. Harley Live Oaks (drive by only) 0 minutes

58 Trail Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76107

This cluster of live oaks (*quercus virginiana*) is the result of collaboration on the part of the Fort Worth City Forester, a State Forester, and several other municipal departments. Harley Avenue (now Trail Drive) was being realigned and the trees were slated for removal, prevented only by diligence and realignment of parkland at the Botanic Garden. Cooperation among the groups allowed this handsome stand of trees to exist today and provide a green gateway into the Will Rogers Exhibition area.

**8. Van Zandt Cottage Live Oak (Also see Oak Mott across street) –
Time at tree: 20 minutes Leave at 3:45**

2800-2934 Crestline Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76107

This large live oak (*quercus virginiana*) watches over the Van Zandt Cottage, the oldest structure in Fort Worth still in its original location. One of Fort Worth's most influential figures, Major Khleber Van Zandt, resided in the home and adjoining acreage which included modern day sites such as Trinity Park, Fort Worth Botanic Garden and the Cultural District.

15 minute drive back to Waterworks. Leave by 3:45 PM if at all possible.