

TREES

Each tree in the Legacy Center arboretum has its own character and story.

This introduction to the trees will help you understand the unique nature of each tree.

Trees have existed on Earth for hundreds of millions of years. Most trees long outlive people, with 100-200 years being a typical lifespan.

Trees are big time multi-taskers. By taking in carbon dioxide and giving off oxygen, they help combat global warming. The leaves and fruits of trees provide food and medicines. Trees provide a home for birds and animals. They provide shade in the hottest of temperatures, reduce noise pollution, and prevent soil erosion.

Trees add beauty to our world. They lift our spirits. Trees also provide important symbolic links with the past and with the future.

Colorado Spruce: Majestic, festive, evergreen. Symbol of noble-mindedness. Traits – dignified, gracious, pleasant, cheerful, tasteful, modest demands, honest and faithful, generous, practical.

Norway Spruce: Tall, fast-growing, evergreen. Symbol of steadfastness. Traits – strong, adaptable, persistent, committed, loyal, dependable, takes what life has to give, happy and content, optimistic.

Jack Pine: Erratically shaped, grows smaller, evergreen. Symbol of determination. Traits – strong, ambitious, gritty, solid, impulsive, intelligent, talented, can be demanding and egoistic.

Scotch Pine: Gentle curved branches, long-lived, evergreen. Symbol of good judgment. Traits – intelligent, thoughtful, practical, common sense, careful, robust, trustworthy, independent, strong but a bit self-willed.

Austrian Pine: Full tree, grows wide and tall, evergreen. Symbol of fullness. Traits – jolly, expansive, complete, kind, very conscientious, good taste, likes comfort, sometimes unsure or insecure, reasonable but can be mistrusting.

White Pine: Delicate, long-lived, evergreen. Symbol of the mysterious. Traits – good taste,

dignity, secretive, sensitive, strong sense of self, cultivated airs, loves anything beautiful, rather modest, moody.

Cedar (hedge and balls): Distinctive smell, likes “wet feet,” excellent hedge, evergreen. Symbol of confidence. Traits – beauty, luxury, good health, assured, poised, trustworthy, not in the least shy, determined, tends to look down on others, impatient.

Larch/Tamarack: Feathery branches, evergreen family but drops its needles in winter. Symbol of change. Traits – cheerful, likes surprise, likes to draw attention, charming with moody flashes, complicated, both dependent and independent, artistic, emotional.

Ginkgo: Slow growing but strong, only living thing to survive atomic bomb at Hiroshima, genetic link between evergreen and deciduous trees. Symbol of intelligence. Traits – smart, clever, gifted, quick, understanding, tough, determined, focused, can be uptight.

Maple: Canadian symbol, beautiful Fall colors, deciduous. Symbol of independence. Traits – not ordinary, self-reliant, full of imagination and originality, ambitious, proud, complex, shy and reserved, sometimes nervous.

Birch: Elegant, distinctive white bark, deciduous. Symbol of inspiration. Traits – vivacious, attractive, enthusiastic, friendly, unpretentious, modest, motivated, flexible, does not like anything in excess, creates a calm and content atmosphere, very imaginative and artistic.

Weeping Willow: Long, flowing branches, fast grower, deciduous. Symbol of melancholy. Traits – beautiful but sad, empathetic, graceful, dreamer, restless, capricious.

Oak: Strong, long-lived tree, deciduous. Symbol of wisdom. Traits – courageous, strong, warm and kind, understanding, reasonable, unrelenting, independent, perceptive, sensible, balanced, takes action, well-developed sense of justice, can be narrowly focused.

Apple: Twisted, difficult to grow, deciduous. Symbol of love. Traits – lots of charm, appeal and attraction, warm, affectionate, pleasant aura, flirtatious, adventurous, sensitive, generous, sweet, unrelenting, no flexibility.

Poplar: Fast-grower, leaves make distinctive rustling sound, fast grower, deciduous. Symbol of uncertainty. Traits – cheerful, artistic, creative, questioning, doubtful, hesitant, indecisive, insecure, careful, choosy, courageous only if necessary.