

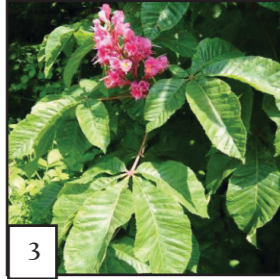
Chico Avenues Street Tree Walking Tour



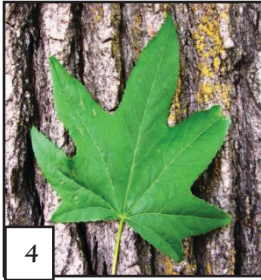
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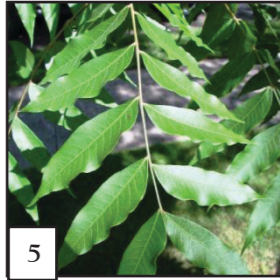
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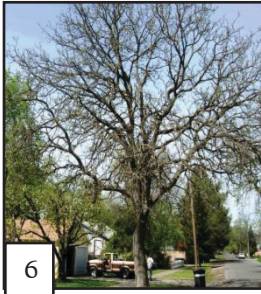
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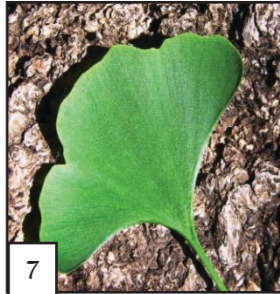
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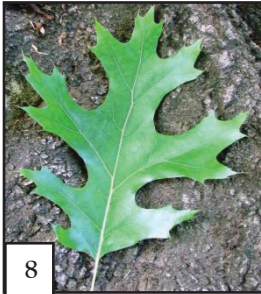
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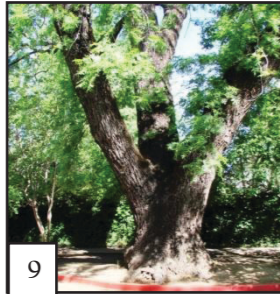
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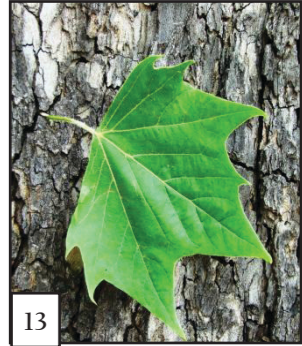
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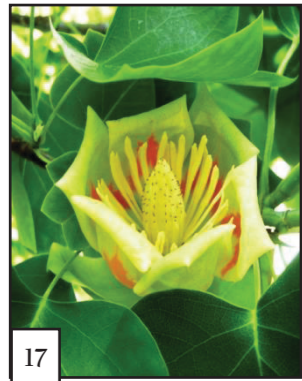
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The City of Chico is renowned for its trees. They create a sense of place and character for Chico's residents and visitors. The Avenues Neighborhood is home to a great diversity of prominent and historic trees, including one of the greatest tree promenades in the world – The Esplanade. Rich, deep soils and resident's pride in their neighborhood landscape have led to a large population of healthy, vigorous trees, many of which are City 'street' trees. Many of the trees selected for this tour represent common tree species in Chico. Some species on this tour are no longer approved for planting as street trees, though their presence holds historic value.

1. 280 Memorial Way (Chico Junior High)
Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*) Native to the Midwest and southern U.S. Mature ht. 130 ft. Distinguished by occasional white spots on their bark.

Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) Native to the eastern U.S. Mature height 150 feet. Produces excellent shade in summer. A common street tree species because of its tolerance to varied soil types and growing conditions.

2. 608 Esplanade
Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) Native to the Canary Islands. Dates are edible but are not tasty. Slow growing when young; highly drought tolerant once mature. Well suited for parks, campuses, and wide roadways. Can quickly overwhelm a front yard with their sharp spiny fronds. Mature ht. 60 ft.

3. 690 Esplanade
Horsechestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) Relatively resistant to disease. Mature ht. 110 ft. Flowers are small and white, growing in large clusters. Trees in the *Aesculus* genus are not true chestnuts, but are actually buckeyes, with poisonous seed pods.

Red horsechestnut (*Aesculus x carnea*) Produces clusters of red blossoms that are attractive to hummingbirds and bees; drop poisonous, spiny seed balls in the fall. Mature ht. 30 to 40 feet, with a round canopy, dense green foliage, and high disease resistance.

4. Oleander Ave along Chico Junior High sports field
Liquidambar (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) Native to the southeastern U.S. Leaves are similar to some maple species, but are spaced alternately along the stem. Leaves are glossy vibrant green in summer, dramatically changing color to bright red, orange, and yellow in the fall. Mature height 160 feet.

5. 262 E. 1st Ave
Chinese pistache (*Pistachia chinensis*) Native to western China. The most common street tree species in Chico, primarily because of their adaptability to growing in lawns and compacted soils. Related to pistachio nut trees. Leaves look similar to black walnut but lack a terminal leaflet. An invasive species in many parts of Chico. Planting near Bidwell Park is discouraged.

6. 298 E. 5th Ave
Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioicus*) Native to the Midwestern U.S. Named because of its seed's resemblance to coffee beans, which are supposedly roasted and brewed into a coffee-like beverage. The tree on this tour was planted by the resident's father between 1963 and 1970. Uncommon in Chico. Mature ht. 60 ft.

7. 1417 Esplanade
Ginkgo biloba is an unusual and ancient tree. Considered a 'living fossil'. Thought for centuries to be extinct in the wild, but two small groups are now known to exist in their native range. Their fan shaped leaves turn golden in the fall. Chico's current street tree program excludes planting female ginkgos, as they produce a small fleshy fruit that smells like dog droppings. Mature ht. 100 ft.

8. 1417 Esplanade
Northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*) see box 1

9. 1417 Esplanade
10. 1462 Arcadian Ave
Black walnut (*Juglans hindsii*) is one of Chico's historic tree species. Commercially valuable as a source of rootstock for English walnut cultivation and high quality hardwood. General John Bidwell had an affinity for black walnut, and he chose them as a preferred street tree species for early Chico. Mature ht. 120 ft.

11. 325 W. 3rd Ave
Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) Native to Europe. Leaves have five toothy lobes and turn yellow in fall. Widely grown as a street tree in cities because of its high tolerance to urban pollution and compacted soils. Ht.60 ft.

12. 1223 Arcadian Ave
Saucer magnolia (*Magnolia x soulangiana*) Derives its name from the large, pink flowers it produces in early spring before leaf emergence. Excellent ornamental tree. Highly disease resistant. Mature height 30 ft.

13. 1245 Esplanade
American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) Native to Eastern North America. Leaves are large, soft, and fuzzy. Seed balls grow one per stalk. Susceptible to anthracnose, an invasive fungus. An unfavorable planting choice in cities and near residences. Mature ht. 150 feet.

14. 134 W. 1st Ave
Japanese zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*) Native to Japan. A large deciduous tree with flaky bark and serrated leaves. Their dense canopy provides excellent summer shade. Zelkovas are valued for traditional Japanese furniture making and the art of bonsai. Mature ht. 120 ft.

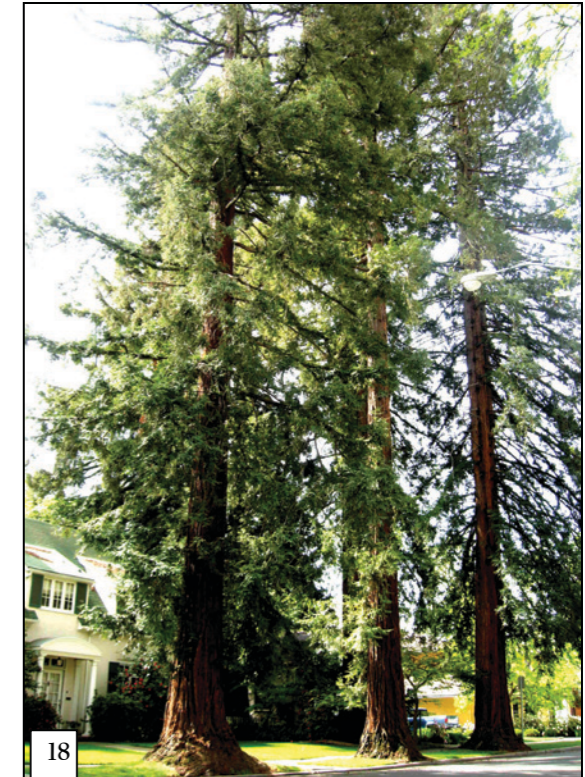
15. 235 W. 1st Ave
London plane (*Platanus x acerifolia*) trees are the most common sycamore species in Chico. They drop an enormous amount of foliage in the fall, leading to storm drain blockage and localized flooding. Susceptible to anthracnose infection. Mature ht. 150 ft.

16. 505 W. 1st Ave
Valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) Native to California and the largest species of oak native to North America. The Hooker Oak was the largest known valley oak. It once stood in Bidwell Park in Chico and was 325 years old. They are integral to the native ecology of the Sacramento Valley. Mature ht. 140 ft.

17. 336 W. Frances Willard Ave
American tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) Native to the eastern U.S. The species receives its common name from the large tulip shaped flowers it produces in the summer. Blossoms are green with blotches of orange and yellow, and they produce an excellent sole-source honey. Mature ht. 120 ft.

18. 329 Legion Ave
Coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) One of the two California state tree species. Native to portions of the Northern California and Southern Oregon coast. They can live for more than 2,000 years and are one of the fastest growing conifer species in the world. Wood tannins protect them from insect and fungal infestations; thick fibrous bark protects them from fire. See cover photo.

Chico Avenues Street Tree Walking Tour



Funding and support provided by:



Chico Avenues Neighborhood Association

