

The Trees of Amherst: A Garden Club Project since 1959

Originally, "The Trees of Amherst" was a small booklet. In 1975 a 2nd edition *Trees in Amherst* was printed which was 88 pages. This edition contains approximately 250 species with both common and botanical names. It has a list of specific locations with simple brief descriptions as well as many illustrations and multiple black and white photographs. There are walking tour maps and a chart of wooded areas where the trees are growing under natural conditions. There is a photo of the infamous Grayson Elm on Sunset Avenue.

With the growth of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst College and Hampshire College as well as new apartment buildings and new homes, many trees were lost. Some succumbed to diseases or storms. Our group decided to update the 1975 edition. It took about 2 years to complete the six page addendum. Rather than list multiple locations of a certain tree, we decided to list one location where the healthiest specimen could be found. This was completed in 2009.

Our next project was to plot three tree walks on the east side of town. These were divided into sections of not more than one mile each. The first starts at the intersection of South Pleasant and Main Street, includes Sweetzer Park, the Emily Dickinson Homestead, continuing onto Triangle Street and the Woman's Club. The second continues down Triangle Street and includes the West Street cemetery where Emily Dickinson is buried. The third walk includes Kendrick Park and goes up South Pleasant Street back to Main Street. Two brochures were done by our member and graphic designer, Karen Chrisman. The first brochure contains the three loops or walks. The second is a description of most of the trees that can be seen.

We received awards from the Massachusetts Federation of Garden Clubs for our work on updating *Trees in Amherst* and on the two tree walk brochures.

Our next project is four walks on the west side of town which has many historic trees dating back to the mid 1800's. This includes Amity Street down to Sunset Avenue, Sunset Avenue, Lincoln Avenue, South Lincoln, Northampton Street (Rt. 9) up to both sides of North Pleasant to Amity Street.