



# Snyder Park Tree Tour

The roadway has numbered posts that match the list below. The flowers and plants are here for the birds, butterflies and bees. Please leave them as you find them. There is also a Butterfly Garden tour, Edible Garden tour, Boardwalk Nature tour and a Food Forest tour.

1. The tall trees on the right, around the drive, are Black Olive. Woodpeckers like to ring the trunk with holes to attract insects.
2. In front of your car are two Royal Palms. The fruit is eaten by birds and bats (which disperse the seeds).
3. The field to your left contains many Sable Palms. Sable Palm, also known as the Cabbage Palm, is the state tree of Florida and South Carolina.
4. Tucked away to the right is a stand of Bamboo with long slender trunks that are as tall as the surrounding trees. Bamboos include some of the fastest-growing plants in the world. Certain species of bamboo can grow 36 in. within a 24-hour period, a growth of around 1 inch every 40 minutes. Giant bamboos are the largest members of the grass family.
5. South Florida Slash Pine. Slash pine is named after the "slashes" – swampy ground overgrown with trees and bushes – that constitute its habitat. Historically, slash pine has been an important economic timber for ship repairs, turpentine, and resin.
6. On the left is a forest of Cypress trees. Hardy and tough, this tree adapts to a wide range of soil types, whether wet, dry, or swampy. The oldest known living specimen, found along the Black River in North Carolina, is at least 2,624 years old, rendering it the oldest living tree in eastern North America. The darker trees in the middle of the cypress are also a wet loving species: Pond Apple.
7. This area on the right was an Arbor Day planting. It contains Mango, Star fruit, Bulnesia, and Satin leaf.
8. Brazilian pepper, also called Florida holly. The branches can be upright, reclining, or nearly vine-like, all on the same plant. Its plastic morphology allows it to thrive in all kinds of ecosystems: from dunes to swamps. It was introduced to Florida by at least 1891, probably earlier and is now considered invasive.

9. This portion of the park holds the story of many plants labeled “invasive” - Bishop wood, Air potato, Fishtail palm, Wild coffee, and an abundance of ferns. While certain plants may displace our natives, they also provide new opportunities for growth and relationship. For instance, the tree with the coffee colored bark, often known as Bishop wood, has medicinal properties and makes an excellent wood for wood working. As you can see, it can be found in abundance in our park because of its ability to sprout up from downed logs. This could provide a sustainable source for lumber as we build homes in the future.
10. The Strangler Fig, *Ficus aurea*. In trees of this group, seed germination usually takes place in the canopy of a host tree with the seedling living as an epiphyte until its roots establish contact with the ground. After that, it enlarges and strangles its host, eventually becoming a free-standing tree in its own right and may reach 30 m (100 ft) in height.
11. This is the entrance to the Nature Boardwalk Trail tour through a cover subsidence sinkhole depression.
12. Casuarina or Australian Pine trees circle the lake. It was introduced in the early 1900s, and is now an unwanted species. The species has nearly quadrupled in southern Florida between 1993 and 2005.
13. This field is made up mostly of Florida Live Oak and Ficus. Can you spot the tiny plants lining the branches of the oak trees? These are known as epiphytes, or plants that grow on other plants without any parasitic properties. The family includes many varieties in our bioregion, including - resurrection fern, air plants, bromeliads, and wild orchids.
14. To your left there are seven trees in a group. You should be able to determine the three species by feeling the texture of their trunks with your eyes closed. There are the fibrous Sable Palm, the flaky skin Gumbo Limbo, and the knobby bark Oak.
15. On the left is a Royal Poinciana. It is noted for its fern-like leaves and flamboyant display of orange-red flowers over the summer. It is deciduous: it loses its leaves in winter. On the left is a Maypan coconut tree. South Florida used to be covered with the iconic Jamaican Tall coconut tree but starting in the late 60’s a disease call Lethal Yellow was spread by a leaf hopper bug and it killed off most of the coconut trees in Florida and the Caribbean. Over a 20 year period Jamaica lost over 6 million trees.
16. Left is a Southern Live Oak, used widely in early American shipbuilding. Because of the trees' short height and low-hanging

branches, lumber from live oak was specifically used to make curved structural members of the hull, such as knee braces. On the left is a Mango. A mango is a juicy fruit with a large pit or seed. It has been distributed worldwide to become one of the most widely cultivated fruits in the tropics.

17. Left is a Copperpod tree, commonly called Yellow-flamboyant, Yellow Flametree, and Yellow Poinciana.
18. Look carefully at these limestone rocks on the right. The smoothness of these rocks and the many layers tell a geologist that this area was not an active coral reef but rather a quiet bay that filled with lime mud and silt. Think of walking through the shallows and the soft white mud oozing up between your toes.
19. Sea Grape. It serves as a dune stabilizer and protective habitat for small animals. Tall sea grape plants behind beaches help prevent sea turtles from being distracted by lights from nearby buildings. The fruits of the sea grape may be eaten raw, cooked into jellies and jams, or fermented into sea grape wine.
20. The Gumbo Limbo on the left is also called the “tourist tree” because its bark resembles a peeling sunburn.
21. On the left is our Food Forest Trail and Fruit Orchard. The raised beds are universally accessible and labeled. Also study the tree rings on the oak tree stump at the entrance. A list of the orchard trees is available online.
24. Seaweed Dirt as a soil builder is offered to Ft. Lauderdale residents for use in home gardens free of charge. Seaweed is a broad spectrum fertilizer that is rich in beneficial trace minerals and hormones that stimulate plant growth. Seaweed is high in carbohydrates which are essential building blocks in growing plants, and low in cellulose so it breaks down readily. Seaweed shares no diseases with land plants.