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WELCOME TO

Oak Meadow



71a

Legend

OAK MEADOW TREES

- 71a Lilac Tree
- 81 Sargent Crabapple
- 82 ● Bur Oak
- 83 ● Bur Oak
- 84 ● Scarlet Oak
- 85 ● Red Oak
- 86 Colorado Blue Spruce
- 87 ● White Oak
- 88 ● Swamp White Oak
- 89 Eastern Redbud
- 90 Schwedleri Norway Maple
- 91 American Sweet Gum
- 92 American Sweet Gum
- 93 Black Walnut
- 99 Black Walnut

SIGNIFICANCE OF OAKS IN LILACIA PARK

Lilacia Park contains 7 of the 10 oak species native to Illinois. Oak Meadow proudly holds 5 of these native oaks including #82 and #83, the Bur Oak, #84, the Scarlet Oak, #85, the Red Oak, #87, the White Oak, and #88, the Swamp White Oak. Beyond Oak Meadow within Lilacia Park is #100, the Shingle Oak, and #57, #62 and #63, the Pin Oak, which has been widely planted throughout Illinois for many years.

Oak trees are commonly referred to as a keystone species, meaning that the entire ecosystem they reside in depends on them for regulating the habitat for survival. It starts with the acorns! Oak acorns provide food for over 100 different vertebrate species of wildlife. Acorns are especially important in autumn and winter months when a sufficient food source is critical for survival. Many songbirds including the red-bellied woodpecker, tufted titmouse, blue jay and white-breasted nuthatch depend on acorns for part of their diet. In addition, the rough-textured bark of most oak trees compared to smoother bark found on red maples proves to be advantageous for insect-foraging species of birds. Oak tree bark is also appreciated by many species of moths and butterflies for being flaky and having plenty of surface area. In his book, "Bringing Nature Home," Douglas Tallamy claims that an oak tree supports over 4,000 different species of insects and animals, more than any other tree.

Oak trees provide other important benefits as well. Oak root systems help stabilize the soil in which they grow, also improving soil fertility and groundwater quality. The large size of oak trunks and branches provide shade and shelter to numerous birds and mammals.