



About Betty Brown



This Trail honors the life and work of **Elizabeth “Betty” Moorhead Brown (1939-2011)**. Her practical horticultural knowledge and generosity of spirit encouraged the establishment of urban forests in neighborhoods and communities throughout Davidson County. She was co-founder and served as the first president of the Nashville Tree Foundation until two years before her death in 2011.

Raised on a farm in Kentucky, Betty moved to Tennessee after marrying Martin Brown in 1962. In her lifetime she personally planted hundreds of trees and lovingly improved the landscape of their family farm just on the outskirts of the city. It is there, where she was buried in a simple casket crafted from a black cherry tree that fell nearby the family graveyard ten years earlier.

Betty Brown cared deeply about the environment and was committed to responsible development of downtown Nashville including the riverfront.

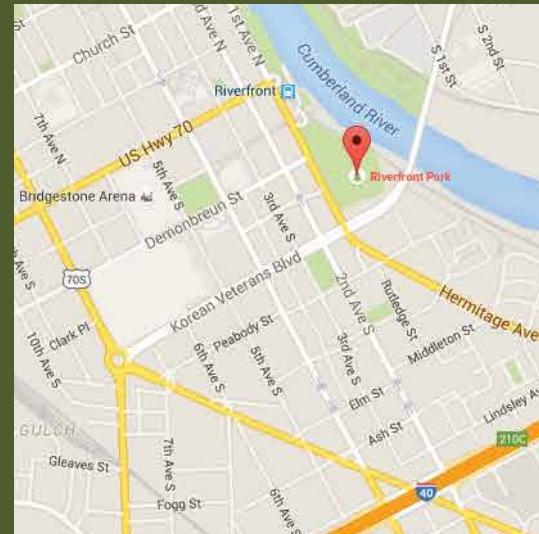
She served as co-chair of the Century III committee that conceived the original idea of Riverfront Park.

Nashville Tree Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1986 to enhance and preserve Nashville’s urban forests through a range of efforts. NTF has planted more than 10,000 trees, recognized over 650 of the largest and oldest trees, and designated 25 arboretums throughout Davidson County.

In 1998, NTF responded to the tornados that devastated Nashville by fundraising \$1,000,000 in six months and planting over 2,000 trees citywide. From that initial effort, ReLeafing Day evolved and is still a major project that focuses on planting trees in Nashville neighborhoods.

The Betty Brown Tree Trail is Nashville’s first urban arboretum where over 225 individual trees and 36 tree species are labeled along the walkways of Riverfront Park.

www.nashvilletreefoundation.org



Nashville Tree
FOUNDATION

Since 1986

PO Box 58962
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The Nashville Tree Foundation works to preserve and enhance Nashville’s urban forests by planting trees in urban areas, identifying the oldest and largest trees in Davidson County, designating arboretums, and educating the public about the value of trees.

Nashville Tree Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Nashville, Tennessee.

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THE
Betty Brown
TREE TRAIL

Tree Guide

The Benefits of Urban Trees

Trees planted in urban areas, like the ones along the Betty Brown Tree Trail, provide priceless benefits to your health and our city. They enhance quality of life, reduce energy costs, sequester carbon, improve air and water quality, reduce storm runoff and increase property values.

Trees clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides and other pollutants, reducing emissions. By the time it reaches 40 years old, a tree may have absorbed over one ton of CO₂.

Trees reduce stormwater runoff and protect water quality by filtering it through their root systems. A mature tree can store 50 gallons of water during large storms.

Trees planted in urban areas decrease “heat island” effect by providing shade and reduce noise by filtering sound. Healthy trees lower temperatures for paved surfaces due to urban development. Evapotranspiration and shade can help reduce peak summer temperatures within an urban setting by 15-25°F.

Trees support urban wildlife by providing food, cover and living space for a variety of animals, an indicator that a city is healthy and livable.

Urban trees improve neighborhoods by encouraging pedestrian activity and opportunities for increased community interaction. Trees in urban parks are estimated to improve outdoor leisure and recreation experiences in the United States by \$2 billion per year.



The Betty Brown Tree Trail

Designated an arboretum by the Nashville Tree Foundation (NTF) in 2015, The Betty Brown Tree Trail at Riverfront Park is home to 225 individual trees representing 36 different species. The arboretum runs along a partially meandering course lined with bronze medallions. Native tree families — such as oak, hickory, maple, magnolia and tulip poplar figure prominently in the design. Non-indigenous species of interest include the Chinese pistache, Deodar cedar and the London planetrees that grace the trail's perimeters.

During the first three years of their lives, these trees will focus their energies below ground. Winds, storms and other perils of Mother Nature will help them establish deep, strong roots. The arboretum is irrigated using rainwater captured into a cistern on the park property. With years of custodial support by Metro Parks and the NTF, we can expect these specimens to live long lives — around 50 years for the ornamental redbud and about 500 for a regal oak!

Each season, these trees will not only improve the quality of our environment but will also afford us the experience of exquisite and transient beauty.

Let's look at what might be extra special along **The Betty Brown Tree Trail**, depending on the time of year:



Winter – Observe the plane trees and river birches with their exfoliating bark. Holly trees will be decorated with red berries. Red twig dogwoods will stand out, as will Deodar cedars with their graceful, feather-like branches.



Spring – The redbud's delicate flowers flourish along its bark while the fringetree produces white blossoms worthy of a diva's costume. Yellowwood trees sport a wisteria-like blossom. Tulip Poplars burst into yellow-orange tulip-like flowers.



Summer – Enjoy the fragrance of the saucer-sized magnolia blossoms. Threadleaf Japanese maples will be alive with reddish-purple lacy leaves. Ginkgo trees will offer a lovely contrast with their chartreuse fan-shaped leaf.



Fall – The sweet gums, Persian ironwood and black gums provide an array of brilliant purples and scarlet. Red and sugar maples give a show of gold, orange and vermillion.

Native Trees

River birch, tulip poplar, yellowwood, black gum, bald cypress, American linden, American elm, eastern red cedar, white fringetree, serviceberry, redbud, red twig dogwood and sumac.

Magnolia

Southern magnolia, sweet bay magnolia and cucumber magnolia

Oaks and Hickories

White oak, overcup oak, swamp white oak, burr oak, chinkapin oak, nuttall oak, willow oak, crimson spire oak, water hickory and shellbark hickory.

Maples

Red maple, sugar maple, trident maple and Japanese maple

Non-native trees

Deodar cedar, ginkgo, Chinese pistache, Persian ironwood, London planetree, Chinese lacebark elm and Chinese fringetree.

