

State Champion Trees at Preston Park

In 2012, local resident Fred Lochner contacted Butler Township to announce that Preston Park could claim 7 of the largest trees in Pennsylvania. They have been registered by Mr. Lochner at www.pabigtrees.com and are now tagged with pink ribbon. Begin your tour at the Information Board and walk towards the 2-story building to view these “pink-ribbon champions.” Enjoy your trip.

1. **Ponderosa Pine** – Located in the woods about 25 feet behind the edge of the Arboretum. It stands between the **Tamarack Larch (#9)** at the corner of the path from the Parking Lot to the Arboretum, and Preston Way.
2. **European Silver Fir** – Located on the northern side of the Arboretum toward Preston Way.
3. **Pacific Silver Fir** – Located in the east end of the Arboretum toward the white block building.
4. **Leana Oak** – Located at the triangle west of the 2-story Office Building on Preston Way, it is a hybrid between 2 trees, a Shingle Oak and a Black Oak. A hybrid tree will not produce acorns.
5. **Serbian Spruce** – Located far left (north west) of the tall Serbian pines to the left of McCormick’s Pond.
6. **Lawson False Cypress** – Located in the “Cathedral” at the lower end of Bitter Sweet and Lilac Pass trails leading toward the “Long Bridge.” There are two trees but it is believed that the lower one is taller. Several smaller trees protect it and help to form the “cathedral.”
7. **Nobel Fir** – Located in a row of trees about 40 feet behind the **Lawson False Cypress (#6.)** Originally labeled as a Grand Fir when first registered, it is now properly identified.

OTHER INTERESTING TREES AT PRESTON PARK

8. **Metasequoia a/k/a Dawn Redwood** – Located along the Tin Temple trail one row above the “Cathedral” described in **Lawson False Cypress** tree (#6 above.) While not a champion, this very large tree was thought to be extinct millions of years ago until one reemerged from a fossil in China in 1944. Later, Dr. Preston was able to acquire and plant one here. Its estimated growth rate is 2 to 4 feet per year! Three **Dawn Redwoods** (18 – 24” high) are located on the north shore of the Pond. Local resident Francis Smith donated them in 2012. Not following normal patterns, this deciduous tree loses its needles in the fall after they turn brown and fall off.
9. **Tamarack Larch** - Located at the corner of the path leading from the Parking Lot to the Arboretum. Of the 40 pine trees in the Arboretum, it is the only one there that does not follow a normal pattern. This deciduous tree loses its needles in the fall after they turn brown and fall off.