

The Shorewood Tree Collection

At least 11 champion trees and many unusual ones made up the collection planted on the grounds of the former Shorewood Sanitarium at 2316 E. Edgewood, in the Village of Shorewood in Milwaukee.

There are two ancient Indian trails through the property. The Daughters of the American Revolution marked one of them, a Sauk Indian trail that followed along the Milwaukee River, a part of the early route from Chicago to Green Bay.

William Studley, medical director of the sanitarium from the early 1930s until the institution closed in 1977, oversaw the planting of most of the trees. Studley's father Frank founded the sanitarium in a building across the river from the present site in 1898. In 1904, workers began construction of the new building, which eventually came to be owned by Columbia Hospital.

Among the champion trees on the grounds during the 1980s were the state's largest striped maple, persimmon, sour cherry, Japanese zelkova and London

planetree. Second rank in size went to a sycamore, maple, pecan, eastern wahoo and the magnificent dawnredwood. The last, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, was reclassified as to its genera in 1941 when Shigeru Miki, a Japanese paleobotanist, noted the opposite pattern of its needles. The trees were found growing in China during World War II, and afterwards some of them were exported to the United States. In the category of third largest, a sweetgum took the honors.

In addition to these record trees, a paperbark maple, a yellowwood, a bald cypress, and numerous other exotics as well as many large, old native trees graced the hospital grounds. The grounds were sold and subdivided in the 1990s. At the urging of many concerned citizens, the village required that as many of the trees be preserved as possible. However, development and change have taken their inevitable toll, leaving just a remnant of the Shorewood collection.

Source: William Studley, Milwaukee