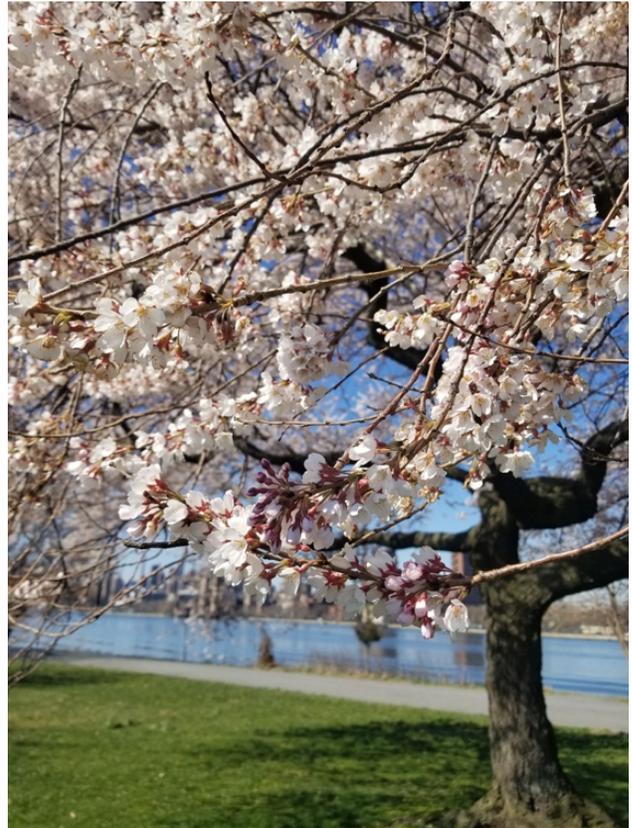


Trees & Tree Flowers in Spring!

Have you ever tried to identify the trees in your neighborhood or your local park? What tree features did you look at to tell one tree species apart from another?

People often rely on a tree's leaves to reveal its identity. Still, different seasons bring about various unique tree features to go from! Spring brings forth tree flowers, which can provide colorful and vibrant visuals for tree identification!

You may be familiar with the bright, beautiful, and showy Cherry Tree flowers that grace us every spring, but did you know that all trees (except ginkgos) have flowers? Some tree flowers are bigger and bolder than others, and some don't look like flowers at all! See the accompanying guide for some of our favorite tree flowers you can see in spring on Randall's Island!



Learn your Trees and Tree Flowers from Home!

You can explore and learn different trees from home- including their leaf shapes, flowers, fruit, and bark- with the [online LeafSnap Tree Guide](#)! You can also see and learn about trees that have been observed growing in your neighborhood (and make your own observations too) by using [iNaturalist](#)!

Notable Flowering Trees at Randall's Island Park:



Black Locust: The white or cream-colored Black Locust flowers arrive in late spring, and hang in clumps called racemes. They are pleasantly fragrant, and only last between 7-10 days.



Catalpa: Catalpa trees produce large clusters of white, fragrant trumpet-like flowers, which emerge in May and June!



Cherry Tree: Upwards of 600 varieties of Cherry Trees are grown today! Many species have blossoms with five petals, and the colors can range from white to pink, and even yellow.



Crabapple Tree: There are 30+ varieties of crabapple trees, as well as many hybrid varieties. Their flowers emerge in April or May and are small and fragrant. Flower colors can be white, pink, red, or purple.



Dogwood: Dogwood “flowers” are known for their 4 white or pink “petals” and simple elegance. These “petals” are actually leaves called *bracts*. The flowers are the tiny yellow clusters in the middle of the 4 bracts and bloom in April and May.



Eastern Redbud: Redbud flowers emerge before the tree's leaves in early spring. Clusters of magenta blossoms come directly off the tree's twigs, branches, and even trunk at times!



Horse Chestnut: In late spring, Horse Chestnut Trees produce clusters of white flowers called *panicles*. These panicles can be 10 inches in length!



Serviceberry: Serviceberries are also known as *shadbush*. It was said that these trees flowered when the shad fish would run in the rivers in early spring. The fragrant white flowers emerge before the leaves in drooping clusters.



Star Magnolia: Star Magnolias bloom in early spring and can last into summer! Their large blooms are notably star-shaped and are often white or slightly pink.



Tulip Tree: Tulip Trees produce large flowers with light green, yellow, and orange hues, typically between April and June. Their name comes from the tulip-like flower they produce.