

## **The Importance of VU's Urban Trees**

Urban trees serve a number of important purposes: they reduce air and noise pollution, reduce soil erosion and stormwater runoff, save energy and reduce energy costs, modify local climate, improve and create wildlife habitat, enhance property values, and beautify urban areas.

With Villanova University's current commitment to sustainability, the campus's many trees play an important role in working towards this commitment. However, even before this formal commitment to sustainability was made, Villanova made a commitment to preserve its trees by designating its campus as an arboretum in 1992. Since this time, the campus's title as an arboretum has been removed, but its notable trees remain.

Given the importance of urban trees and their key role in Villanova's commitment to sustainability, my hope for my Senior Independent Study Project is that it brings more attention and appreciation to Villanova University's notable trees.

## **The Notable Trees of Villanova University**



---

**Jennifer Ramos**

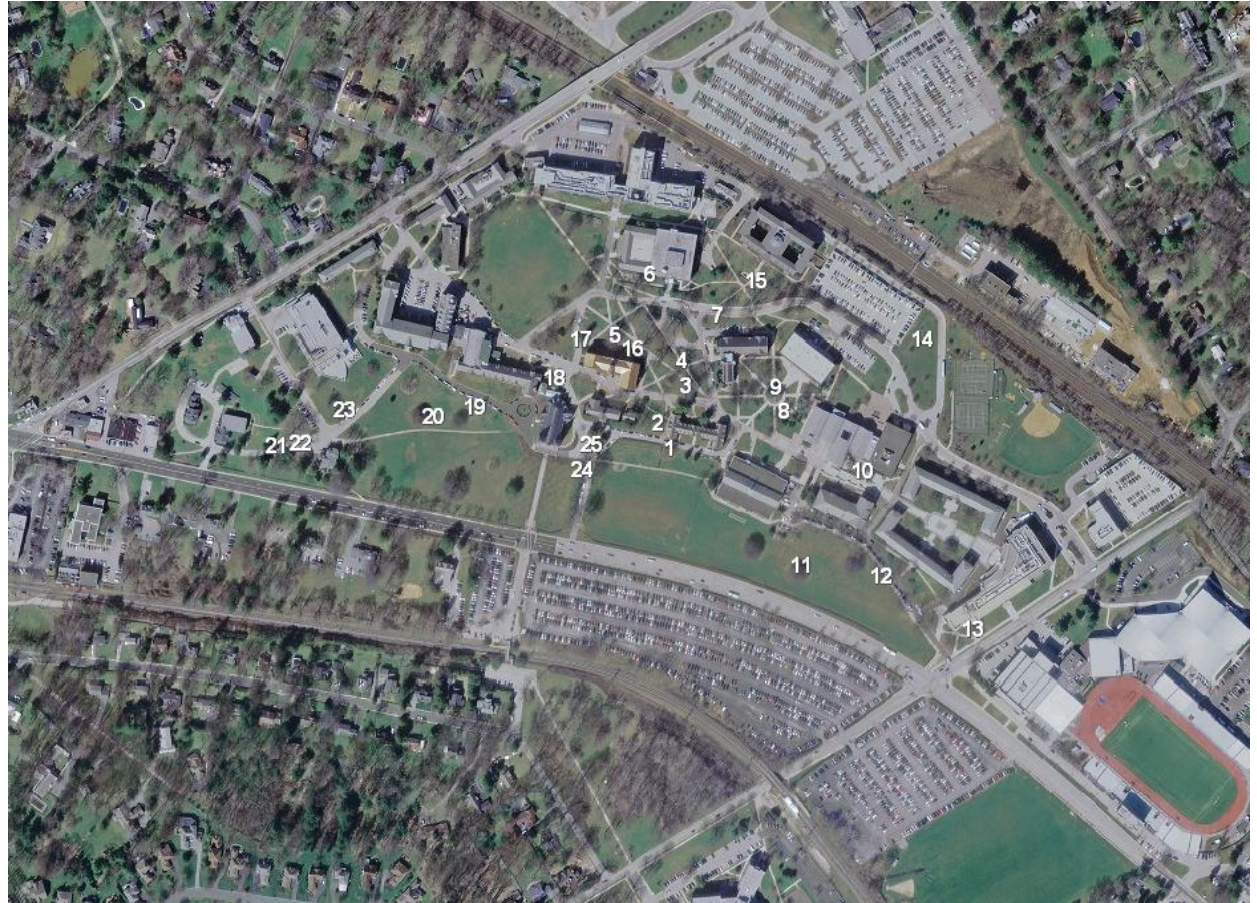
## The History of Villanova's Campus

Founded in 1842 by the order of St. Augustine, Villanova University is Pennsylvania's first Catholic college. Villanova's main campus (shown right) occupies the former 197 acre country estate of Philadelphia merchant and Revolutionary War officer, John Rudolph.

The estate's beautiful landscape provided a perfect environment for the pursuit of knowledge and the creation of an arboretum. In 1992, during the university's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Arboretum Villanova was founded as a physical manifestation of Villanova's commitment to provide a thriving environment for Catholic higher education. Although Villanova's campus no longer functions as an arboretum, the campus' +500 trees continue to thrive.

It was the Villanova campus's unique history that lent itself well to the development of Arboretum Villanova, and it was the legacy of this Arboretum that has contributed to the current efforts made to preserve and conserve Villanova's many trees and plants.

## 25 of Villanova University's Most Notable Trees



### Tree Key:

- |                       |                            |                       |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Ginkgo             | 9. Atlas Cedar             | 18. Saucer Magnolia   |
| 2. Dawn Redwood       | 10. Thornless Honey Locust | 19. Dawn Redwood      |
| 3. American Beech     | 11. Copper Beech           | 20. Weeping Beech     |
| 4. Bur Oak            | 12. Chinese Chestnut       | 21. Sugar Maple       |
| 5. Copper Beech       | 13. River Birch            | 22. Tulip Poplar      |
| 6. Ballerina Magnolia | 14. Cedar of Lebanon       | 23. Shagbark Hickory  |
| 7. American Sycamore  | 15. Halka Zelkova          | 24. Northern Red Oak  |
| 8. Himalayan Pine     | 16. Flowering Dogwood      | 25. Eastern Red Cedar |
|                       | 17. Norway Spruce          |                       |