

WALKING THE TREE TRAIL

The Mars Hill University Tree Trail and Arboretum celebrates the amazing diversity of woody species that exist on the campus. The Tree Trail opened spring 2018, with the campus earning arboretum accreditation in summer 2018 through ArbNet, an online, interactive community of arboreta. Both are involved in educational activities, community events, and other projects, both on and off campus.

The Arboretum encompasses the entire campus, marking species of interest with tags. The Tree Trail is a central portion of the Arboretum, providing a walking tour of significant specimen trees on the main portion of the university campus. The trail follows sidewalks and paved paths and is approximately 0.75 mile long (1.2 km).

Participants may start the trail at the flag poles near Tree #1 or at Broyhill Chapel near Tree #33. Tree labels are attached to each tree trunk or a nearby post. The label includes the common name and scientific name of the species along with its native region.



A SOURCE OF EDUCATION

Beyond natural beauty, the trees on campus provide educational opportunities for MHU students and the general public.

Biodiversity

More than 60 species have been identified on the campus grounds, and more than 45 species are included on the Tree Trail. Most of the species are native to the southern Appalachian Mountains, but a few planted species native to the temperate regions of western North America, Europe, and Asia, are also present.

The southern Appalachian Mountains is one of the most biologically diverse temperate regions of the world, with more than 100 native species of

tree. Mountainous topography leads to a wide range in precipitation and temperature. Within 50 miles of campus, one can visit locations among the driest (Weaverville) and wettest (Mount Mitchell) in North Carolina. Likewise, temperature varies from the warm low elevations of the French Broad River valley to the cool high peaks of the Craggy and Black mountains. The southern Appalachians are a place where south and north meet. Southern trees, such as sweetgum, coexist in the same landscape with red spruce, a tree common in New England.

The environs around campus support mixed deciduous forests composed of species adapted to moderate temperatures and moist to dry soils. Oaks, pines, maples, ash, hickory, and tuliptree are common.

History

Early European settlers cleared the land for farming. During the 20th century, social and economic changes led to the abandonment of farms, and those fields and pastures reverted to forest. Now, there is more forest around Mars Hill than in 1900.

Forests have long provided important resources for people. Native Americans found food, such as acorns and hickory nuts, along with medicinal plants in these woods. Today, woodlands provide timber, clean water, and recreational opportunities which enhance our quality of life.

An electronic version of this brochure is available at www.mhu.edu/tree.

TREE TRAIL AND ARBORETUM



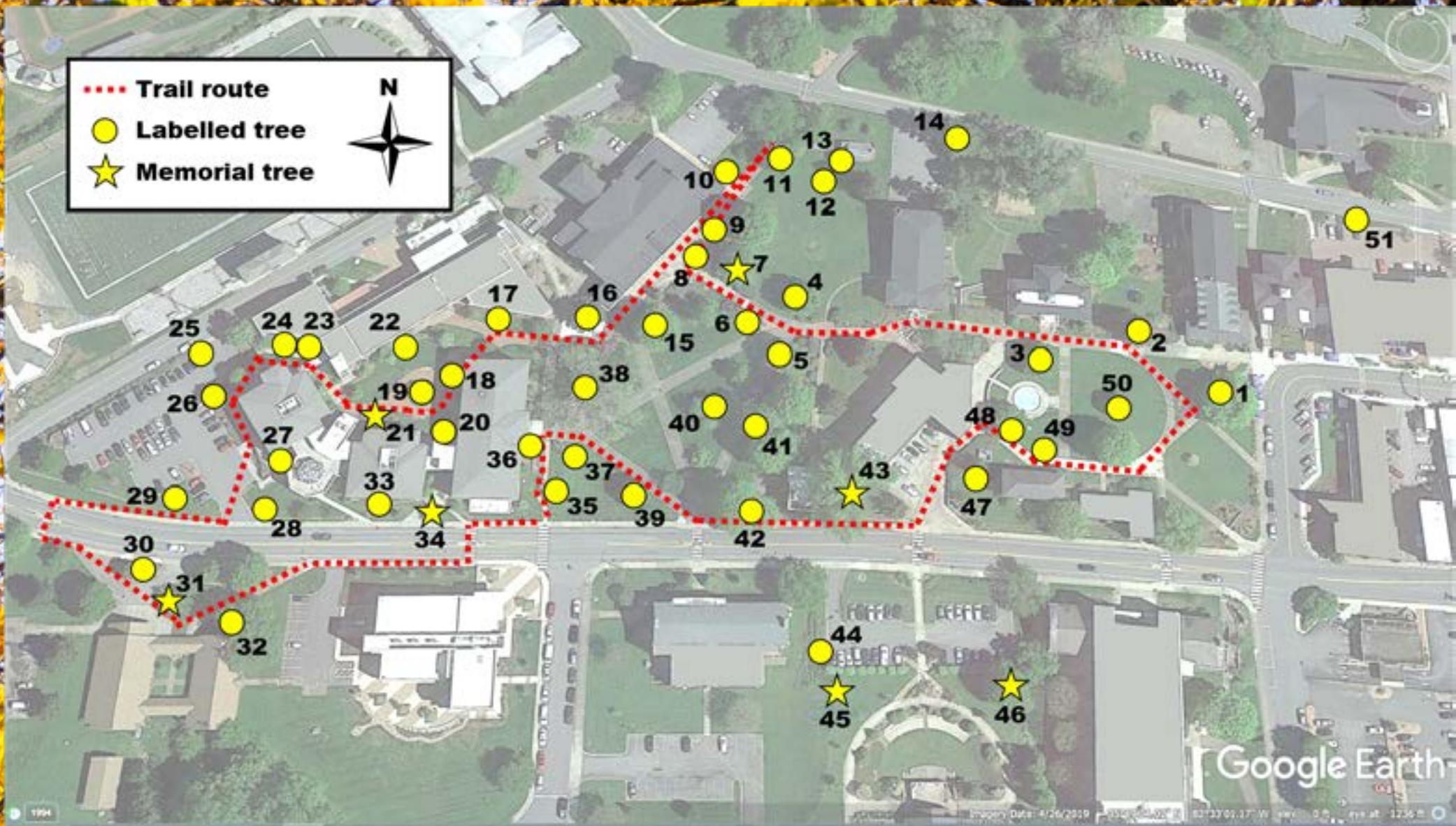
P.O. Box 6671 | 100 Athletic Street | Mars Hill, N.C. 28754

866-642-4968

www.mhu.edu/tree

Mars Hill University is an equal opportunity provider and employer.





- 1. Sugar Maple
- 2. Norway Spruce
- 3. Red Maple
- 4. Maidenhair Tree
- 5. White Oak
- 6. Hawthorn
- 7. Sweetgum
- 8. Pink Flowering Dogwood
- 9. Arborvitae
- 10. American Holly
- 11. Roundleaf Sweetgum

- 12. Apple
- 13. Serviceberry
- 14. Eastern White Pine
- 15. Pin Oak
- 16. Eastern Hemlock
- 17. Pond Cypress
- 18. Chinese Juniper
- 19. Kentucky Yellowwood
- 20. Pawpaw
- 21. Zydeco Twist Black Gum
- 22. Bottlebrush Buckeye

- 23. Winter Hazel
- 24. Paperbark Maple
- 25. White Fringetree
- 26. Dawn Redwood
- 27. Crepe myrtle
- 28. Kentucky Coffeetree
- 29. Little Leaf Linden
- 30. Southern Magnolia
- 31. Red Maple
- 32. River Birch
- 33. Sassafras

- 34. Weeping Higan Cherry
- 35. Swamp White Oak
- 36. Carolina Hemlock
- 37. Little Leaf Linden
- 38. American Sycamore
- 39. Eastern Redbud
- 40. Bald Cypress
- 41. White Oak
- 42. American Beech
- 43. Pin Oak
- 44. Dwarf Alberta Spruce

- 45. Overcup Oak
- 46. Scarlet Oak
- 47. Norway Spruce
- 48. Red Maple
- 49. Flowering Dogwood
- 50. Norway Maple
- 51. Persimmon
- 52. Northern Red Oak
(not pictured)

Memorial trees

- | Map # | In memory of... |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 7 | Richard L. Hoffman |
| 21 | Nicki Fink |
| 31 | J. W. & P. W. Grayson |
| 34 | Elizabeth Quick Koscho |
| 43 | Robert L. Moore |
| 45 | University Oak |
| 46 | Bryson H. Tilson |
| 52 | W. Scott Merrill (not pictured) |