Trees of Interest at Lincoln Park Zoo

1. American Elm
   *Ulmus americana*
   Native to central and eastern North America
   This large tree was once popular for landscaping parks and streets until Dutch elm disease nearly destroyed the North American population. Since the discovery of disease-resistant individuals, American elms have slowly returned to the landscape.

2. Flowering Dogwood
   *Cornus florida*
   Native to eastern North America
   Before producing leaves in early spring, the flowering dogwood is distinguishable by the white or pink bracts that form cones around its small clusters of yellow flowers. This tree has very dense wood that has been used to make tools and golf clubs.

3. Thornless Honey Locust
   *Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis*
   Native to central North America
   The thornless honey locust’s leaves are pinnately compound, meaning that small leaflets form rows on either side of the leaf stem. In the fall, its leaves turn golden yellow.

4. Horse Chestnut
   *Aesculus hippocastanum*
   Native to southeastern Europe
   The horse chestnut’s leaves are palmately compound, meaning that its large leaflets sprout from one central point like fingers. In late spring, it blooms upright clusters of white flowers.

5. River Birch
   *Betula nigra*
   Native to eastern North America
   River birch grows well in moist locales, and its peeling, salmon-colored bark provides habitat for insects and foraging birds.

6. White Fir
   *Abies concolor*
   Native to western North America
   This evergreen tree has bluish needles and is sometimes used as a holiday tree.

7. Redbud
   *Cercis canadensis*
   Native to eastern North America
   A popular landscaping tree, redbud blooms pink flowers in early spring before producing its iconic heart-shaped leaves.

8. Golden Rain Tree
   *Koelreuteria paniculata*
   Native to eastern Asia
   In July, small yellow flowers form clusters on the golden rain tree’s branch tips, but in fall, they turn into papery seed capsules that remain through winter. This tree’s leaves appear lacy.

9. London Plane Tree
   *Platanus × acerifolia*
   From cultivation
   This tree is a hybrid between the North American and Asian sycamores that first occurred when the two species were sharing a garden in London. Its cream- and silver-colored bark starts smooth but flakes away as the tree ages.

10. Eastern White Pine
    *Pinus strobus*
    Native to eastern North America
    This evergreen tree can grow to an enormous size and, as a useful source of lumber, was heavily logged by early European settlers. The eastern white pine is distinguishable by its large needles, which always grow in groups of five.
11. Eastern Hemlock  
Tsuga canadensis  
Native to northeastern North America  
This graceful evergreen tree with small needles and cones is under threat in the wild from an invasive pest: the hemlock woolly adelgid.

12. Weeping purple European Beech  
Fagus sylvatica ‘Purple Fountain’  
From cultivation  
A weeping form of the European beech, this tree has dramatic, dark purple foliage. The seeds produced by beech trees are called beechnuts and are a key food source for wildlife.

13. Freeman Maple  
Acer × freemanii  
Native to eastern North America  
This naturally occurring hybrid of red and silver maple has bright orange leaves in the fall. It is popular for landscaping parks and streets.

14. Bald Cypress  
Taxodium distichum  
Native to southeastern North America  
The bald cypress is a deciduous conifer, meaning it drops its needles in the fall. It’s also known for developing cypress knees, or knobby root appendages, when growing in wet soil.

15. Cottonwood  
Populus deltoides  
Native to central and eastern North America  
Tall and fast growing, cottonwoods are poplars that thrive in wet lowlands and near bodies of water.

16. Tulip Poplar  
Liriodendron tulipfera  
Native to eastern North America  
In May and June, this tree blooms yellow tulip-shaped flowers marked with an orange band. In the fall, its leaves turn golden yellow.

17. Katsura Tree  
Cercidiphyllum japonicum  
Native to eastern Asia  
The katsura tree’s heart-shaped, cascading leaves have a bluish tint through summer but turn yellow to apricot in the fall. Sometimes, it emits a sweet fragrance similar to cotton candy.

18. Bur Oak  
Quercus macrocarpa  
Native to central and northern North America  
This long-living and majestic oak, which thrives in prairies, has broad-spreading branches and develops thick bark tolerant of once-common prairie fires. Its memorable, large acorns have a fringed cup.

19. Ginkgo  
Ginkgo biloba  
Native to East Asia  
Ginkgo, distinguishable by their iconic leaves that turn gold in the fall, are sometimes called “living fossils” because they evolved before dinosaurs and have changed little in the past 270 million years. This species covered North America and Europe, as well, until the last ice age.

20. Prairifire Flowering Crabapple  
Malus ‘Prairifire’  
From cultivation  
The prairifire flowering crabapple sets itself apart from other crabapples with its magenta spring flowers, purple foliage, and small red fruit that grows in the fall. This cultivar is a complex hybrid introduced by the University of Illinois.
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