

Special Tree Species in Shaker Heights

Black Tupelo Trees

These trees are now among the varieties planted by the Forestry Crew and most recently, planted in Southerly Park in honor of Arbor Day.

Tree Facts:

- Native to eastern US.
- Its common name, tupelo, is derived from two Creek Tribe words meaning "tree of the swamp."
- Has the unique ability to tolerate swampy soil, which supplies less oxygen to roots.
- Dark, glossy, green leaves of summer become brilliant mix of red, purple, yellow, and orange in the fall.
- Flowers provide food for honey bees and other pollinators, and form deep purple drupes (fruit with one seed) that are eaten by birds and animals.
- Bark of mature trees looks like alligator hide.
- Honey bees of Florida swamps produce tupelo honey from tupelo nectar.
- The song, "Tupelo Honey," released by Van Morrison in 1971 is about this tree's honey. [Listen to it on YouTube](#)
- Visit the [Nature Center at Shaker Lakes](#) to see a few tupelo trees. From the marsh deck, look off to northeast corner to see them

