This is the "East from Hilliard Plaza" Tree Tour. It starts at the bottom of the steps at the northeast corner of Hilliard Plaza, turns left at the top of the stairs, goes to the area between Cain Hall and the Raggio Building, explores the trees around the turnaround, heads towards Evans Street and descends a ramp to the back of the Leifson Physics Building.

Okay, let's get started!
Ascend the stairs. The tree on the right, a few feet up at number 1 on the map, is **Pin Oak** (scientific name *Quercus palustris*), native to eastern and midwestern U.S. This tree, a member of the Red Oak group with its pointed lobes, has lower branches which droop. Although locally popular, it is intolerant of high pH, which saps the vigor of the tree and causes its orange-red Fall color to appear in June. A better option is Northern Red Oak.

Ascend to the top of the stairs and look at the three conifers on the right at number 2 on the map. These are **Lodgepole Pine** (scientific name *Pinus contorta var. murrayana*), native to western U.S. It grows anywhere from sea level to tree line. It is the first conifer to appear along highways where road construction has disturbed the soil and there are Lodgepole Pines in the forest adjacent to it. It has shorter needles and a more dense appearance than Austrian Pine, a much more popularly-planted tree.

A few feet to the right of them at number 3 is a small weeping tree, **Weeping Eastern Redbud** (scientific name *Cercis canadensis* 'Covey'), a cultivar of the eastern U.S. species which was discovered in a pot in 1985. Later it received a plant patent, which is analogous to any other kind of patent. It has contorted branches.

At the top of the steps and to the right at number 4 are two **Colorado Blue Spruces** (scientific name *Picea pungens*). Native to the Northern Rocky Mountains, Colorado Blue Spruce grows quite well in Reno. Its blue-gray foliage make it a desirable accent tree.
Tree
No.

5 Snow Fountains Cherry

Go clockwise around the round sidewalk to the wide sidewalk to the left. After a few feet you will see a small round-headed tree on the left at number 5. This is **Snow Fountains Cherry** (scientific name *Prunus* 'Snofozam', probably planted about 2015). This weeping cultivar of the **Higan Cherry** (native to Japan but no longer found in the wild) has a graft at about four feet; it will only grow perhaps a foot taller than that. It is called "Snow Fountains" because the branches descending from the graft to the ground are covered with white flowers, reminiscent of a fountain of snow.

6 Amur Maple

Ahead on the lawn on the left at number 6 is **Amur Maple** (scientific name *Acer ginnala*, planted 2015). This small Maple is a very popular tree because it can fit in many small yards, and in the best years it has blazing orange-red Fall color.

7 Red Maple

The medium-sized trees with white bark flanking the sidewalk to the door of Raggio at number 7 are **Red Maple** (scientific name *Acer rubrum*), native to the eastern and midwestern U.S. Red Maple is tough, grows quickly, is cold-hardy and provides reliable red Fall color (which is possibly why there are so many Red Maples on campus). There are perhaps 100 cultivars of this species with different leaf shapes, some of which provide orange-red color.
8  Northern Red Oak

Turn around; on your right where the small sidewalk intersects the large sidewalk at number 8 is **Northern Red Oak** (scientific name *Quercus rubra*, planted 1997), a native of eastern North America. Of all the Oaks planted in recent years in Reno, this species seems to be the most popular. This is possibly because it grows fairly rapidly, is pest-resistant, and it may have yellow and orange-red colors if the Fall weather is favorable.

9  Apple

Straight ahead, flanking the small sidewalk near the entrance to the building ahead (Cain Hall) at number 9 is **Apple** (scientific name *Malus domestica*). Apple trees have been cultivated for thousands of years. There are so many Apple cultivars that it is difficult to differentiate them; however, I believe that this may be the cultivar 'Anna,' because of its yellow color with a red blush.

10 Crabapple

On its right, a number 10, is **Crabapple** (scientific name *Malus 'Transcendent'*). This cultivar was identified on an historical Tree Tour map. This heirloom (introduced before 1844) has orange fruits which purportedly glow like lanterns in the afternoon Sun; it also makes excellent crabapple jelly.

11 Giant Sequoia

Turn right on the large sidewalk until you get to the conifer in the middle of the turnaround at number 11. This is **Giant Sequoia** (scientific name *Sequoiadendron giganteum*), probably planted when the Raggio Building was constructed in 1997. one of many present on the campus.
This native of the western slope of the Sierra Nevada grows quickly and has a conical shape. For a tree which can grow to over 300 feet, it has astonishingly-small cones -- just egg-sized.

Continue toward the door of the Leifson Physics Building. The two trees to its left at number 12 are **Norway Maple** (scientific name *Acer platanoides*). Native to Northern Europe, this tree has five sharply-pointed lobes with points along the lobes. I don't know which cultivar this is, but the leaves come out a reddish-brown color, unlike those of many other Norway Maples.

Turn to the left, and cross the turnaround driveway to the sidewalk. Walk to the large silver-gray conifer at number 13. This is **Blue Atlas Cedar** (scientific name *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca'), This cultivar of the native of the Atlas Mountains of Algeria and Morocco has needles radiating from points on the branch. It also has white to beige four-inch cones upright on the branches. Its branch ends appear sharp. Its top may droop or become flat as it matures.

Between it and the sidewalk to the south entrance of Cain at number 14 is a purple-leaved tree, **Purple Leaf Plum** (scientific name *Prunus cerasifera* 'Krauter Vesuvius), a cultivar of the European and Asian native species **Cherry Plum**. It has small, edible fruits, but is used in landscape settings because of its color.
Tree No.

15

Winged Euonymus

The small tree to the left at number 15 with a rather crooked shape is Winged Euonymus (scientific name *Euonymus alatus*), native to northeastern Asia. Look at the branches of this tree: they have protrusions called "wings," hence the name. Winged Euonymus shrubs, called "Flame Bush" because of their bright red Fall color, are very popular in Reno landscapes. This is the only tree form of this plant I have seen here.

16

Two kinds of Oriental Arborvitae (Trees Number 16)

Oriental Arborvitae

Turn around, cross the turnaround street and go down a couple of steps on the sidewalk toward Evans Street. There are two trees at the corner of the brick building at number 16. The two conifers are Oriental Arborvitae (Scientific name *Thuja orientalis*), native to China, Korea and far east Russia. They have completely different shapes. The tall and skinny one with
multiple trunks is probably the species; the other one, low and fat, is one of the twenty-plus cultivars of the species.

Head toward the corner of the building nearest Evans Street at number 17 to the round-headed tree. This is Umbrella Catalpa (scientific name Catalpa bignonioides 'Nana'), a cultivar of the southeastern U.S. native. This grafted cultivar, introduced in the 1880s, produces an umbrella shape and does not have flowers. This one seems to be planted a little too close to the building. A better example is found on the "Around Parking Services" Tree Tour.

Walk across the street to the ramp on the right side of the building. Walk down the ramp until you reach number 18, where you see two conifers to the right. These are Jeffrey Pine (scientific name Pinus jeffreyi), native to the Sierra Nevada. They have three needles in a bundle, six-inch cones, and bark which smells like vanilla. These trees get rather large for the average residential lot, but they will do fine here.

Where the ramp turns left, go to one of the three conifers on the right at number 19. Since they have two needles in a bundle, they may at first appear to be Austrian Pine; but the bark looks wrong. They are Japanese Black Pine (scientific name Pinus thunbergii, planted 1972), native to Japan. These trees are probably the same age as the last two trees, but they don't seem very happy here. Japanese Black Pine rarely grows straight up, but has a crooked form.

This concludes the "East from Hilliard Plaza" Tree Tour.