This is the "Manzanita Bowl" Tree Tour. It starts at the west side of the Center Street Entrance at 9th Street, going clockwise on 9th Street to North Virginia Street, crosses the Manzanita Lake Dam, and finishes at the starting point.

Okay, let's get started!

Tree
No.

1  

European White Elm

Walk on the sidewalk along Ninth Street toward North Virginia Street. There is a line of large trees right of the sidewalk. Stop at the tree at number 1 on the map. This is European White Elm (scientific name *Ulmus laevis*, probably planted around 1910), native to Europe. It has
inconspicuous green-to-red-violet flowers which appear before the toothed leaves with uneven bases. This tree was identified as such in a tree tour in 1985. The fourth tree from the Center Street Entrance is the Nevada State Champion.

Go to the blue-gray weeping conifer on the right end of the "University of Nevada" sign at number 2 on the map. This is a fine example of Weeping Atlas Cedar (scientific name Cedrus atlantica 'Glauc Pendula'). It is a cultivar of Atlas Cedar, a tree native to the Atlas Mountains of Morocco and Algeria. This cultivar is prized for its limbs which head in one direction at a low angle and continue as the tree grows. If you plant one of these be careful in which direction you plant it.
On the other end of the sign, at number 3, is Juniper (scientific name *Juniperus sp.*). This is the second-most-planted genus of trees on campus after Pine, with over 300 trees; but species differentiation is difficult for Junipers. The one thing junipers have in common is small blue-gray berries, whose favorite use is flavoring gin...

The two small trees about 30 feet from the back of the sign, at number 4, are European Spindletree (scientific name *Euonymus europaeus*), native to Europe and western Asia. Its best feature is bright red Fall color like that of its cousin, the extremely popular yard shrub Flame Bush (scientific name *Euonymus alata*). This is an uncommon tree in Reno. The lone one a few feet further east, separated by a similar-sized tree from these two, is the Nevada State Champion.

The tree separating the group of European Spindletrees, at number 5, is Hopa Crabapple (scientific name *Malus* 'Hopa'), decades ago the most popular crabapple to plant. Fashions have changed, and this cultivar is hard to find anywhere, having been supplanted by a dazzling variety of cultivars. Nevertheless, this tells us that the Manzanita Bowl was planted in the 1950s or 1960s. A few years after planting, crabapples have shaggy and mottled bark. Hopa Crabapples were planted in an arc going up the hill of Manzanita Bowl.
Retrace your steps to the left side of the sign. Go up the North Virginia Street sidewalk about 30 feet. The small tree right of the sidewalk at number 6 with Maple-like leaves is **Sweetgum** (scientific name *Liquidambar styraciflua*). Native to the eastern U.S., it has maple-like leaves with five smooth-edged lobes and spiny one-inch fruits. Note the ridges running along small branches of this tree. This is what is called "winged" or "corky" bark, and it is typical of young Sweetgums. This tree, in the best color years, will have purplish orange-red Fall color.

The next tree up the hill at number 7 with two-inch five-lobed leaves is **English Hawthorn** (scientific name *Crataegus laevigata*), native to Europe and North Africa. This small tree has small, showy white flowers, and, in Fall, has half-inch red fruits which attract birds.

English Hawthorn has simple leaves, which means that the central stem is attached to the branch at one end and to a single leaf at the other end.

The medium-sized tree about 30 feet back from the sidewalk at number 8 has a different leaf pattern: the central stem has a number of small leaflets coming out from it. This is referred to as a pinnately compound leaf. This particular tree is **Thornless Honeylocust** (scientific name *Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis*). (By the way, the species has thorns, and this naturally-occurring variety is thornless). Native to eastern and mid-western U.S. Honeylocust has zig-zag branches, greenish-yellow flowers and dark twisted seedpods.

At number 9 is a tree with what is called bipinnately compound leaves. What this means is that there is a central stem with secondary stems coming out from it, and the leaflets coming out from the secondary stems.
This is Kentucky Coffee Tree (scientific name *Gymnocladus dioicus*), native to the eastern and midwestern U.S. The female trees of this species produce a pod with beans which the early settlers used as a coffee substitute. This tree has leaves which come out late in Spring and which fall in early Fall. There is a nice specimen of this tree on the "The Quad" Tour.

Proceed past the concrete-channeled waterway on your right, the Orr Ditch. Take the sidewalk to the right. In the grassy area to the right at number 10 is a large tree.

This is Silver Maple (scientific name *Acer saccharinum*). This native of eastern North America was one of the most planted tree species in lawn areas in the U.S. for many years. But it has gone out of favor because it easily drops twigs, its shallow roots are a problem for lawnmowers and its Fall color is usually a dull yellow.

Walk right toward the chain link fence. This area is choked with vegetation, all of it "volunteers" (plants that sprouted naturally without being planted). In the middle of this, at number 11, there is a tree a few inches in diameter with light brown, vertically striped bark just inside the fence. It has light green leaves with either one or two lobes. This is Red Mulberry (scientific name *Morus rubra*). It most probably is a "volunteer" planted when a seed from a Red Mulberry tree across the dam passed through a bird's digestive system. You wouldn't notice it (as the Tree Hunter did) until it has red and black berries.
Tree No.

12. Weeping Eastern White Pine

Between the fence and the sidewalk is a weeping conifer at number 12. It is **Weeping Eastern White Pine** (scientific name *Pinus strobus* 'Pendula'). This is one of the four forms of this species (which is native to the eastern half of North America) found on campus. The tree is recognizable as a White Pine by the five needles in a bundle. The shape of Weeping Eastern White Pine varies wildly in individual trees.

13. Colorado Blue Spruce

Take the sidewalk next to the dam. Past it on the right at number 13 is a silver-green conifer, **Colorado Blue Spruce** (scientific name *Picea pungens*). Native to the Northern Rocky Mountains, this tree grows quite well in Reno. Its blue-gray foliage and relative lack of pest problems make it a desirable park tree. However, this tree grows too large to be popular as a yard or street tree.

Look toward the other end of the dam. There are two lines of trees to your right. Both are cultivars of **Flowering Pear** (scientific name *Pyrus calleryana*), a native of Korea and Japan. This species supplanted **Common (or Fruiting) Pear** in landscape plantings because it was thought to have greater resistance to a disease called "Fireblight."

14. Bradford Pear

At number 14 is **Bradford Pear** (scientific name *Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford'). Bradford Pear has its own problem: the tree's limbs are at a high angle and are thus structurally weak, so they are susceptible to wind damage (walk past the first tree and look back; you can see a huge scar where a major limb broke off).

I'm going out on a limb here (heh, heh) and speculating that at least four of the Bradfords died (from wind damage, possibly?) and two were replaced with the tree at number 15.
15  Aristocrat Pear

This is Aristocrat Pear (scientific name *Pyrus calleryana*), a cultivar introduced in 1969. It is even narrower than Bradford and has the same problem (the fourth tree in the line, an Aristocrat, has a huge limb scar too).

Since I'm still out on that limb (and the wind is picking up!), I'm going to guess that the row of Aristocrat Pears a few feet downhill was planted (possibly in the 1990s -- they were not mentioned in the 1995 tree tour) in anticipation of the removal of the rest of the Bradfords.

Please press "pause" and continue on the sidewalk until you are almost at the street from the Center Street Entrance. There are four more Colorado Blue Spruces on your right. These were planted in the early 1950s as memorial trees.

16  Purple Leaf Plum

At the end of the lines of Pears and in back of the sign, at number 16, is a tree with purple leaves, Purple Leaf Plum (scientific name *Prunus cerasifera* 'Krauter Vesuvius', planted in 1982).

This cultivar of the West Asia native Cherry Plum is named for a nurseryman who introduced it in 1957. Since then its popularity has exploded, possibly because it has a multitude of pink flowers before the purple leaves come out. This is one of the first trees in Reno to bloom in Spring.

17  Spartan Juniper

The conifer next to it, at number 17, was described as Spartan Juniper (scientific name *Juniperus chinensis* 'Spartan') in a 1985 tree tour. Otherwise I would not be able to identify it, because the hundreds of Juniper cultivars can be columnar, low-lying or anything in between. Juniper is the second most- commonly planted genus of tree on the campus, after Pine. This tree was planted in 1978.
The last tree on this tour, between two Hopa Crabapples at number 18, is **Norway Spruce** (scientific name *Picea abies*), native to Central and Northern Europe. Its branches tend to droop on each side of the limb, and the limbs tend to droop from the trunk. Compare the shape, color, and branch structure with those of the **Colorado Blue Spruces** between number 15 and 16.

This concludes the "Manzanita Bowl" Tree Tour.