

## Eagle Creek Nature Notes

### Transcript for Season 1 Episode 5: Champion Tree Hike

**Narrator:** Hello, and welcome to Eagle Creek Park Nature Notes, the audio series created to help you plan your next visit to Eagle Creek Park in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Adam Hibshman:** I'm Adam Hibshman, the Marketing and Program Coordinator for Eagle Creek Park Foundation. We're the primary non-profit partner of Eagle Creek Park. I'm fairly new to this role, but I've been coming to Eagle Creek Park for more than ten years since I moved to Indianapolis, and I found ways to connect with the outdoors throughout my entire life.

**Marty Rich:** Marty Rich here. I worked at Eagle Creek Park in the 1970s as a ranger, and then I went on to a 40 -year career as an environmental scientist for the state and federal government. I'm a member of the Eagle Creek Park Advisory Committee and a weekly volunteer with the trail crew. We lived next to the park for 40 years, and I still explore the west side regularly, and I'm glad to be here with you, Adam.

**Adam:** Thanks, Marty. So listeners, a short while ago, Marty took me on the most interesting hike that I've been on while here at Eagle Creek. We started on the north end of the west side trail and hiked about 1.7 miles southward before returning. During that hike, Marty taught me all kinds of things, but chiefly taught me about the massive trees and major water systems in that section of the park. More broadly, we also talked about the ecosystems and natural history of that area.

Today, we're going to recreate that experience in an audio format so you can listen while you hike. We have some resources to guide you and help you follow along. If you'd like to check out any of those resources, please check the show notes or go to [eaglecreekpark.org](http://eaglecreekpark.org).

**Adam:** So Marty, you're here to discuss the West Side Trail at Eagle Creek Park, based on your many areas of expertise and experience, trees and water features being among them. You've committed a lot of your time and energy to documenting and understanding the west side of the park, so I'm curious, can you tell our listeners, how did it come to be that you did all this work?

**Marty:** You might call me a tree hugger, and that's okay. I've always admired the lone big trees I found on my hikes. After I retired, I realized that the park didn't have a list or map or detailed information about its big trees. So I came up with a proposal for a volunteer science project. I received a research permit, got some gear, and started the Eagle Creek Park Big Tree Registry back in 2020. And before that, for the 2018 Eagle Creek Park Bioblitz, I figured out the networks

of streams in the park so we could collect water data along with the plant and animal data of that study. The big trees and streams have been here a long time,

and they got me interested in the park history that happened around them, so I thank you for this opportunity to share some of what I've learned.

**Adam:** I definitely appreciate it. I learned a lot on our hike. Today we're going to discuss some very large trees on the west side, So before we get into that, can you tell our listeners about some of the things that you measured, primarily the age and height of those trees? Is that something listeners should do? How does that all work?

**Marty:** Well, as a scientist, I know my work has to be reproducible. So I use the methods of the Eastern Native Tree Society. It's a group of academics who do what I do, but on a larger scale. We determine the girth or circumference of a tree at a standard height. That's 4.5 feet above the ground level, measured in decimal feet using a forestry tape. And then when the top of the tree is visible, that height is measured with a laser rangefinder that has software in it to calculate the height.

Tree age for this project is an estimate. Each year a tree adds an annual growth ring, which you could observe if you looked at the end of a cut log. So a core could be extracted from a live tree to count the rings under magnification, but that's beyond the scope of this project. Instead, a tree species specific growth rate factor is applied to the girth in a formula that provides the estimated age.

Different tree species grow at different rates, so that that rate then adjusts for a slow growing or a fast-growing trees ability to add size to it. And in the end, that that age is the number of years since the tree was a sprouted seedling.

**Adam:** So we talked about this on our hike, I took that information and figured out what my arm span is so that if I don't have a tape measure, I could do it. So I'm just about five foot nine, about 69 inches. And I just recently measured my arm span officially at 73 inches. It was only off by a couple of inches, about four inches. So, listeners, if you want to go hug a tree and find out its circumference to do estimate tree ages, this is something you can do with this information.

**Marty:** Yeah, I think that's a shortcut. I mean, the four-and-a-half-foot height is approximately at the bottom of your arm. and if you reach around it with another person about the same size, for you, you would measure a tree girth of about 12 feet. Generally, two adults will capture a tree girth of at least 10 feet, so I've been using 10 feet as a threshold to include trees in the big tree registry, but of course that depends on species. There are some that are the biggest of their kind, but they just don't grow that large.

**Adam:** So Marty, can you set the scene for this hike through the West Side Trail?

Where are we parking? Where's the trailhead? Remember that listeners have access to a map of the West Side of the park.

**Marty:** Yeah, so West Side Trail has a five-mile main section that we will travel today. Your map will show the entrance to the trailhead parking area. It comes off Fishback Road, then has a lane inside the park that leads to the Eagles Crest building. You won't go that far. You will first pass a trail crossing that's on your map, find a good parking place, and then you'll proceed to the next trail crossing. That's mile zero on your map.

Then you're going to head south on the paved path until that path begins to curve right and at that point you will exit the paved path and take the forest trail to your left.

If you follow the brown trail signs you will be on the right trail. It's well marked and now we're on our way.

**Adam:** That's right and listeners if you're not so good with directions there's some soccer fields walk away from those soccer fields into the woods that's where we're headed down that paved path and on our way.

Before we get to any of the features that we're prepared to talk about, you taught me something really interesting that's right there at that entrance. There's actually a couple of them, but you pointed out something called a tree plantation, or it might have a more technical name. Can you tell us what a tree plantation is, what it's for?

**Marty:** You'll see a tall fence on your right, and it encloses a plantation of young trees. Now these are replacement seedlings for heritage trees that were removed at an unnamed construction site somewhere in Indianapolis. The city ordinance says they need to be replaced if they are removed.

And it's usually not one-for-one replacement. The bigger the heritage tree, the more replacement trees are required. And the seedlings are fenced to protect them from wildlife like deer that would browse the young tender seedlings. I know this plantation has been here for more than a decade, but I don't even know when it was installed.

**Adam:** So now we're headed south on the West Side Trail. What are some of the first features that we should be on the lookout for?

**Marty:** Well, of course, you're going to be heading due south after you've entered the forest onto the unpaved trail. The trail is going to make a hard right head north as it makes a bend in the trail, it's going to cross the first bridge. And I'm just going to tell you about a few of the streams there because, well, at least I find it interesting to know that this first one, for example, is the longest of two tributaries to one of the main creeks called Crest Branch Creek.

And so this tributary starts entirely inside Eagle Creek Park and flows south to join the main stem of Crest Branch Creek near 65th Street. Now, as we continue down the trail, kind of curving south and then back north, and you're going to enter a part of the woods that just seems older and stop for a minute, and on your left will be a big tulip tree. And it will be one of the biggest trees you've ever seen until you turn to the right and you'll see an even larger tulip tree.

**Marty:** Now these are relatively fast-growing trees. The large one on your right is 14.9 feet in circumference, 105 feet to the top of it. But it's about 170 years old, so it began its life in the 1850s. The tree on your left is 12.9 feet in circumference. It's about the same size as another tree on the east side of the park, although this one is not quite as tall, and it probably began its life in the 1870s.

And if you get your eye tuned in to identifying a tulip tree, you'll see there are several more large tulip trees right at this bend in the trail.

**Adam:** So listeners, a couple of notes on that. First of all, I got to pause and say how significant it feels to me personally to stand under a tree that was born before the Civil War, as an example.

And we'll actually talk about trees much older than that. So if you ever come across these trees, if you do follow this hike, take a minute and think about how much time has passed since that tree was born.

And also, here we discussed how trees can sort of talk to one another and how they can share nutrients with one another. Marty, can you tell listeners how these trees are interconnected?

**Marty:** Yeah, beneath the trees, their roots extend outward and downward. And their roots are meshed with other plant organisms, such as fungi. And this subsurface network links the older trees to the younger trees. It's linking the mother tree to the offspring. And it also connects trees of different species. And through this subsurface network, trees do exchange carbon and nutrients like nitrogen.

Now strong trees can help weaker trees. And scientists learned about this by injecting tracers into trees that were those tracers were then detected in different trees.

So they knew there was this subsurface connection and they proved it. And I think of it like this, if you tug on something in nature, you find it's connected to everything else. And it's a good reason to leave an old forest intact.

**Adam:** Okay, so what's next on our hike?

**Marty:** Well, I want you to stop and look around a little bit more, because in this old forest, there's been limited disturbance. It's not just because the trees are old,

but the understory is more open because it's the native natural understory. Now there are woodlands in the park, quite a few of them, that were disturbed in more recent years.

**Marty:** The land was cleared, it wasn't replanted with a plantation of trees, and so in those places trees did regrow, but the understory became thick with non-native invasive shrubs and vines and thorny species that actually out-compete the original understory, and those woodlands are not in balance. They support fewer wildlife. So look at both the tall trees and what grows beneath them.

**Adam:** So listeners, you heard Marty say "understory," and what he means by that is the shrubs and smaller plant life that are growing beneath the big trees. And he's totally right. When you walk into the section of forest, you don't see big bushes growing.

You pretty much just see trees and small little bushes growing. Those are the native ones. You don't see anything like honeysuckle or anything trying to take over where it doesn't belong.

And so to see these old growth forests for me, my perspective on it was, I'm just so thrilled to A, be able to work with Marty and learn all this stuff. But B, to know that I work at a place that supports this park that has preserved these old growth forests that once you cut 'em down, you can't get 'em back.

**Adam:** So what's next, Marty?

**Marty:** Well, we've reached mile one at this point and you'll be standing near the oldest American beach tree in Eagle Creek Park. Now it does have a partner on the east side that's the same size and relatively the same age.

This one is about 240 years old. The slow-growing species, it's much smaller around than that tulip tree that was almost 100 years younger. But this tree probably began its life in the 1780s.

**Adam:** Quickly to interject with two things, Marty, that I should have told our listeners. One, if you follow along on our map that is labeled with yellow numbers, we're actually at number five. We've made our way all the way down to the American beach that is listed as number five on that. And two, I want to let listeners know that we've included a document that will help you identify some of these trees by their leaves.

Not a good thing to do over an audio medium, so I'll let you check the show notes for those. So after mile one, Marty, what's next?

**Marty:** Well then we're going to walk to the west, actually to the northwest for quite a long stretch until the trail makes a hard left going back south.

We're gonna cross another bridge there and that's another shorter tributary of Crest Branch Creek. Its headwaters are in a housing development just outside the park.

**Marty:** And as we walk along this this ridge top you'll be looking down into a real pretty ravine with this creek at the bottom of it. And so it's useful to me to help you know these streams as you follow them, and we'll continue south for quite a ways, and the trail will dip below a slight rise.

Stop for a minute. Look to your right. Up on this rise, you'll see another tree plantation. You'll see the fence for that, but what you will see is the largest oldest bur oak tree in Eagle Creek Park. This is really an impressive tree.

Get off the trail if you want to and walk up there. This tree is 16.3 feet in circumference. We have a picture of a group of 12 and those people spread out aren't even nearly as wide as the canopy of this tree.

It's about 310 years old. It's a slow growing species. It probably began life in the early 1700s.

**Adam:** So listeners, I stood in awe under this tree with Marty. And actually, this is as far as we made it on our walk before we turned around. What I can tell you is that I was able to take just what I learned and start to notice the massive trees in my own backyard. I live near Springdale neighborhood, just across from Pogues Run from where I live. And there are two 300-year-old oaks, just a 10-minute walk from my front door.

I even measured the circumference of a different tree, an American sycamore found a calculator online, and it estimated that that tree was about 240 years old. So, you know, we're going to keep talking about this hike, but you can take some of these things and start to appreciate where you live much more than you could have before.

**Marty:** Yes, there are large specimen trees in Indianapolis and they have named them like the Kyle Oak in Irvington. You were referring to the Temple Oak and there's a tree was a Chinkapin the other one was a Bur Oak so we'll see both of those species and actually somewhat smaller versions here on the west side trail hike.

**Adam:** Marty really quick before we keep going what's it like for you to stand under an old massive tree here at the park you've been studying them for going on three years.

**Marty:** Well I think you understand the feeling Adam many of the big trees in Eagle Creek Park Parker's solitary specimens. They survived by luck or circumstance. You know, they might have stood near a house that's now gone. They might have been the shade tree in a pasture. And rarely there are patches of old growth forest with families of big trees.

And a few are along this trail. I'll always remember the awe and reverence I felt when I discovered a true champion size tree like this big bur oak that we just passed and the largest tree I've found is deep in the woods far from a road or trail and it's about 20 feet in girth it's a hermit without a family it's almost sad those families of big trees that we saw were we're like finding a lost treasure no one knew was there they're so old compared to us

**Adam:** Well put so what's next Marty keep going

**Marty:** Well we're gonna continue down the hill going south. We're gonna cross a bridge that has the year 1942 inscribed on the side of the stone. And this bridge is believed to have been connecting farm ground and pasture that we've just walked through to a property a little bit south on 65th Street, the next landmark that we'll cross. And J K. Lilly, we believe, owned all that back in the 1930s.

This stream originates a short distance outside the park and flows eastward on the north side of 65th Street. It's joining in with that one that we've been walking along as we came down the hill. So we'll talk more about the destination of this in a minute, but we will have reached mile two then when we get to the paved west 65th Street.

Now, if you look to the right, you'll see a gate at Raceway Road. And if you look to the left, you may be able to see the entrance to the Eagles Hideaway. West 65th Street served a number of residents along it before the park was created.

It served Eagle Valley Farms that was owned by J.K. Lilly and operated in cooperation with Purdue University before the reservoir was constructed. They had a dairy operation down in the Creek Valley before we had the reservoir.

West 65th tees into the best-known north-south road on the west side, which is Dandy Trail, and some of that is still intact, and you can walk along that.

And then as we cross West 65th Street, the trail continues south. We're going to approach what is now number 10, and that's Eagle's Crest Creek. And that's a creek that flows all the time, just like the creek on the north side of 65th Street, Crest Branch Creek, called those perennial streams. Groundwater keeps the flow going even in dry weather.

And the bridge that we're crossing now is crossing a stream that comes out of Forest Lake on the west edge of the park. And then Eagles Crest Creek and Crest Branch Creek continue down on both sides of 65th Street and join together on Old Dandy Trail and flow into the reservoir. And this will take us to mile number three.

**Adam:** So Marty, we've passed mile marker number three. Just a little ways past that, we cross a large bridge. What can you tell us about it?

**Marty:** Yes, it's interesting that this stream, this ravine, that this enormous bridge really spans is not a perennial stream. It only flows when it rains because this area is draining part of the Eagle Creek golf course.

**Marty:** However, because the West Side Trail threads kind of a narrow path here between the golf course and the Eagle's Crest Nature Preserve, they had to cross this deep ravine, and thus we have this grand bridge.

Now, we've walked a long way since the last bridge that I talked about. There are several intermittent streams with small bridges on them, but I want to direct your attention now to the next big feature on the trail labeled as 15 on the map. And we are now at Lily Creek. Lily Creek is another perennial stream,

And it comes a long way. It comes from three different housing developments along Raceway Road. And one of those is a really new, large one. And the water that comes from those then flows into Eagle Creek Golf Course through some culverts and forests and then into the Nature Preserve. And comes under this large boardwalk and bridge structure that we're following here.

Now, Lily Creek will head further toward the reservoir and join with Eli Creek, which we will cross at our next bridge.

**Adam:** Just to jump in, Marty, I remember on our hike, you spoke about that particular boardwalk. And I know also that you've worked on building trails in the past. Do you think there's anything they could have done to avoid that enormous boardwalk? Or is there any way to cut the trail differently? Or is that just a consequence of the water feature?

**Marty:** Well, these are large structures. They were expensive to put in the boardwalk and the bridge. And the challenge in designing the Westside Trail, as I understood it, was not to construct it through the nature preserve. And of course, with the golf course, not being a suitable location for a hiking trail, they had to follow this narrow path and it just had these natural features that they adapted to.

We're starting in a creek valley and we're climbing a lot of stairs up to our next feature. Labeled as 16. This is a Chinkapin oak tree. It's over on the left side of the trail.

It's about 12.6 feet in circumference, about 100 feet tall. It's near an old house foundation or building foundation. We don't know the origin or the history on that, interestingly enough.

But this is another slow growing species. It's probably began its life in the 1780s. And I can say the Chinkapin oak species is represented as the largest tree on the west side of the reservoir and the largest of its species, the largest tree altogether in Eagle Creek Park. And the one I'm thinking of on the golf course has a span of the crown, the canopy, that is 200 feet.



**Adam:** So both oaks near my house are this species, Chinkapin, or I saw online it's at the display, it's Chinquapin, I think, is how it's spelled. Is there a significant difference between burr and chinkapin oaks?

**Marty:** Well, I guess I would say a good field guide can help a person get started. For the numerous species of oaks in particular, we can compare the leaves, the bark, the twigs, the acorns. I tend to collect specimens and sometimes make measurements to compare with the characteristics listed in the field guides.

For example, the burr oak has a few rounded lobes on its leaf margins and a fringed cap covering much of the somewhat large acorn, whereas the Chinkapin oak has numerous rounded teeth on its leaf margins and smaller acorns with smaller caps.

**Adam:** And listeners, if you want to check out the subtle differences between the different types of oak leaves you can check the show notes for that document. Okay, so what's next, Marty?

**Marty:** We've reached about mile four and the trail is crossing a bridge over Eli Creek. I mentioned Eli Creek before. It originates at west edge of the golf course, flows through a small man-made lake on the east edge of the golf course.

And then beyond this bridge, it joins with Lily Creek, the creek that was coming under the boardwalk. And they form this unique wet meadow wetland. It's a stunning place to visit if you like amphibians like frogs, or you're interested in little, tiny fish that live in pools that are not really part of the reservoir. And so we have a few unique wetlands, Eli and Lily make a nice creek there.

Now if we continue on, we're going to finally hit a road. We're going to come up from that bridge across a gravel road. If you look to your right, you'll see basically the golf course. And this is known as County Road 650 North on the west edge of Eagle Creek Golf Course.

But then there's the missing section on the golf course. And then this road then continues down past the golf maintenance building and intersects with Sunny Hill Road, which I'll talk about in a minute, but it's important to remember, historically, there were residences and farms in this area, and this was just another county road that connected them with other parts of Marion and Hendricks County. And of course, this road is still actively used in Hendricks County.

As we continue through the woods, again, still heading south, we're going to then come down a hill and intersect a paved road.

This is Sunny Hill Road that I was mentioning. If you go straight on Sunny Hill Road, you're gonna intersect 56th Street right by the Jones Chapel Cemetery. This is a real old cemetery.

**Marty:** It has gravesite markers from the period of time when this area was being settled in the 1800s. And the trail doesn't go all the way to the cemetery and trail is actually going to leave Sunny Hill Road and go into the woods in a minute, but I do want to draw your attention to the fact that Sunny Hill Road goes into a bay of the reservoir and it intersects Old Dandy Trail, which is the main north-south trail. All of that underwater now, but those were the main ways that people would get from 56 Street to the north end up by the interstate.

Of course, then it was just Wilson Road and Lafayette Road. And they would also use Sunny Hill Road to get to County Road 650 that goes into Hendricks County.

And then up on the hill on the north side of that bay is the site of the famous Knoll House, a big white mansion that you can still see a little bit of the driveway on the top of that hill.

But we're going to continue down Sunny Hill Road now. We're going to cross over a bridge that you might not even realize is there. It's covering the DeLong Creek, another major year-round flowing stream that comes from Hendricks County through Manor Lake and then passes through the Eagle Creek Golf Course and goes into the reservoir in that bay that I mentioned.

And we will now be approaching mile five, which is the end of the trail.

**Adam:** Okay listeners, so we're about to go to number 22 on the map and we have a special surprise for you Which is we're actually about to go visit this feature. It's the big bur oak Marty. What can you tell us before we head over there?

**Marty:** Okay, in order to get to the the last spot that that Adam and I would like to share with you. I'm going to pick up where we were on Sunny Hill Road. The trail will turn left, follow the brown trail sign markers. It will cross a bridge, go into the woods and climb a hill and intersect with the South ADA Loop Trail. You can take either of the loops, but eventually you will descend down toward the Big Bear parking lot. You will have reached the mile five marker of your long walk.

And congratulations for taking this journey. As a reward, I'd like for you to go to the east end of the Big Bear parking area and take a short spur trail that goes up to an overlooked platform. And by that platform is another very old big burr oak, it's about a 250-year-old tree. There's actually a champion tree sign near it to give you a reminder that this tree is 13.2 feet in girth and because it's slow growing, it probably began its life in the 1770s.

And all this time it's been growing here. It's watched a great stream valley change into a reservoir, and you can look up and down the reservoir and see what this location has always offered.

**Marty:** The hiker has a view. One thing that you will see that it's been there since the late 1960s is the dam that created Eagle Creek Reservoir.

**Adam:** I know I learned a great deal and I've been able to apply all of the things you've taught me, Marty, into my own life and it's helped me appreciate the nature around me. What do you want our listeners to take away from the time that you and I have spent together? What have you learned through your process of cataloging all this natural beauty?

**Marty:** And we're quite fortunate to have such a large park so near our city. You can be near the wind and waves of the reservoir, or sit by a stream in the quiet solitude of the forest, out of sight from human activity. There are more miles of trail in the park on the west side or on the east side of the reservoir than most people could walk in a day. I can say I think that you will see something new every time you visit.

**Adam:** Well said.

**Adam:** (Audio quality suddenly changes) So listeners, Marty and I took a little field trip over to Bear Overlook and you might be able to hear some of the cars going by on 56th Street. We're standing here under what was item number 22 in our podcast that we were just speaking about, the Big Burr Oak. So, Marty, I kind of want to just ask, can you set the scene for our listeners? Where are we? What are we standing under? Tell us what you can.

**Marty:** We're on a bluff above Eagle Creek and this burr oak has been growing on this bluff for a long time, over 200 years. It overlooks where the stream that I refer to as DeLong Creek would have intersected with Eagle Creek back in the day. The original path of Eagle Creek curved below this bluff.

This is such a good place to tie all those elements that I was talking about together. So Sunny Hill Road comes into this bay that you will see to the north of the platform.

The Knoll House set up on that ridge that we're looking at across this bay. Old Dandy Trail intersected with Sunny Hill Road somewhere below this bluff.

Dandy Trail is, you know, the old one is underwater. Now there is a Dandy Trail on the east side of the reservoir, and back in the day it all connected with this north-south path on this side of what was then Eagle Creek.

Another cool thing about this spot is that you can see the whole reservoir. If you look north you see a building which is the marina and beyond that is the old Coffey Dam for the bird sanctuary.

If you look to the east past this grand old oak tree you'll see the swimming beach and the location where they monitor the finishes of the rowing competitions out here.

**Marty:** And then, if you look south, you see the causeway, 56th Street, crossing the reservoir. You see the intake tower for citizens energy, public water supply.

And then if you look about as far as you can see to the edge of the horizon, that's the dam that holds back, I think it's over 1300 acres of water here.

**Adam:** So listeners, we're standing on this raised platform that is about 200 yard walk from the end of the parking lot and we're under this massive tree. Marty, what can you tell us Right now we're looking at this tree in early November. What can you tell us about looking at the tree right now?

**Marty:** One of my favorite times of year to look for big trees is when the leaves come off, even though the leaves make for the beautiful forest that we have, The bulk of the tree stands out in a forest as, you know, this dark shape that sticks up high.

And I use that as a guidepost to find some of these big trees. One thing I noticed, Marty, is that the crown is quite wide on a tree like this. Is there some reason that it would have grown maybe wider than tall over its lifetime?

These solitary large trees that have somehow survived the axman's blade have not had a lot of competition. If you go dense into the woods everybody's kind of crowded together and they can't spread their limbs out as far but these trees like on the golf course or on an overlook or at the edge of a large parking area that are not competing with other trees they can send their limbs out as far and as wide as they can to gather all that like that they used to make their food.

**Adam:** So Marty, we're standing here under this enormous champion tree, which you helped to classify and crown as a champion tree. Can you tell us a little bit more about how this whole project got started? You went to a lot of trouble, a lot of effort. I know you enjoy it, but what was the impetus for this massive project you've been doing?

**Marty:** Adam, it was the death of a tree that sparked this project, I'm sorry to say. I spent so many years hiking around the west side of Eagle Creek and in this time of year when the golfers were out there I like to walk across the golf course too and in the back corner kind of near that big boardwalk over Lily Creek there was a lone tree that sat on the top of a hill and one day it wasn't there.

It had been cut down and I couldn't figure out why. It wasn't dead. It wasn't dying. Apparently, it was in somebody's way. And so I made every phone call I could to city officials, and I found out that it had been cut down without permission. And I realized that it was probably ignorance. And when I say ignorance, I just mean lack of knowledge. People didn't know that a 300-year-old tree is extremely rare in the city, definitely rare in Eagle Creek Park.

**Marty:** And so it made me think, well, how do you correct a lack of knowledge? Maybe if I could prove to others, they would join me in asking that these older trees be defended because we know about them. We know how few of them there are and how grand they can be. And that started my big tree registry. The city was nice to me. The park manager and the other officials that deal with land stewardship acknowledged, "Hey, you're doing this on your own dime." You know, it's a volunteer project, but it does add to, I hope, other people's enjoyment of the park to know about these trees and hopefully it will protect the rest of the old trees by having this knowledge out there.

**Adam:** Well, I hope I've made it clear to you that it's enhanced my understanding and enjoyment of the park and my life in general. So thank you for that. And Marty, what you've talked about is a lot of what the Foundation strives to do to preserve and protect Eagle Creek Park.

So, thank you for all your hard work.

**Narrator:** To see full episode transcriptions and to learn more, visit [eaglecreekpark.org](http://eaglecreekpark.org). Subscribe or follow the podcast in Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Audible or wherever you listen to podcasts, so that new episodes will be delivered to you as soon as they're available.