

Eucalyptus sideroxylon—Red Ironbark

Eucalyptus sideroxylon (Red Ironbark)-In our 1992 Tree Inventory there were 13 trees of this species on the Avenue and they are still present on the inbound parkway between Mary and Washington. These trees range from 30-90 ft tall and spread 30-60 ft.

One of their most distinctive characteristics is their bark. Bark characteristics are an important feature used to identify eucalypts. Most eucalypts shed all their surface bark annually, leaving smooth surfaces on the trunks and major branches. They can differ in color and presence of colored patches or presence of some persistent strips. Other species of eucalypts produce bark that is flaked off continuously and slowly leaving rough, furrowed patches like the bark of most other trees. *E. sideroxylon* has rough, deeply furrowed, dark brown, gray or black bark on the trunks and major branches, (hence the common name of Ironbark).

The leaves are alternately arranged, long and narrow, and are dull bluish-green in color. Inflorescences are axillary umbels with 7 flowers each. The operculum is conical to beaked. The flowers are large enough to be showy and the stamens range from white to pink or red. Some outer stamens are sterile. Trees flower in fall to spring. The capsules are cup-shaped with the valves sunken below the top, a condition called “enclosed”.

E. sideroxylon—Tree habit, bark and flowers.

