Often not thought of in this part of the country; Black Walnut, Juglans nigra, is found here in Billings Montana in Harvest Park. Native to Eastern North America Black walnut can easily be identified by it’s pinnately compound leaves. Black Walnut can grow to 50’ to 75’ feet in height some of the tallest in the country are well over 100 feet tall. In a dense forest setting this tree will grow tall with few branches along its stem but when open grown this tree has a huge crown spread. This tree does well in high water tables. It is a zone 4 to 9 tree.

We all know what walnuts taste like on our salads, and ice-cream. But where do the nuts come from? In October the tree will drop it seeds. A soft husk protects the hard shell that houses the nut. If you have ever removed the husk by hand you would know it because the resin will stain your hands black for weeks. Then you have to crack the shell open with a hammer and pick out the nuts. A lot of work goes into getting you those tasty nuts. Besides nuts the wood from walnuts is priced in the furniture business, for gun stocks, flooring, and even car dashboards.

See how many of these trees you can find in Harvest Park.