



## The Beautiful Trees of Lakeview Cemetery Park



A self-guided tour of trees and points of interest in Lakeview Cemetery, a peaceful verdant refuge of our city. (455 North Ave., next to Burlington High School)

This brochure contains interesting facts and tips on identifying trees in Lakeview Cemetery. The trees are marked with metal tags and are visible from the path.

### Brief History of Lakeview Cemetery

The Lakeview Cemetery is a jewel among Burlington's peaceful greenspaces. It is one of three public cemeteries of the City of Burlington. In 1867, 23 acres were purchased for the cemetery. This location was deemed particularly fitting given the stunning views of the lake and Adirondack Mountains to the West. It was officially opened in 1872. Since then many of Vermont's most remarkable citizens have been laid to rest here, as well as some with less notable lives. Wandering through the cemetery offers a glimpse into Burlington's past. One can find family names that grace our streets and parks, like Howard, Pomeroy and many more. The person who invented a spigot for tapping maples to capture the sap lies here, and a former ambassador to the UN, who was also a US Senator from VT. Along with those departed is an abundance of wildlife, gamboling foxes and squirrels, and nesting birds.

- 1. Nameless Graves** These irregular-sized lichen covered marble graves, most distinguished only with a faint number, mark the final resting place for 380 souls. Without families to bury them, they were buried at the city's expense.
- 2. Yellow Birch** (*Betula lutea*) Bark is silvery gray on young trees, reddish brown on older ones. Twigs have aroma of wintergreen. Most birch furniture is made from this tree, and because of its strength was formerly used for shipbuilding and farm tools.
- 3. Japanese Tree Lilac** (*Syringa japonica*) Grows to 30 ft. on short trunk. Produces large clumps of white flowers in early summer.
- 4. White or Silkworm Mulberry** (*Morus alba*) An exotic species brought from Asia to start a domestic silk industry, which failed. Large spreading tree with glossy green leaves of irregular notched shapes. Female trees produce white, edible berries, which are sickeningly sweet.
- 5. White Cedar** (*Thuja occidentalis*) The needles and bark are high in Vitamin C. In 1536 it saved the lives of men with French explorer J. Cartier from dying of scurvy, hence its name, "Arbor vitae", or "Tree of Life". Used for canoe frames, and fence posts. Slow growing tree that lives 250-300 years.
- 6. The Gazebo** A quaint wooden shelter made from hand-hewn pine poles.
- 7. Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*) Vermont's state tree and Canada's national tree. Leaves with 5 taper-pointed lobes and few teeth. Grows to height of 130 ft., and can live 200 years.
- 8. Statue of General George J. Stannard** Respected Civil War general. Born in Georgia, VT in 1820, he led the VT Brigade to victory in the Battle of Gettysburg. He died in 1886.
- 9. Colorado Blue Spruce** (*Picea pungens*) Pyramid form, reaches 90 ft tall and can live 600 years. Native of the Rocky Mountains. Hardy, drought-tolerant tree that can grow in many soils.
- 10. Children's Graves** Several small tipping marble stones mark the graves of orphans from the local Home of the Destitute Children. One was etched simply with "Baby Kirk". May these children rest in peace overlooking the beautiful lake.
- 11. Canadian Hemlock** (*Tsuga canadensis*) Grows in moist places near water. A slow growing tree reaching over 100 ft., can live 600 years. Used for railroad ties because it holds spikes well.
- 12. Japanese Yew** (*Taxus cuspidata*) One of several species of ornamental evergreens. Grows to 50 ft. tall. Needles and seeds are poisonous, but deer readily feed on them.

**13. Cottonwood** (*Populus tremuloides*) Fast-growing tree that reaches a height of up to 100 ft. Produces many seeds encased in cottony fuzz that floats through the air in late spring.

**14. Red or Swamp Maple** (*Acer rubrum*) Often grows in swampy places. Leaves with 3-5 lobes and turn bright red in fall. Grows to 60-90 ft., lives 100 years.

**15. Northern Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*) Leaves have 5-11 lobes with pointed tips tapered from a broad base. Acorn is 1 inch long, with shallow cup and bitter taste. A tree can produce 1,500 acorns annually. Bark is smooth on young trees, has unbroken vertical ridges on older ones.

**16. White or Stave Oak** (*Quercus alba*) Hairless leaves with 7-9 rounded lobes. Acorn is longer than wide. It tastes sweet and some eat it as nut or grind for flour. Bark is scaly with narrow, irregular ridges. Used for ship building.

**17. Norway Maple** (*Acer platanoides*) Commonly planted on city streets because it is more salt-tolerant than sugar maple. To distinguish it from that species, tear off a leaf, a milky sap will ooze from Norway maple.

**18. Pee Gee Hydrangea** (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora') A frequently planted ornamental, producing massive clumps of white flowers in mid-late summer. Flowers turn pink and remain on plant, semi-dried, after leaves fall.

**19. Tamarack or Amer. Larch** (*Larix laricina*) One of the few conifers to drop its needles in winter. Needles grow in bunches on short spurs. Indians used root to sew bark together for canoes.

**20. Kentucky Coffeetree** (*Gymnocladus dioica*) Grows to 75-100 ft. tall, and produces 6-10 in. long seed pod. Pioneers roasted the seeds to make coffee and used its wood for fence posts because it resists rotting in soil.

**21. Black Locust** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) Produces drooping clusters of showy pea-like fragrant flowers. Leaflets out later in spring than most other trees. Compound leaves with oval leaflets. Birds and squirrels eat the seeds, but twigs and bark are poisonous to cows.

This tree walk was produced by:  
Volunteers of *Branch Out Burlington!*

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**Our Mission:** We are a group of volunteers who help plant and care for the trees of Burlington. Our goal is to promote a vision of a city graced with a variety of beautiful and healthy trees, and a citizenry actively involved with the perpetual expansion and preservation of our urban forest.

**Want to get involved?** Everyone is welcome at our monthly meetings. Call Burlington Department of Parks and Recreation at 862-8245 for the time and place. Tax deductible donations can be made out to *Branch Out Burlington!* and sent to 93 Howard St., Burlington, VT 05401.

Visit our website at [www.branchoutburlington.org](http://www.branchoutburlington.org)

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