



The Trees of North Beach

A self-guided tour of trees at North Beach.
(60 Institute Road, off North Avenue)



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 North Beach

In 1914 the city fathers, alarmed at the rapidly diminishing public access to the sandy beach along the lakeshore, began looking for a public park site. Four years later a beach location on the Arthur farm became available and on July 17, 1918 the Parks Department purchased a large block of the farm consisting of a long stretch of sandy beach, a large wooded area and an open field, later to become a campground. In 1919 the city spent \$2000 to build a bath house. The campground for "automobile tourists" as they were referred to was established in 1921 and has been a popular feature of the beach ever since. Entrance fees were first charged in 1935. The city constructed a new bath house in 1964 which was replaced again in 1998. In 1977 the Park Department purchased an additional 15 acres from the Episcopal Diocese. The Burlington Bike Path was built in 1987. *(From Historic Guide to Burlington Neighborhoods, Chittenden County Historical Society)*

- 1. American Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*)** Grows to 100 feet, lives about 80 years and has a similar shape to the Black Walnut. It is also known as White Walnut for its lighter-colored wood. Lumber is not as valuable as the Black Walnut but still used for interiors, cabinetwork and furniture.
- 2. Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)** Generally grows in moist to swampy soils. It can reach 50 to 70 feet tall with trunks of 1 to 3 feet in diameter. The leaves are 5 to 6 inches long and 2 to 4 inches wide. The margin is irregularly and shallowly lobed and the lower surface is hairy. Long-stemmed oval acorns usually grow in pairs.
- 3. 'Heritage' River Birch (*Betula nigra* 'Heritage')** Grows up to 80 feet tall with a trunk of 3 feet in diameter. The trunk is commonly divided into several arching limbs, forming an irregular crown. The leaves are irregularly oval, 1.5-3 inches long and 1-2 inches wide, with coarse, doubly toothed margins. The bark on young trees is pinkish to reddish brown and on older trees gray to black and scaly.
- 4. Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)** Grows to 75-100 feet tall, and produces 6-10 inches long seed pods. Pioneers roasted the seeds to make coffee and used its wood for fence posts because it resists rotting in soil.
- 5. Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)** Also called Mossycup Oak because of the fringed rim on the acorns. Growing slowly to about 75 feet with an equally broad spread, it is a majestic tree for large spaces. Native to North America, its wood is used for floors, furniture and boat decks.
- 6. White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)** Reaches 140 feet tall and lives 200 years. In pre-Revolutionary times it was used for ship masts because of its strength and light weight. It is the only Eastern native conifer with 5 needles in individual bunches.
- 7. Green Ash 'Patmore' (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)** Commonly grows in moist bottomlands or river bottoms. Rarely grows over 60 feet tall or lives more than 100 years. Bark is grayish-brown with finely intersecting furrows. It is often used for tool handles and baseball bats.
- 8. 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 young trees, has unbroken vertical ridges on older ones.
- 9. Red or Swamp Maple (*Acer rubrum*)** Often grows in swampy places. The leaves have 3-5 lobes and turn bright red in fall. It grows to 60-90 feet and can live 100 years.
- 10. White or Stave Oak (*Quercus alba*)** Hairless leaves with 7-9 rounded lobes. The acorn is longer than wide and tastes sweet. Some eat them as a nut or grind them for flour. Bark is scaly with narrow with irregular ridges. The wood is often used for ship building.

11. Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) Vermont's state tree, Canada's national tree, best known for its maple sap and red to orange fall foliage. It is a slowly growing tree that reaches 60 - 75 feet tall with upright rounded shape. It has a shallow root system, and does not grow well in dry compacted soil. It is shade-tolerant, but does not grow well in areas of high air pollution or salt. It is susceptible to insect feeding from thrips and the Asian longhorned beetle (an invasive pest that has infested many trees in NY, IL and MA. It has not been found in VT).

12. Boxelder (*Acer negundo*)

In the Maple family, but a smaller and shorter-lived species than Sugar and Red Maple. It produces large amounts of seed that readily colonize poor soils and disturbed areas. For this reason it is commonly considered a "Weed Tree". It is abundant in Burlington's back yards and hedgerows.

13. Common Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) A native tree indigenous to the Champlain Valley, and is commonly found in back yards, hedgerows and along the streets of Burlington. It is adaptable to urban conditions as it survives in poor soils and bad conditions. It is a medium/large tree (50 -80 feet) that has a wide spread similar to the vase-like shape of an elm.

14. White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) Finely furrowed gray bark with intersecting diamond pattern. The wood is used for hockey sticks, tennis racquets and baseball bats because wood is strong, pliable and light. It is susceptible to the emerald ash borer, an exotic pest decimating all of the ash species in many states, including NH, NY and MA.

15. American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) Has smooth, thin, slate gray bark, ideal for carving initials. It can reach over 80 feet and live 200 years. It rarely reaches maturity in Vermont due to insect-transmitted fungus attacking trees over 10 inches in diameter.

16. Gray Birch (*Betula populifolia*) A one or many stemmed small tree with chalky white bark and triangular long-pointed leaves. The trunks are marked by many dark chevrons at bases of branches as well as by narrow horizontal marks characteristic of all birches.

17. American Basswood (*Tilia americana*) Grows to 90 feet and lives 200 years. It produces highly fragrant flowers in July, which are used to make soothing tea. It has large, heart-shaped leaves and a symmetrical pyramidal tree form. It is a popular salt-tolerant street tree.

18. Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*) Grows to 90 feet and lives 200 years. Bark distinctly shaggy. Cord of hickory wood equivalent in fuel value to a ton of coal. Gen. Andrew Jackson nicknamed "Old Hickory" referring to strength of this wood.

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

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