

# Ethan Allen Treewalk

## 21 American Classics

### A Self-Guided Tour of Native Trees in Ethan Allen Park

This list contains interesting facts and identification points of native trees located in Ethan Allen Park. The trees are marked with numbered metal tags and are visible from the path.

#### Enjoy your walk!

**1. American Elm** (*Ulmus americana*)

Up to 100 ft tall, 5 ft diameter, lives 200 years. Graced Burlington's streets until the 1960s, when they succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease. A few elms survive either because they have escaped detection by the beetle transmitting disease, or are resistant.

**2. Black Locust** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)

In the bean family, produces pea-like flowers. Grows up to 80 ft tall, lives 90 years. At night, leaves appear to fold up; no reason is known for this unique habit.

**3. White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*)

Reaches 140 ft tall, lives 200 years. In pre-Revolutionary times, used for ship masts because of its strength and light weight. Only Eastern native species with 5 needles.

**4. Red Pine** (*Pinus resinosa*)

Similar in size to White Pine. Commonly grows with White Pine. Scaly bark is reddish-pink. Only Eastern native with 2 needles.

**5. Hop-Hornbeam** (*Ostrya virginiana*)

Less than 40 ft tall, lives 30-40 years. Bark rough and flaky. Very heavy wood, used for tool handles.

**6. Amer. Hornbeam** (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

Similar size and leaf shape to Hop Hornbeam. Heavy, tough wood used for ox yokes. Has fluted branches with spiral ridges and smooth, slate gray bark.

**7. White Oak** (*Quercus alba*)

Grows 80 ft tall. Oaks growing when Columbus landed still survive today. One in Oakledge Park is 250 years old. Leaves with rounded lobes. Acorn cup covers 1/3 of nut.

**8. Eastern Cottonwood** (*Populus deltoides*)

Grows 100 ft tall, lives 50 years. Source of large amounts of yellow pollen and white fluff in spring.

**9. White Ash** (*Fraxinus americana*)

Finely furrowed gray bark with intersecting diamond pattern. Used for hockey sticks, tennis racquets and baseball bats because wood is strong, pliable and light.

**10. Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*)

Similar in size to White Oak. Leaves with pointed lobes. Needs sunlight, difficult to establish new plantings.

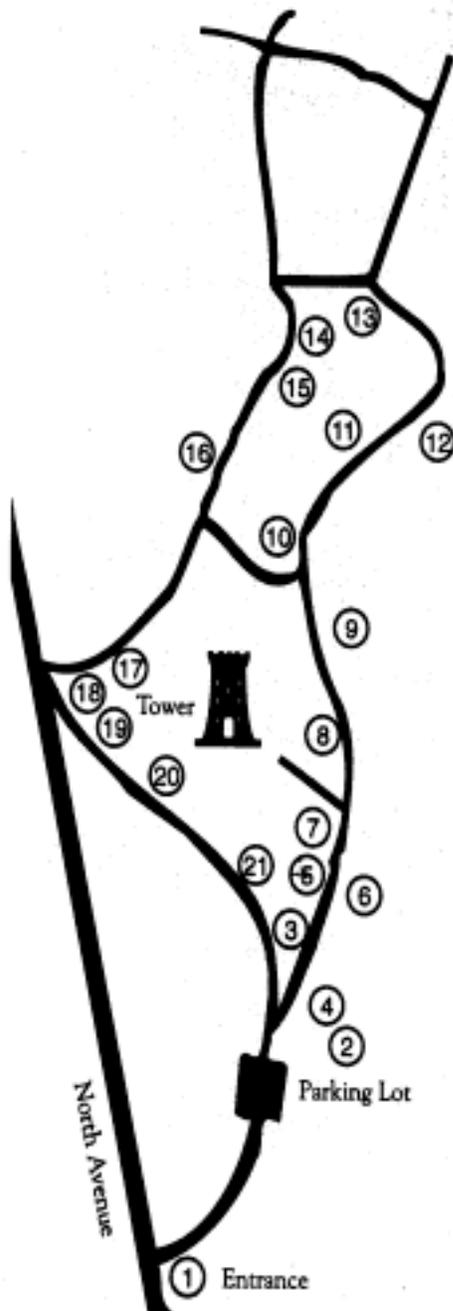
**11. Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*)

Vermont's state tree and source of maple syrup. Grows to 80 ft, lives 200 years. Every 4th tree in VT is a sugar maple. Shallow rooting habit and road salt intolerance makes it unsuitable as a street tree.

**12. Red Maple** (*Acer rubrum*)

Shorter than Sugar Maple, and lives 100 years. Bright red buds and scaly bark. Tends to sprout at the base.

## Ethan Allen Park



### 13. Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

Creamy white bark, 80 ft tall, lives 120 years. Not shade-tolerant, grows best along forest edges and lake shores. Common in newly reforested areas.

### 14. White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

Also called "Tree-of-life" (*Arbor Vitae*), for the tea made from twigs that cured French explorers of scurvy in 1500s. Trees over 700 years old found in Ontario.

### 15. Witch-Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

Small tree less than 30 ft tall. Extract of bark and leaves used for medicinal purposes, branches for divining rods. Seeds shoot 20 ft from fruit capsule.

### 16. Yellow Birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*)

Quebec's provincial tree. Similar size but longer lived than Paper Birch, over 150 years. Often grows with Hemlock. Used for furniture and floors.

### 17. American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)

Smooth, thin, slate gray bark, ideal for carving initials. Can reach over 80 ft, and live 200 years. Rarely reaches maturity in VT due to insect-transmitted fungus attacking trees over 10 inches in diameter.

### 18. American Basswood (*Tilia americana*)

Grows to 90 ft, lives 200 years. Highly fragrant flowers bloom in July, and make soothing tea. Large, heart-shaped leaves. Symmetrical pyramidal tree form, popular salt-tolerant street tree.

### 19. Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*)

Grows to 100 ft, lives 80 years. Sticky hairs around fruit stain hands, used by Confederate Army to dye uniforms. Wood used for cabinetmaking.

### 20. Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*)

Grows to 90 ft, 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.

### 21. Box-Elder (*Acer negundo*)

In the Maple family but smaller and shorter-lived species than Sugar and Red Maple. Prolific seed producer that readily colonizes poor soils and disturbed areas. Abundant in Burlington's back yards.



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