



Trees of the Burlington Waterfront

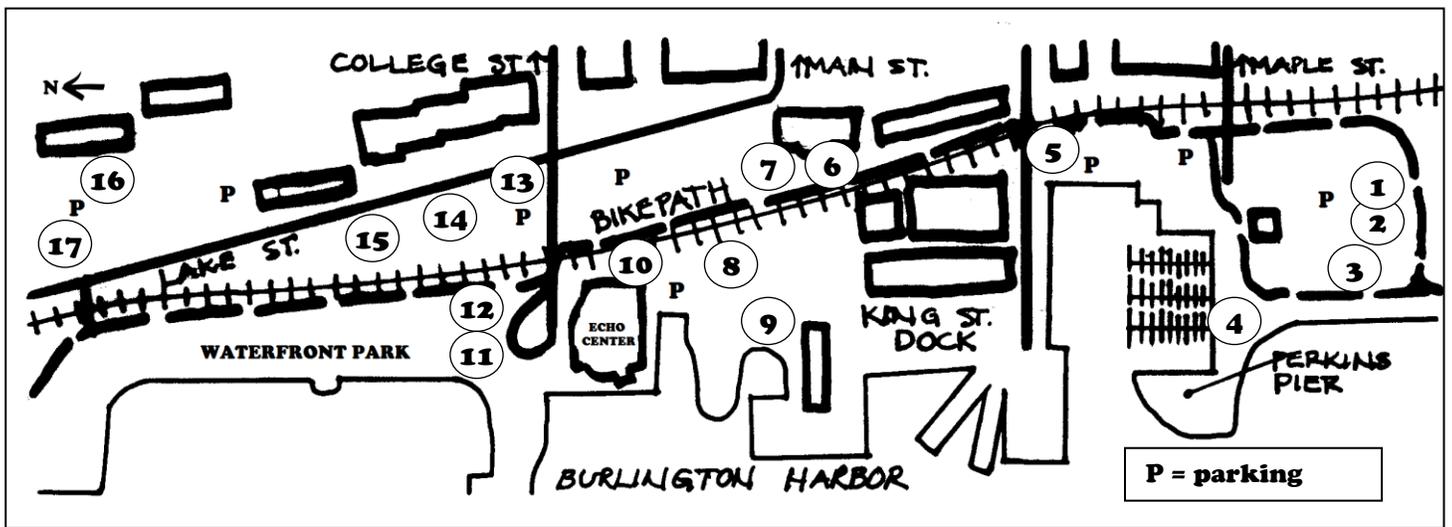


This pamphlet contains interesting facts about the Waterfront and identifying features about some of the beautiful trees. The trees are labeled with a metal tag.

Once the region's lively, bustling center of transportation and manufacturing activity, the Waterfront played a major role in the early history of Burlington. The Burlington waterway had access to the eastern seaboard markets through the Champlain Canal, which was completed in 1823. Burlington came to thrive as the region's principal outlet to the world. By 1873, Burlington was the 3rd largest lumber port in the United States. But by the early 1950s, with the demise of the railroad, and the decrease in lumber exports, the Burlington waterfront had been reduced to an industrial site.

In the early 1980s the land known as Waterfront Park was purchased by the City of Burlington for an urban reserve. The park is now a popular recreational destination for tourists and locals alike. A 900 foot boardwalk with swinging benches and flower beds allows for a relaxing view of the Burlington Harbor, while the festival site hosts a variety of special events throughout the summer. Waterfront Park is located at the midway point of Burlington's 7.5 mile long Bike Path, built in 1987. Waterfront Park was opened and dedicated along with a new community boathouse in 1991.

1. **Washington Hawthorn** (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*) This small tree has long thorns and reaches a height of 25 feet. It has white flowers in spring and red fruit in fall, with reddish-purple fall color. It is native to the southeastern states.
2. **Austrian Pine** (*Pinus nigra*) This is a non-native species from Europe, which has been widely planted as a hedgerow or windbreak, especially along Vermont's interstate highways. It is a 2-needle pine, with needles 3-6" long; and is very tolerant of urban soil conditions.
3. **Princeton Elm** (*Ulmus americana*) 'Princeton' is one of the new cultivars of American elm, bred to be resistant to Dutch elm disease. It is fast growing and has good disease resistance. It was introduced by the Princeton Nursery in 1922.
4. **Silver Maple** (*Acer saccharinum*) This is a native tree of the Champlain Valley lakeshore and floodplain forests. It grows fast but is somewhat weak-wooded and tends to break apart in storms. It is very tolerant of wet soils.
5. **Eastern Cottonwood** (*Populus deltoides*) This is a native tree that commonly grows along the shores of Lake Champlain and inland lowlands, across the country. The wood is soft and weak so the leaves and branches often break off in storms. It is a fast growing tree.
6. **Thornless Honeylocust** (*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*) This cultivated variety of the Honeylocust has been extensively planted throughout Eastern North America due to its filtered shade and tolerance of extreme urban conditions including drought, pollution and salt. The species has branched thorns up to 12" long and is not suitable for urban planting. Native habitat is bottomlands of the mid-Atlantic states, south and west to Texas and Nebraska.
7. **Paper Birch** (*Betula papyrifera*) This is native to the forests of Vermont, particularly at higher elevations. It is the most widely distributed of the North American birches (from Greenland/Iceland to Alaska). This tree is most likely a cultivated variety, planted in the early 1980. All trees in this brochure are labeled with a metal tag and are visible from the path. They were alive and well in Nov. 2013. Don't be alarmed if you can't find them all. Some may be lost to disease or storm damage in future years.
8. **Summit Green Ash** (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) Popular street trees in the 1970's-80's. Emerald Ash Borer threatens to destroy ash trees all over eastern North America. In Michigan alone over one million infested ash trees have been cut down. Many states have placed a moratorium on planting Ashes and carrying Ash firewood across state lines.
9. **Weeping Eastern White Pine** (*Pinus strobus* 'Pendula') This is a weeping variety of the tree native to Vermont. This is a 5-needle pine (the only one native to eastern North America) and is one of our classic eastern conifers. Early New England colonists found specimens over 150 feet high and used them for the King's ships' masts.
10. **Common Hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*) This is 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.
11. **Chanticleer Callery Pear** (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer') This ornamental pear tree has an upright-pyramidal form and beautiful white flowers in spring and reddish-purple fall color.



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12. **Silver Linden** (*Tilia tomentosa*) This beautiful shade tree is native to Eurasia. It has been widely planted due to its ability to grow in difficult urban conditions and its good form and silvery foliage. It is related to the native Vermont forest tree, American basswood (*T. americana*).
13. **Norway Maple** (*Acer platanoides*) This species is native to Europe but has been widely planted and naturalized in eastern North America. It is easily distinguished from sugar maple by the milky white "latex" sap that oozes from a leaf stem when it is broken. This species is considered invasive due to the prolific spread of its seed every year. Norway maple is susceptible to "giant tar spot disease", which the native Maples are not.
14. **Freeman Maple** (*Acer x freemanii*) This tree is a hybrid cross between a red and a silver maple. It has good reddish fall color and is well-adapted to urban conditions. This cultivar, 'Autumn Blaze' is especially colorful.
15. **Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier canadensis*) This tree is native to the forest/field edge and grows wild throughout Vermont. It features beautiful white flowers in early spring, at the same time as the shad run, hence another common name: shadbush. It grows either as a multi-stemmed or single-stemmed tree.
16. **Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*) This is our primary native upland forest maple tree (and our State tree!). It is not especially well adapted to this urban parking lot, where it is subject to snow and salt, compaction and neglect. It may also have been planted too deep. It's "cousins", red and silver Maple are better adapted to growing on infertile soils.
17. **American Elm** (*Ulmus americana*) This is a remnant of the species that dominated the valleys of the Northeast and especially the Champlain Valley. As late as the 1970's, the vase shaped Elms lined the edges of farm fields throughout the state. Dutch elm disease killed most of the native elms, but a few remain in isolated locations.

This tree walk was produced by:

Volunteers of *Branch Out Burlington!*

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ECHO at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain

Urban & Community Forestry Program, VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation & the U.S. Forest Service



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? All are 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 to *Branch Out Burlington!* and sent to Margaret Skinner, 93 Howard St., Burlington, VT 05401.

Visit our website at www.branchoutburlington.org