

# Great Trees of Oakledge Park

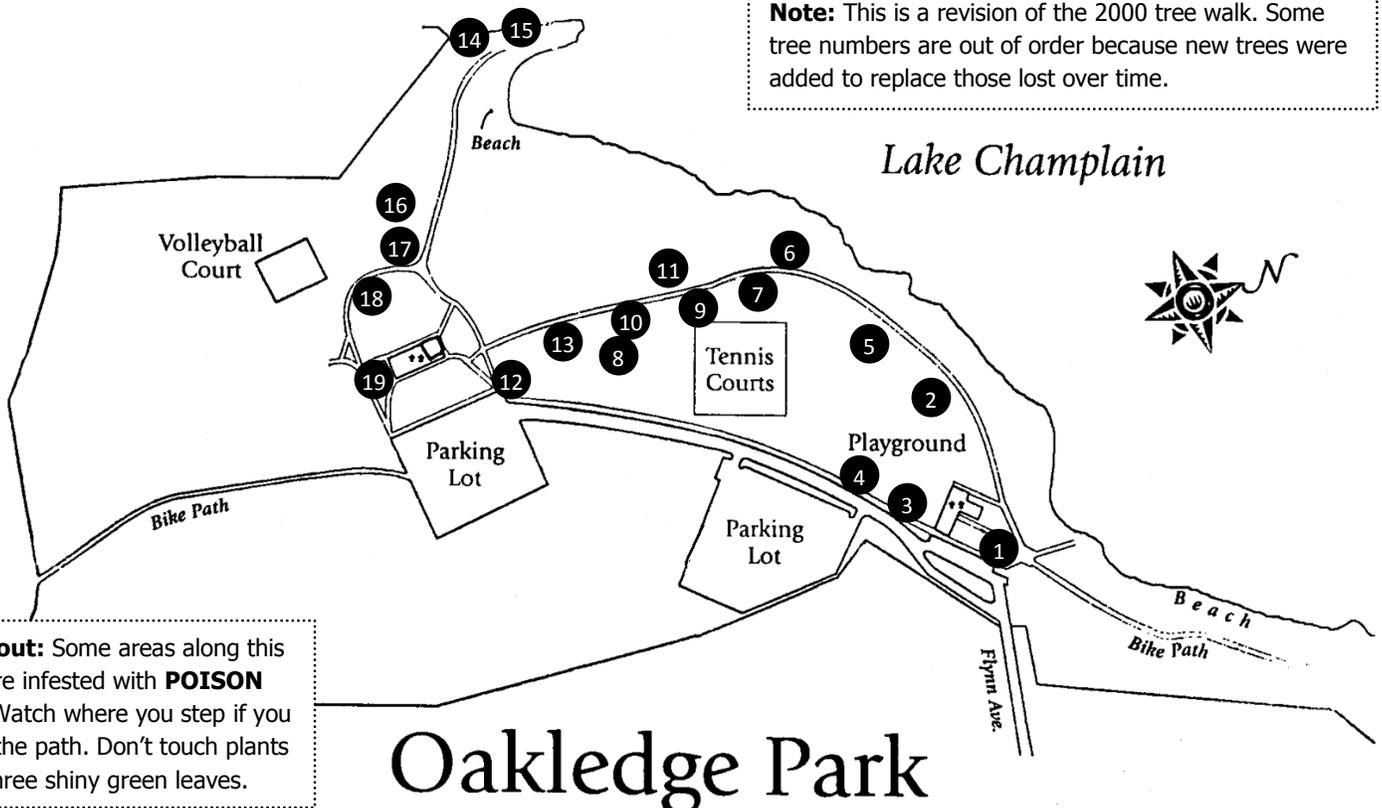
## Revisited: 2015

A Self-Guided Tour of Trees in Oakledge Park  
(at the end of Flynn Ave.)

All trees included in this tour were alive in June 2015.  
Don't be alarmed if you can't find them all. Some may be lost to disease or storms in the future.

- 1. Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)** Commonly grows in moist bottomlands or river bottoms. Bark grayish-brown with intersecting furrows. Wood is used for tool handles and baseball bats. Like other ash species, it is susceptible to the emerald ash borer, an exotic pest not yet found in VT, but is threatening.
- 2. Black Gum/Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)** A Vermont native, reaching its northern limit in the Champlain Valley. Prefers moist acidic soils. This is a specimen tree with an upright oval crown. It has striking scarlet fall foliage.
- 3. Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)** A true cedar common along the shores of Lake Champlain. Has smooth scaly needles in flat bunches and tiny cones. Early settlers survived by brewing a tea from the needles, for vitamin C, hence the common name 'Arborvitae' or tree-of-life.
- 4. Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)** A conifer with tiny blue berries which colonizes old fields, often in pure stands. Needles are in sharply pointed, gray-green bundles and the bark is reddish brown.
- 5. Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)** Vermont's state tree and Canada's national tree. Leaves with 5 taper-pointed lobes and few teeth. Grows to a height of 130 ft., and can live 200 years. Maples (also ashes and dogwoods) are opposite-branched, most other trees are alternate-branched.
- 6. Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)** Grows in moist places near water, often in pure stands, can exceed height of 100 ft. A slow growing conifer with short needles and tiny cones, susceptible to hemlock woolly adelgid, an exotic insect pest that produces white woolly masses at the bases of needles.
- 7. Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*)** A native northern pine with coarse, stiff needles 3-8 inches long, 2 to a bundle. Grows best in sandy soils. Reaches 60-80 ft. tall and lives over 200 years. Bark is a distinctive reddish brown with large flat scales.

**Note:** This is a revision of the 2000 tree walk. Some tree numbers are out of order because new trees were added to replace those lost over time.



**Look out:** Some areas along this tour are infested with **POISON IVY**. Watch where you step if you leave the path. Don't touch plants with three shiny green leaves.

- 8. Bur/Mossycup Oak** (*Quercus macrocarpa*) Slow-growing and tolerant to a wide range of soil types. Native to Vermont, but more common in the Midwest. Becomes a large spreading tree if given enough space. The large acorns have fringed caps.
- 9. Eastern White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*) The only 5-needle pine native to the Northeast, very common throughout Vermont. Prefers sandy soils. New spring growth looks like green “candles”. Susceptible to the white pine weevil, which attacks the tip bud, causing side shoots to grow.
- 10. Red or Swamp Maple** (*Acer rubrum*) Often grows in swampy places. Leaves with 3-5 shallow lobes are irregularly toothed, and turn bright red in fall. Grows to 60-90 ft., can live 100 years.
- 11. American Elm** (*Ulmus americana*) Once an abundant tree lining Burlington’s streets, now few have survived the blight of Dutch elm disease. Some young elms escape early detection by the beetle that spreads the disease. Most of these trees will also succumb as they mature, providing suitable beetle habitat in their rough, flaky bark.
- 12. Silver Maple** (*Acer saccharinum*) Native to the floodplain forests of the Champlain Valley; likes ‘wet feet’. Leaves with 5-7 deep lobes and irregular teeth. Weak-wooded limbs often break in storms. Trunks are often hollow, providing nest spaces for birds or squirrels. Rarely planted on purpose, but grows freely in the wild.
- 13. Northern Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*) The most common oak of Champlain Valley. Leaves have 5-11 lobes with pointed tips. The acorn is as long as it is wide, with a shallow cup covering 1/4 of the nut. Bark is smooth on young trees, and has unbroken vertical ridges on mature ones.
- 14. White or Stave Oak** (*Quercus alba*) This tree has a special bicentennial plaque (installed in 1987) noting that it was here at the time of the signing of the US constitution in 1787! Leaves have 7-9 rounded hairless lobes. Acorn is longer than wide, Bark is scaly with narrow, irregular ridges. This species was highly prized for shipbuilding in the colonial period.
- 15. Pitch Pine** (*Pinus rigida*) A species growing more commonly in states south of Vermont. Has three short needles per bundle. Grows in a narrow band of sandy or rocky soils in the Champlain Valley. The cones open to release seeds only after a fire. Grows 40-50 ft. tall. Bark reddish-brown and deeply furrowed.
- 16. Quaking Aspen** (*Populus tremuloides*) Fast-growing tree reaching 40-50 ft. tall, lives 60-70 years. Acts as a pioneer species and “nurse crop” for longer-lived broadleaf trees, providing shade while these trees become established.
- 17. Shagbark Hickory** (*Carya ovata*) A species more common in southern New England, but does well in the Champlain Valley. Grows to 140 ft. tall. The compound leaf has 5-7 leaflets with toothed edges having tufts of hairs. The distinctive bark is noticeably shaggy. Its wood is used for tool handles and athletic equipment.
- 18. Common Hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*) Native tree in the same family as the Elm; leaves are alternate in two rows. Bark ridged with wart-like growths on young trees, scaly and coarsely ridged on mature ones. Purple cherry-like fruit provides food for birds. Attacked by a mite, which causes dense twig clusters that look like bird nests.
- 19. Princeton Elm** (*Ulmus americana* ‘Princeton’) This cultivar of the stately American elm was first bred in 1922 at Princeton Nurseries (NJ) and was later found to be resistant to Dutch elm disease. It has been widely planted since the 1980’s and tolerates a wide range of soil types. Note: this tree has no number tag, because it is too small.



For more information about *Branch Out Burlington!*

[www.branchoutburlington.org](http://www.branchoutburlington.org)

Produced by:  
Volunteers of *Branch Out Burlington!*

With assistance from  
Warren Spinner, Burlington City Arborist

Copyright © 2015 *Branch Out Burlington!*

