

# The Trees at Rock Point

Rock Point is a 130 acre mosaic of forests, fields, cliffs, wetlands, and beaches. It has been under the stewardship of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont since 1854, when it was deeded to the church by Rev. John Henry Hopkins. His stipulation was that the land be used as a home for future bishops and educational purposes. Several generations of Vermont Episcopalians have learned about their faith, enjoyed the landscape, and forged new friendships at the schools, camps, and conferences sponsored by the Diocese.

Rock Point is distinguished by a diverse assortment of natural features. The exposed face of a thrust fault can be seen on the Point. A wide variety of plants grow here, many of which have been classified as threatened, rare or unusual in Vermont. Dozens of bird species reside on the property or pass through during seasonal migrations.

Rock Point is located west of Burlington High School off Institute Road. There is a sign and two brick pillars marking the entrance. Rock Point is private property. If you visit on your own please stop at the Diocesan Office to register and obtain a pass.

The trees in this walk are marked with numbered metal tags and are visible from the path. **Beware of poison ivy!**

Enjoy your walk!

## 1. Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*)

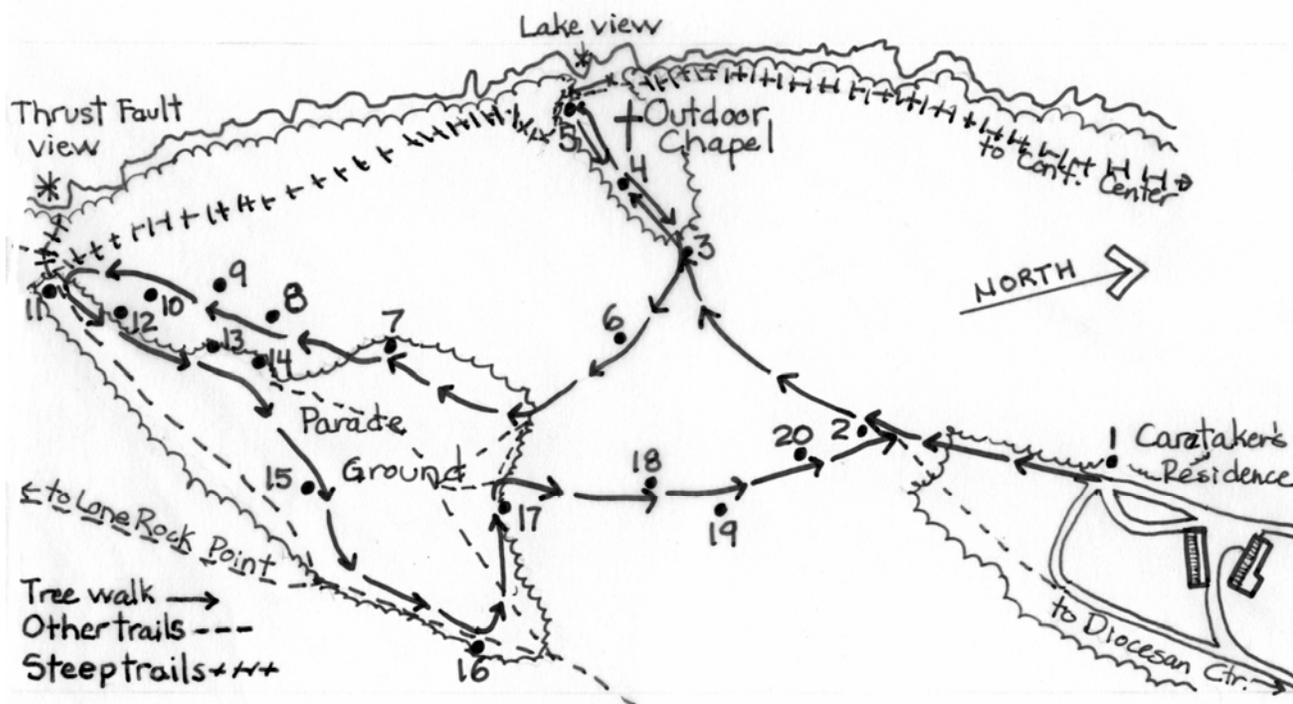
A visually pleasing conical, symmetric evergreen that can grow 40-80 feet in an urban setting. It has the largest cones of the spruces, and limbs that swoop downward then up at the tips.

## 2. 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.

## 3. Red 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 feet.



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

Hairless leaves with 7-9 rounded lobes. Acorn is longer than wide. Bark on young and mature trees is scaly with narrow, irregular ridges. This tree was highly sought after for shipbuilding, especially for the naval fleets of the past.

**5. Northern 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 it's name, "Arbor vitae", or "Tree of Life". Used for canoe frames, and fence posts. Slow growing tree that lives 250-300 years.

**6. 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 fungus attacking trees over 10 inches in diameter.

**7. Quaking Aspen** (*Populus tremuloides*)

Fast-growing tree reaching 40-50 ft. tall, lives 60-70 years. Acts as a "nurse crop" for longer-lived broad leaf trees, providing shade while these trees become established.

**8. Eastern Hophornbeam** (*Ostrya virginiana*)

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

**9. 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.

**10. Black Cherry** (*Prunus serotina*)

Grows 60-80 feet tall. Leaves are long, narrow and blunt toothed, with the midrib prominently fringed beneath with white to brown hair. The flowers are in slender clusters. Fruit is eaten by many wildlife species and is often used for jelly. The lumber is highly valued for furniture and house interiors.

**11. Shagbark Hickory** (*Carya ovata*)

Grows to 90 ft, lives 200 years. Compound leaf has 5-7 leaflets with toothed edges having tufts of hairs. Bark noticeably shaggy. A cord of hickory wood is equivalent in fuel value to a ton of coal. Wood used for tool handles, athletic equipment and cart wheel spokes. Gen. Andrew Jackson nicknamed "Old Hickory" referring to strength of this wood.

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

Vermont's state tree and Canada's national tree, most known for its maple sap and red to orange fall foliage. Slowly growing to 60-75 feet high with upright rounded shape. Tolerant of shade, it doesn't tolerate air pollution or salt well and has been susceptible to insect feeding from thrips.

**13. Green Ash** (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)

Commonly grows in moist bottomlands or river bottoms. Rarely grows over 60 ft. tall or lives over 100 years. Bark grayish-brown with finely intersecting furrows. Used for tool handles and baseball bats.

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

Once an abundant tree lining Burlington's streets, growing up to 100 feet tall, 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.

**15. Balsam Fir** (*Abies balsamea*)

Grows 40-60 feet tall with flat needles 0.8 to 1.5 inches long. Cones are cylindrical and purplish, 2 to 4 inches long. On young trees the bark has many resin blisters and on mature trees it is gray to reddish brown in scaly plates. Grows in moist soils near lakes and streams.

**16. Bigtooth Aspen** (*Populus grandidentata*)

A small to medium size tree, growing 30 to 60 feet tall. Leaves are large and nearly round with coarse, rounded marginal teeth and a slender flattened stem. On younger trees the bark is dark green and on older trees it is dark and furrowed. Wood is used for pulp to make paper.

**17. American Basswood** (*Tilia americana*)

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

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

Grows in sandy locations or where soil fertility is low. The only native 2-long-needle pine. Grows 60-80 ft. and lives over 200 years. Bark is reddish brown with flat ridges and thick, flaky scales.

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

The only native 5-needle pine. Grows best on sandy loam. Trunks often deformed by weevil attacking lead shoot, causing side shoots to grow. Reaches 140 ft tall, lives 200 years. In pre-Revolutionary times, used for ship masts because of its strength and light weight.

**20. 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 cabinets and furniture.



**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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