



The Trees of North Beach

A self-guided tour of trees at North Beach Campground, 60 Institute Road, Burlington.
A Project by Branch Out Burlington! Revised June 2018

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. A beach location on the Arthur farm became available in July 1918. The Parks Department purchased a large block of the farm including a long sandy beach, a large wooded area and an open field, later to become a campground. In 1919 the city spent \$2,000 to build a bath house. The campground for "automobile tourists", as they were referred to then, was established in 1921.

1. American Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) a.k.a. "white walnut"; it grows to 100 ft, lives about 80 years and has pinnately compound leaves. Butternuts are threatened by a canker (fungal disease) which eventually kills the tree. There is ongoing research in VT with several plantings of butternut to identify and propagate a disease-resistant tree.

2. Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)

Generally grows in moist to swampy bottomland soils. The leaves are 5-6 inches long, 2-4 inches wide with irregularly and shallowly lobed margins and the lower surface is hairy. Long-stemmed oval acorns usually grow in pairs. Acorns are an important food source for wildlife.

3. 'Heritage' River Birch (*Betula nigra* 'Heritage') Leaves are 1.5-3 inches long and 1-2 inches wide, with coarse, doubly toothed margins. The tree is now used widely as a substitute for our native paper birch due to its resistance to bronze birch borer which causes premature decline and death of paper birch especially in tough urban environments.

4. Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) Grows to 75-100 ft tall, and produces 6-10 inches long seed pods. Leaves are bi-pinnately compound and twigs are very coarse. Pioneers roasted the seeds to make coffee and used its wood for fence posts due to its rot resistance.

5. Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) a.k.a. "mossycup" oak because of the fringed rim on the acorns. Growing slowly to ~75 ft 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. Acorns are an important wildlife food source.

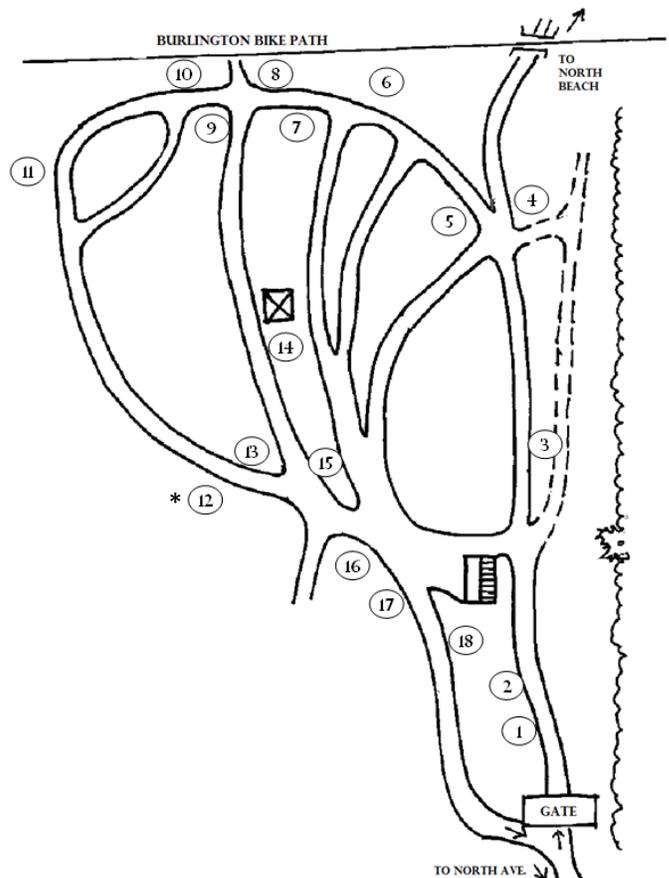
6. White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) Reaches 140 ft tall and lives 200 years. It's the most common conifer in Vermont, and the only **eastern** conifer with 5 needles/bunch. In pre-Revolutionary times it was used for ship masts for its strength and light weight.

7. Green Ash 'Patmore' (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)

Commonly grows in moist river bottoms but is a popular urban tree. Leaves are compound with 7-9 leaflets; leaf scar is straight or slightly concave on the top. All ash species are at risk from the Emerald Ash Borer, which was in central Vermont in 2018. It has not yet been seen in Chittenden County. For more information, go to: www.vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont

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. This is the most common oak in VT, found mainly in the warmer areas of the state. Acorns are an important food source for many animals.

9. Red or Swamp Maple (*Acer rubrum*) Often grows in swampy places but tolerates a wide range of soil types. The leaves have 3-5 lobes and turn bright red in fall. Many hybrids and cultivars grace our city's streets and parks.



10. White Oak (*Quercus alba*) Has hairless leaves with 7-9 **rounded** lobes. The acorn is longer than wide and tastes sweet; they can be eaten as a nut or ground into flour, and are also an important food source for wildlife. White oak staves are used for making whiskey barrels due to their watertight qualities.

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 shade-tolerant and shallow-rooted, and does not tolerate dry compacted soil, air pollution or road salt. It is susceptible to various insect pests, including the Asian longhorned beetle - an invasive pest that has not yet been found here. The long-term prognosis for sugar maple is threatened by our warming climate.

12. NO TAG! *Norway Maple (*Acer pennsylvanicum*) 2018 update: the boxelder tree (*Acer negundo*) formerly tagged as #12 died. Instead, see the small Norway maple growing on the bank that is too small to tag. This is a non-native and highly invasive due to its ability to spread its seeds. Its dense canopy provides deep shade that inhibits the germination and growth of native species.

13. Common Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

Native to Champlain Valley, commonly found in back yards, hedgerows and along the streets of Burlington; it tolerates urban conditions. A medium/large tree (50-80 ft); it is easily identified in winter by its distinct corky bark.

14. White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*) Has finely furrowed gray bark with intersecting diamond patterns. Leaves are compound with 7-9 leaflets; leaf scar is deeply concave or v-notched on the top. All ash species are at risk of damage from the Emerald Ash Borer (see tree #7 for details).

15. American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) Has smooth, thin, slate gray bark (ideal for carving initials, unfortunately!). Beech trees in Vermont are increasingly susceptible to damage from an insect-fungus complex (beech scale insect which vectors the *Nectria* canker) attacking trees over 10 inches in diam. The nuts are an important food source for wildlife. Black bears climb trees in the fall to feast on the nuts, leaving distinct claw marks in the bark that scar over and will be visible for many years.

16. Gray Birch (*Betula populifolia*) A relatively small tree; has chalky white bark and triangular long-pointed leaves. Often mistaken for paper birch, gray birch trunks are marked by dark chevrons at bases of branches, and the narrow horizontal marks ('lenticels') characteristic of all birches. The outer bark of this tree has been peeled off, an example of 'people pressure' on birch trees.

17. American Basswood (*Tilia americana*) Native tree with highly fragrant flowers in July. It has large, heart-shaped leaves and a pyramidal crown. It is salt-tolerant and is related to little-leaf linden (*T. cordata*) and silver linden (*T. tomentosa*), both are popular urban trees.

18. Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*) Native to the Champlain Valley. Gray bark is distinctly shaggy, with long curled strips. Leaves are compound with mostly 5 leaflets. The tree is also a favored roosting tree for Indiana bats which find shelter under the large flaking plates of bark on more mature trees.



Our Mission:

We are a group of volunteers who help plant and care for Burlington's trees. Our goal is to promote a city graced with a variety of beautiful, healthy trees, and a citizenry actively involved with perpetual expansion and preservation of our urban forest.

Want to get involved?

All are welcome at our monthly meetings. Call Burlington Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront 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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