Welcome to Bird Park!
Join us! Take a self-guided TREE-mendous Tour to discover more than 50 species of trees right here in the park.

SHADY FRIENDS
Shade trees help protect your home and street from summer heat, reducing the need for air conditioning while acting as a windbreak from winter winds. These trees are typically large: more than 50 feet tall, when fully grown! Oaks and hickories provide abundant nuts for animals, while flowering species (like the tupelo and tulip trees) provide abundant nectar for pollinators.

DISCOVER:
Sugar Maple, Pignut Hickory, Scarlet Oak, Tulip Tree, American Yellowwood, Red Maple, Tupelo (Black Gum).

ROUGH & TOUGH ONES
Street trees tolerate drought, road salt, and soil compaction and help to reduce noise pollution and storm water runoff. All help provide clean air, shade in summer and windbreaks in winter. Many of these trees are non-native and don’t offer much habitat for wildlife since native species are not adapted to them.

DISCOVER:
Red Oak, Norway Spruce, Horse Chestnut, Northern Catalpa, Honey Locust, Ginkgo, and Pin Oak.

BIRD, BEE & ANIMAL B&Bs
Trees give shelter and food in both the city and suburbs, where habitat is limited. (Native trees provide the best habitat since animals have evolved with these species and are adapted to them.) Cherry and dogwoods are important for pollinators and their fruit is enjoyed by many bird species, while evergreens provide a safe place to rest and nest.

DISCOVER:
Black Cherry, Flowering Dogwood, Pitch Pine, White Oak, Eastern Redbud, and American Holly.

Learn & Discover
How can you help support our living giants here at Bird Park, in your community, and across the nation? Visit the Urban Horticulture Institute at Cornell or the Arbor Day organization: www.hort.cornell.edu/uhi or www.arborday.org.

Want more tree-mendous info on these living giants? Thanks to our super star volunteer Christine Cofsky, you can check out www.thetrustees/birdpark to read up on 25 of our most interesting tree species.

Dig Trees?
Check out other Trustees properties with amazing tree collections: Governor Oliver Ames Estate in Easton, World’s End in Hingham, Long Hill in Beverly, and the William Cullen Bryant Homestead in Cummington. Get the skinny online at thetrustees.org for directions and details!

BECOME A TRUSTEE
Your membership will open a world of new experiences and your membership dues can be designated for use here at Bird Park. As a Trustee, your individual interests become part of a collective effort to secure the places, heritage, and experiences that make life rewarding, fulfilling, and fun. To join, visit us online at www.thetrustees.org.

Scan this code to join our monthly enewsletter and get updates on fun upcoming programs and events!
1. **Black Oak** (*Quercus velutina*)
   This lightly wooded area to the west of the church was part of the original woodlands of Bird Park when the park was first established in the mid-1920s. Among the remaining trees is this Black Oak. Native to ridges and upland forests throughout southern and central New England, Black Oak can withstand drier soils due to its extensive taproot. The common name refers to the nearly black bark found on older trunks. Ironically, it is also sometimes referred to as Yellow Oak because of its bright orange-yellow inner bark, which was used as a dye in colonial days.

2. **Pignut Hickory** (*Carya glabra*)
   The Pignut is native to southern and central New England and commonly found growing among oaks on ridges and hillsides in well-drained to dry fairly-rich soils. Its common name refers to its bitter-tasting nuts that were once considered fit only for pigs. Despite the bitterness, the nuts are still relished by squirrels and chipmunks. As with all the native hickories, the leaves of the Pignut turn a beautiful golden yellow in early to mid-October.

3. **Musclewood** (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
   As the common name implies, the bluish-grey bark of this small, understory tree has a smooth, sinuous appearance resembling a tense muscle. Very shade tolerant and able to withstand periodic flooding, it is usually found growing along stream banks under other floodplain species such as Ash and Maple. In its search for sunlight, the main trunk develops a leaning and twisted habit which is evident in this particular specimen. Native to southern to central New England, Musclewood rarely reaches a height of more than 25 feet.

4. **Tupelo** (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
   Tupelo is easily recognized by its horizontally branching, twiggy habit. It is normally found growing along the edges of swamps and ponds throughout southern New England. The shiny dark green leaves turn many shades of scarlet, orange and apricot in autumn. Older specimens can develop a distinctive deeply furrowed and blocky bark. Although the flowers are small and inconspicuous, honey bees savor them, harvesting the nectar to produce a sweet honey.

5. **White Oak** (*Quercus alba*)
   Oaks are some of the most long-lived broad-leaved trees in New England. The White Oak can live to well over 200 years. As one of the Northeast’s most adaptable oaks, it can be found growing throughout most of New England from swamp edges to dry, upland ridges. The seed, or acorn, of the oak is an invaluable food source for birds and mammals. The acorns were an important food source for the Native Americans, who were known to mash the acorns and then rinse them of the bitter-tasting tannins before eating them.
6. **Norway Spruce** (*Picea abies*)
   Native to northern and central Europe, the Norway Spruce was first introduced to American landscapes in colonial times. It has a very distinctive drooping habit due to its secondary pendulous branches. The 4-7 inch cone is one of the largest of all needle evergreens hardy to the northeast. This particular Norway Spruce with the 13 others here form what is now known as the “Spruce Room”. This area, as designed by landscape architect John Nolen, once held two clay tennis courts.

7. **Cinnamon Clethra** (*Clethra acuminata*)
   Although not native to New England, Cinnamon Clethra is quite similar in appearance and habit to its native cousin *Clethra alnifolia* (Summersweet). It is indigenous to the rich mountainous woods of the southern Appalachians. The 3-8 inch raceme of ivory-white flowers blooms in July when few other shrubs are flowering. What sets this shrub apart from its cousin is its striking bark. The polished cinnamon-brown, exfoliating bark is an especially welcome sight in the dreary winter forest.

8. **European Larch** (*Larix decidua*)
   The European Larch and the American Larch are similar in many ways (see next description). They differ mainly in the size of their cones and needles – the European Larch having slightly larger components. The European Larch is native to northern and central Europe.

9. **American Larch** (*Larix laricina*)
   Larch is one of the few trees fully adapted to survive the conditions of the extreme north, growing as far north as Alaska and northern Canada. While American Larch is more common in the boreal forests of northern New England, it can occasionally be found in bogs and swamps of southern New England. Unlike spruces and firs, the larch drops its soft, feathery needles each Fall – the only native New England conifer to do so. Its fall color can be quite a display of bright golden-yellow.

10. **Yellow Birch** (*Betula alleghaniensis*)
    The Yellow Birch is found throughout most of New England in the cool, moist habitats of rich woods and bottomlands. The satiny, golden sheen of its peeling bark is characteristic of all but its oldest branches and trunks, which tend to be dark and rough. The sap of Yellow Birch, as well as that of Black Birch, has a very strong wintergreen scent.

11. **Sugar Maple** (*Acer saccharum*)
    Few other trees can rival the colors of the Sugar Maple during autumn in New England. Its autumn colors can range from bright yellow to scarlet to brilliant orange all on one tree. Although it is intolerant of excessive heat, drought and pollution, the Sugar Maple can make a beautiful shade tree if given the right conditions. The sap has a very high concentration of sugar (on average about 2%) and is commonly boiled down to make maple syrup.
12. **River Birch** (*Betula nigra*)
Commonly found growing along stream banks and floodplains throughout southern New England, River Birch is the most heat-tolerant of all our native birches. Because of its heat tolerance and its showy, salmon-colored peeling bark, River Birch has become one of the most popular birches for landscaping purposes in the East, especially the cultivar ‘Heritage’. As you can see from the specimen in front of you, the bark becomes dark and deeply furrowed with age. This tree is estimated to be around 85 years old.

13. **White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*)
Arguably the tallest tree species of Eastern North America, the White Pine can reach towering heights. Trees well over 200 feet tall were not uncommon in pre-colonial times. Unfortunately, these large specimens no longer exist today. In the 18th century, the British Royal Navy cut many of these large White Pines down for ship masts, while others used the trees for lumber. The current tallest known tree in New England is the “Chief Jake Swamp” White Pine located in the Mohawk Trail State Forest in western Massachusetts. In 2013, it measured 172.5 feet in height.

14. **Northern Catalpa** (*Catalpa speciosa*)
The Northern Catalpa is native to riverbanks and floodplains of the central U.S. With its stout stems, large heart-shaped leaves, and 8- to 20-inch long cylindrical seed pods, it is a very coarse-looking plant in all seasons. The pods turn dark brown in the autumn and cling to the tips of the branches, making this tree easy to identify in the winter.

15. **Black Walnut** (*Juglans nigra*)
Black Walnut is best known for its valuable heartwood. Since colonial times, the chocolate-brown, satiny wood has been used to make cabinets, furniture, flooring and gunstocks. Its native range extends from rich woods and river bottoms of the Midwest and southern U.S. into small pockets of southern New England. The 2-inch round fruits contain an edible nut very similar to the more commercially available English walnut (*Juglans regia*). Be careful when harvesting though – the husk covering the nut contains a pigment that can stain your skin yellow-brown for days!

16. **Pitch Pine** (*Pinus rigida*)
As the most fire-adapted tree in New England, Pitch Pine thrives on dry, sandy, exposed sites where fires may be a common occurrence. It possesses some very unique characteristics that allow it to survive such harsh conditions. It not only has very thick, layered bark (to protect the inner tree from fire), but it also has the unique ability to re-sprout from the base if cut down or burned by fire – it is the only native cone-bearing tree with this capability.

17. **American Yellowwood** (*Cladrastis kentukea*)
Uncommon even in its native range of the rich bottomlands of North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee, American Yellowwood has beautiful, smooth gray bark and long fragrant white flower clusters which hang from the branch tips from May to early June. The common name refers to its yellow heartwood which yields a yellow dye. With its golden-yellow fall foliage, Yellowwood is a showy tree in all seasons.
18. **Amur Corktree** (*Phellodendron amurense*)

The common name of this Asian native refers to its soft and cork-like bark. However, it is the bark of Cork Oak (*Quercus suber*) of southern Europe that produces the cork used in wine bottling. Because the blue-black fruits are easily spread by birds and are quick to germinate, the Amur Corktree has somewhat of an invasive tendency in the northeast. The male and female flowers are produced on separate trees with only the female trees producing fruit. As you may notice from the berries on this tree, this particular specimen is a female.

19. **Horse-chestnut** (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

Native to southeastern Europe into Asia, Horse-chestnuts have distinctive, large leaves palmately divided – like the fingers of a hand. In early to mid-May, 5- to 12-inch-long panicles of showy white flowers cover the tree. Each fruit is comprised of a 2-inch spiny capsule that contains 1-3 dark brown, shiny seeds. Although similar to the European Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), which is the source of commercial chestnuts, the nuts of the Horse-chestnut are toxic to humans. Another common name for this tree is “conker tree”, which refers to the British children’s game of conkers that is played using the seeds.

20. **European Beech** (*Fagus sylvatica*)

The Beeches are probably some of the most easily recognizable trees in the Park due to their low and wide branching habit and their very distinctive fluted, smooth gray bark, which resembles an elephant’s hide on older trees. The fruit is a small prickly 4-parted husk that contains two edible, triangle-shaped nuts. A very stately tree, the European Beech can live up to 300 years and can reach heights of up to 100 feet.

21. **Norway Maple** (*Acer platanoides*)

Mentioned here only because of its similarity to our native Sugar Maple, Norway Maple has become one of the most invasive tree species in the northeast. Native throughout most of Europe, it can withstand hot, dry and polluted conditions better than Sugar Maple – it is perhaps for this reason that it has been overplanted and has subsequently escaped cultivation, displacing much of our native flora in disturbed areas. An easy way to distinguish the Norway Maple from the Sugar Maple is by the milky sap that is released from the leaf and the stem when broken (the Sugar Maple releases a clear liquid). Norway Maple is now on the USDA’s list of invasive species for the northeast and is no longer sold in most plant nurseries.

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

Due to its high-arching canopy, rapid growth rate and urban hardiness, American Elm was once the choice street tree of many towns and cities throughout the northeast. Unfortunately, with the introduction of Dutch Elm disease to the U.S. in the mid-1930s, large populations of American Elms were infected and ultimately killed, forever changing the appearance of New England’s once elm-lined streets. The fungus which causes Dutch Elm disease is believed to have originated in the Far East and not Holland, contrary to the suggestion of the common name. It was so named because the fungus was first identified by Dutch scientists. Fortunately, some wild populations of American Elm in floodplains and swamp forests throughout New England have
shown resistance to the disease, and disease-resistant cultivars continue to be developed for landscaping purposes.

23. **Ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba)**

The Ginkgo is an unusual tree in many respects. Native to eastern China, the species came into existence about 150 million years ago – when dinosaurs still roamed the Earth! An individual tree can live up to 1,000 years or more! Along with pines, spruces, and firs, the Ginkgo is a gymnosperm, a “non-flowering” plant which produces “naked” seeds that are not borne in fruits. The male and female reproductive structures are produced on separate trees, and a female Ginkgo may not produce seeds until 20-30 years into its life. Each seed-bearing structure holds one seed, or nut, in a thick, fleshy coat resembling a “fruit”. Once the seed falls to the ground in the autumn, the thick seed coat begins to break down, giving off an extremely putrid smell. This particular specimen was discovered to be a female several years ago when it started producing seeds. The distinctive fan-shaped leaves turn bright yellow in autumn and seem to fall all at once after a hard frost, creating a golden circle at the base of the tree.

24. **Tuliptree (Liriodendron tulipifera)**

The Tuliptree is native to the rich woodlands and bottomlands of southern New England. It is one of the tallest trees in eastern North America, rivaled in height only by the White Pine. It has unique 4-lobed leaves and a straight central trunk. The greenish-yellow tulip-like flowers are not easily seen because they are only found high up in the tree canopy. The seeds persist on the tree in a cone-like cluster throughout the winter, making the tree easy to identify in the colder months.

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

Of all oaks native to New England, it is only the Red Oak that can be found growing as far north as northern New England into Canada. It is also the fastest and one of the tallest growing of our native oaks. Its common name refers to its beautiful pinkish-red heartwood that makes it one of the most important lumber trees in our region. The fruit, or acorn, along with its attached cup, is unique to each oak species. The shallow and saucer-like cup of the Red Oak’s acorn makes it perfect for whistling!