

City Park Arboretum Map and Activities Guide

Northport Avenue, Belfast, Maine

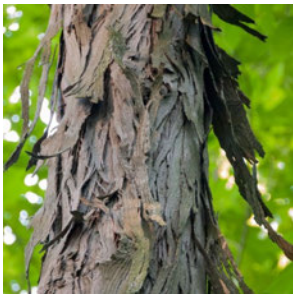
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This guide may be downloaded from our website at
waldocountysoilandwater.org/city-park-arboretum.



Fascinating Facts About City Park Trees

Tulip Poplar Map Number 162 One of the largest eastern trees, tulip poplar grows to almost 200 feet tall and 8 feet in diameter in the southern part of its range, where magnificent trees grow in the Appalachians. It is fast growing, has beautiful form and also large, tulip shaped flowers that feed pollinators. Its small seeds feed birds and wildlife, and it can produce useful timber. It is a potential candidate for planting in Maine as the climate warms. The small seeds may replace lost seed crops from native ash, which are dying off due to an insect pest.



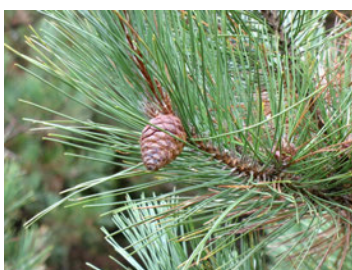
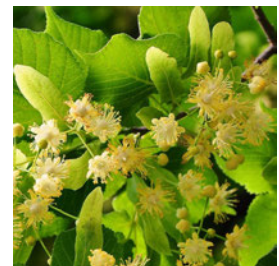
Shagbark Hickory Map 91 Shagbark hickory gets its name from the unique bark which peels in long, graceful strips. It produces the most palatable nuts of all the eastern hickories and the nuts also feed wildlife. Hickory produces beautiful, strong wood that is also excellent for firewood and smoking foods. The area under the peeling bark can shelter native bats. It is a potential candidate for planting in Maine as the climate warms, and could provide an additional source of nuts for wildlife since chestnuts and beech trees have declined.

Dawn Redwood Map 140 171 The dawn redwood is a beautiful conifer suitable for ornamental landscaping. It was only known from fossils and was thought to be extinct until some trees were discovered in sacred groves in the 1940s. It is related to US native redwoods and sequoias.



Horse Chestnut Map 7 13 The horse chestnut is native to Southeast Europe and is related to the buckeyes which grow in the eastern US. This group of trees is distinguished by its palmately compound leaves with 5 leaflets. The tree produces gorgeous sprays of multicolored flowers in late May. Horse chestnuts were planted in the arboretum when the park was founded over 100 years ago.

American Basswood Map 29 150 Basswood is a beautiful native tree with asymmetrical heart shaped leaves that cast a deep shade, and small white flowers that are born out of a leaf like, light green bract. The young leaves are edible and the flowers can be made into a tea with medicinal properties. Basswood is very light and used to be used to make small boxes for berries and toy airplanes. Native peoples used the inner bark of basswood to make cordage. Its flowers are an important nectar source for bees, and when in bloom in July you can hear the buzz of thousands of bees visiting the trees.



Red Pine Map 15 128 167 City Park has large red pines planted when the park was created. You can see two of them from the Welcome Plaza, and a grove of trees just east of the tennis courts. Notice the colorful bark which ranges from salmon-pink to reddish and looks like puzzle pieces up close. Red pines grow on rocky, shallow soils in Maine. Like some of the trees in the park, red pines are declining all over New England due to fungal disease and the red pine scale insect pest.



American Beech Map 14 Beech is a very common tree in Maine's forests, and when healthy has very smooth, light gray bark. Beech nuts are an important food for wildlife including bears, turkeys, squirrels and many others. Often you will see that the bark is cracking and has many holes in it. This is due to the beech bark scale disease, which weakens beech trees and causes them to break easily. It is caused by a scale insect boring into the trunk and introducing a fungus. As a result, beech trees are producing less nuts, affecting the supply of food available to wildlife. The American beech in the park is near the welcome plaza, and is showing signs of the disease. Beech in our area are also infected with beech leaf disease.

American and European Hornbeam Map 192 164 The American species is often called blue beech or musclewood, because of its smooth gray bark with ripples in it. American hornbeam is a forest understory tree in Maine. Its very dense, hard wood is difficult to work and is seldom used except for tool handles. Squirrels, rabbits and beaver eat the bark, wood and seeds. It is related to the European hornbeam, which is near the American species in the park, long coppiced or pollarded for wood. City Park also features two weeping cultivars of European hornbeam near the front of the park.



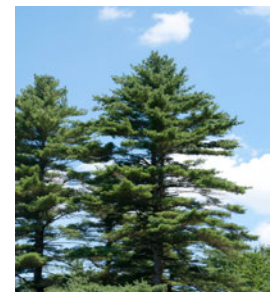
Birches of Maine Birch trees have provided many uses to both First Nations peoples and European settlers. Maine has several common species of birch trees including gray, paper, yellow and black birch, each with characteristic bark. City Park has all of these common birches. Birch sap has been used to make birch beer. Black birch is planted here, but is not found as a native tree in our part of Maine. River birch is not native to Maine but is planted in the park. Black and yellow birch provide valuable lumber. Birch trees are very important to native insects, and also to birds and wildlife.

White and Red Oaks Map 25 40 197 White and red oaks are two groups of oak trees, each with a number of species. White oaks typically have rounded lobes, and red oak lobes are pointed. City Park has 3 white oaks: swamp white oak, white oak (photo) and bur oak. The park has 3 red oak species: northern red oak, scarlet oak and pin oak. Only red oaks are common in the Midcoast, with white oaks found rarely. Northern red oak is the only oak species found in the wild in much of Maine. Oaks are one of the most important host species for native caterpillars (and thus for birds), and provide acorns for wildlife food.



Northern White Cedar Map 66 145 Also called arborvitae, northern white cedar is a common tree in wet forest areas in New England. In City Park, it is planted in two small groves. Its needles look like scales, and its rot resistant wood is used for many purposes including shakes for house siding and posts. It has been an important tree to First Nations peoples, appearing in sacred legends and used for many purposes. Northern white cedar is a popular tree for landscaping, with many cultivars of the tree available. It can form a beautiful hedge which shelters birds and wildlife.

White Pine Map 1 43 117 White pine is the most important tree in Maine's forest industry, producing high quality lumber. It is a tall, very common tree with a rounded crown and soft, long needles in bundles of 5. In City Park, it is planted in groves throughout the park. The groves of trees, many planted over 100 years ago, show the size and form of this beautiful tree.



Take a Tour of City Park Arboretum

Enter at the crabapple alley. Here you can walk between rows of different varieties of ornamental crabapple trees.

Next to the alley, visit the largest yellowwood tree in Maine. Yellowwood is a rare eastern tree.

Visit the welcome plaza, where you can read about the history of the park. Look out from here towards the bay to observe the many groves of conifers planted long ago.

In this area, you can see several eastern trees that are not native to our area, but that may be suited to growing here in a future, warmer climate. Also present here are several interesting Eurasian trees including sawtooth oak, European hornbeam, Japanese larch and katsura tree.

In the front of the park next to Northport Avenue, you can see many interesting trees including the beautiful horse chestnut and little leaf lindens, as well as rhododendron gardens.

In the front of the arboretum near the plaza, you can find Maine forest understory trees including moosewood, ironwood, blue beech, gray dogwood, nannyberry, (musclewood) and witchhazel.

Follow the gravel walking path here to peek into our urban forest edge and observe white and red pine groves along the path. Along the woods is the only location in the park where you can see native eastern hemlocks. The invasive glossy buckthorn is in the woods, but also many natives trees including aspen, red oak, yellow birch, basswood and white and red pines.

On either side of the road near the basketball court, you can see sugar maples and yellow birch planted when the park was established.

Stop here to see our wetland habitat demonstration. You can enter the wetland on the stepping stones. The area includes many native wetland herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees.

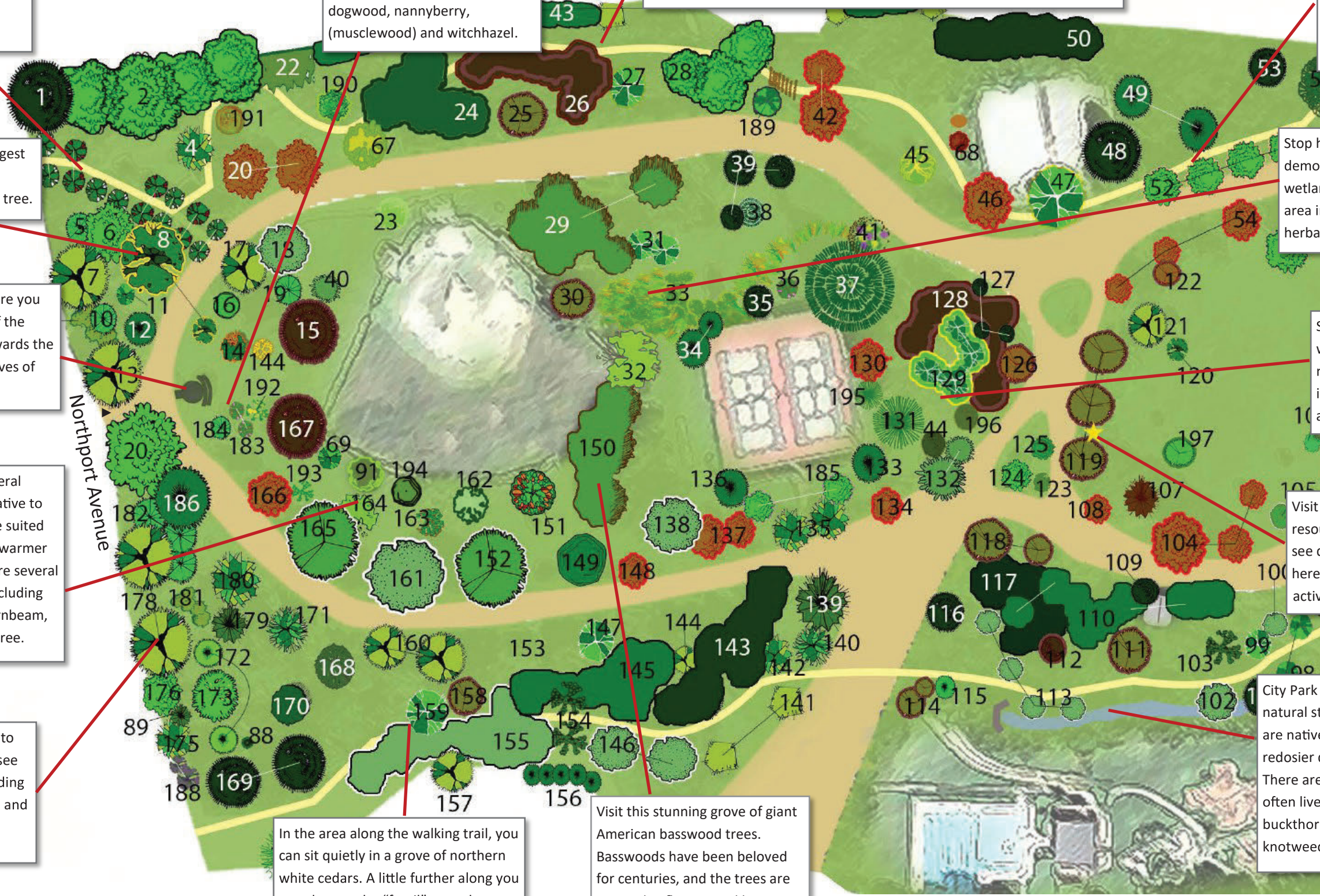
See our conifer collection here, which includes many species native to Maine as well as an interpretive sign with more about Maine conifers.

Visit our kiosk to access our resources as well as learn what to see during the current season. Also here are fun facts, web links, activities and tree stories.

City Park has one of the few stretches of natural stream in town. Along the stream are native trees such as pagoda and redosier dogwood, ash, red oak and birch. There are also many invasive plants that often live in urban areas, including glossy buckthorn, multiflora rose, Japanese knotweed and exotic shrub honeysuckle.

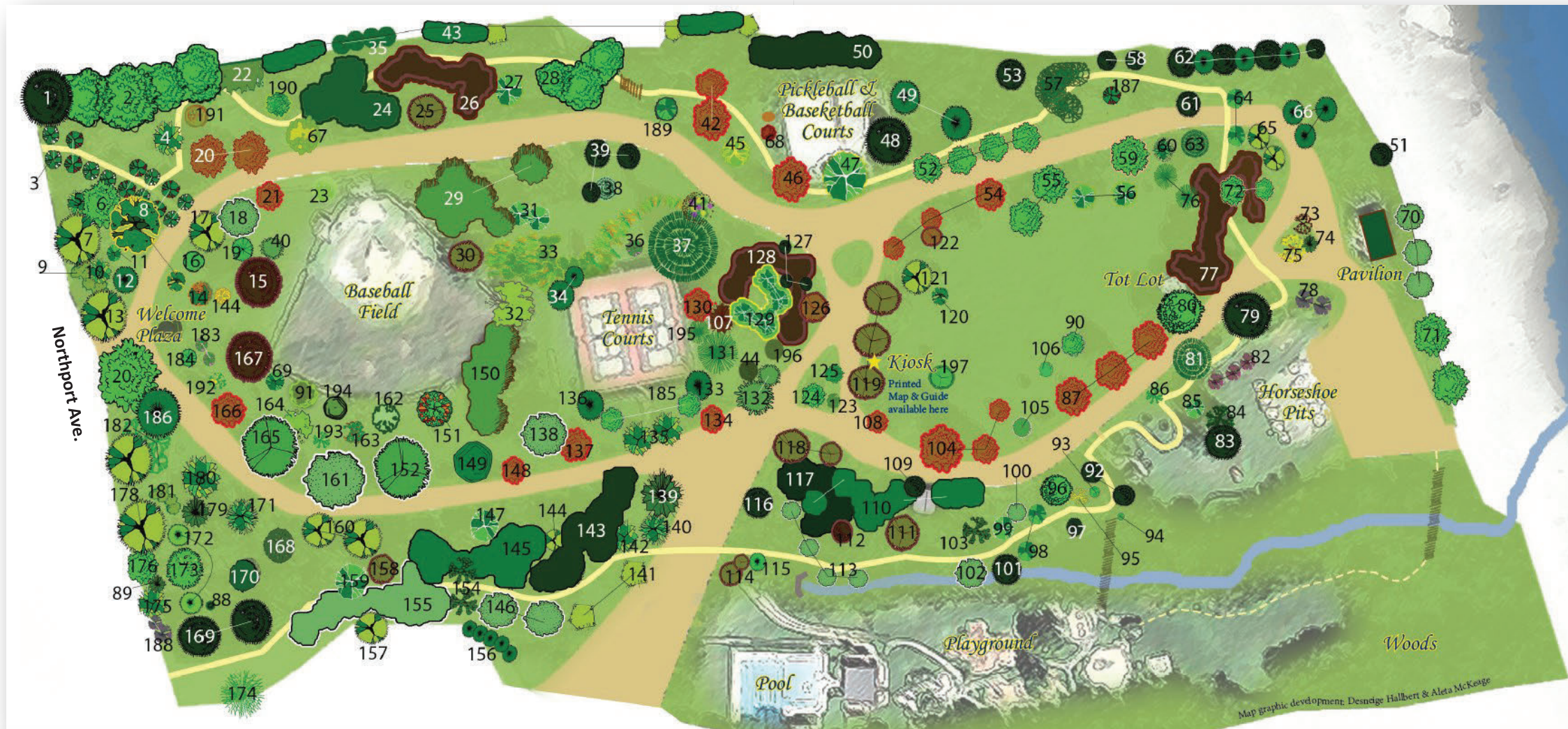
In the area along the walking trail, you can sit quietly in a grove of northern white cedars. A little further along you can also see the "fossil" tree, the dawn redwood (#140).

Visit this stunning grove of giant American basswood trees. Basswoods have been beloved for centuries, and the trees are covered in flowers and buzzing with bees in July.



Northport Avenue

Arboretum Map and Key



ARBORETUM KEY

1 Eastern white pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	101 Eastern white pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	151 Katsura tree <i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>
2 Norway maple grove(5) <i>Acer platanoides</i>	102 White ash <i>Fraxinus americana</i>	152 Pin oak <i>Quercus palustris</i>
3 Crabapple alley <i>Malus sp.</i>	103 European larch <i>Larix decidua</i>	
4 Stewartia <i>Stewartia pseudocornellia</i>	104 Red maple grove <i>Acer rubrum</i>	
5 Littleleaf linden <i>Tilia cordata</i>	105 Swamp white oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i>	
6 Norway maple <i>Acer platanoides</i>	106 Northern white cedar grove <i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	
7 Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	107 Red spruce <i>Picea rubens</i>	
8 Kentucky yellowwood pair <i>Cladrastis kentuckea</i>	108 Red maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	
9 Hydrangea-hasta-rhododendron garden <i>Hydrangea sp.</i>	109 Eastern white pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	
10 Littleleaf linden <i>Tilia cordata</i>	110 Northern white cedar grove <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	
11 Flowering crabapple <i>Malus sp.</i>	111 Northern red oak <i>Quercus rubra</i>	
12 Northern white cedar <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	112 Red pine <i>Pinus resinosa</i>	
13 Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	113 White ash grove <i>Fraxinus americana</i>	
14 American beech <i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	114 Red oak pair <i>Quercus rubra</i>	
15 Red pine <i>Pinus resinosa</i>	115 Northern white cedar <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	
16 Witch hazel <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	116 Eastern white pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	
17 Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	117 Eastern white pine grove <i>Pinus strobus</i>	
18 White ash <i>Fraxinus americana</i>	118 Red oak pair <i>Quercus rubra</i>	
19 Weeping European hornbeam <i>Carpinus betulus 'Pendula'</i>	119 Red oak <i>Quercus rubra</i>	
20 Norway maple <i>Acer platanoides</i>	120 American sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	
21 Red maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	121 Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	
22 Ural false spirea <i>Sorbaria sorbifolia</i>	122 Scarlet oak <i>Quercus coccinea</i>	
23 Ginkgo <i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	123 Tupelo tree <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	
24 Eastern white pine grove (5) <i>Pinus strobus</i>	124 Norway maple red <i>Acer platanoides 'Schwedler'</i>	
25 Northern red oak <i>Quercus rubra</i>	125 Amur maple <i>Acer ginnala</i>	
26 Red pine grove (7) <i>Pinus resinosa</i>	126 Scarlet oak <i>Quercus coccinea</i>	
27 Yellow birch <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	127 Eastern white pines (3) <i>Pinus strobus</i>	
28 Norway maple grove (3) <i>Acer platanoides</i>	128 Red pine grove (5) <i>Pinus resinosa</i>	
29 American basswood grove <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	129 Yellow birch grove (4) <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	
30 Northern red oak <i>Quercus rubra</i>	130 Red maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	
31 Paper birch <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	131 Veitch's fir <i>Abies veitchii</i>	
32 Big-tooth aspen <i>Populus grandidentata</i>	132 Swamp white oak pair <i>Quercus bicolor</i>	
33 Wet meadow <i>Sagittaria arifolia</i>	133 Northern white cedar <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	
34 Northern white cedar <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	134 Red maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	
35 Eastern hemlock <i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	135 Littleleaf linden pair <i>Tilia cordata</i>	
36 Saucer magnolia <i>Magnolia x soulangeana</i>	136 Northern white cedar <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	
37 Norway spruce <i>Picea abies</i>	137 Red maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	
38 White spruce <i>Picea glauca</i>	138 White ash <i>Fraxinus americana</i>	
39 Eastern white pine (3) <i>Pinus strobus</i>	139 White spruce <i>Picea glauca</i>	
40 White oak <i>Quercus bicolor</i>	140 Dawn redwood <i>Metasequoia gypstroboides</i>	
41 Circle garden <i>Malus sp.</i>	141 Amur maackia pair <i>Maackia amurensis</i>	
42 Red maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	142 European larch <i>Larix decidua</i>	
43 Eastern white pine & N. white cedar boundary hedges <i>Pinus strobus</i>	143 Eastern white pine grove <i>Pinus strobus</i>	
44 Pitch pine <i>Pinus rigida</i>	144 Common witch hazel <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	
45 Honey locust <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	145 Northern white cedar grove <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	
46 Red maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	146 White ash pair <i>Fraxinus americana</i>	
47 Yellow birch <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	147 Paper birch <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	
48 White pine <i>Pinus strobus</i>	148 Red maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	
49 Northern white cedar pair <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	149 Sawtooth oak <i>Quercus acutissima</i>	
50 Norway Maple <i>Acer platanoides</i>	150 American basswood grove <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	

ARBORETUM TREE SYMBOLS... & cool facts!

<h3>NATIVE TREES</h3> <h4>DECIDUOUS TREES</h4> <p>Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the fall and have flowers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sugar Maple: We make maples syrup with its sap! Paper Birch: Notable white colored bark. White Ash: In danger of dying due to Ash borer beetle. Northern Red Oak 	<h4>CONIFEROUS TREES</h4> <p>Coniferous trees have cones instead of flowers. Also they do not have leaves but rather needles. Unlike leaves, needles tend to stay on coniferous trees year round. The Larch, however, though it is considered a coniferous tree, does lose its needles!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eastern White Pine Norway Spruce Northern Red Pine Larch or Tamarack
<h3>EXOTIC TREES</h3> <p>Exotic trees are trees that are not native to Maine, but have been brought intentionally or accidentally, to Maine since colonial times. Some grow here naturally now while others grow only where planted. Some are related to our native Maine species. Trees from other parts of the United States can be considered exotic. With changes in the climate, the tree species present naturally in Maine may change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horsechestnut Dawn Redwood Norway Spruce Pin Oak Kentucky Yellowwood Norway Maple And many others... 	<h3>CULTIVARS</h3> <p>A cultivar is a plant or grouping of plants selected for desirable characteristics that can be maintained by propagation. Most cultivars have arisen in cultivation but a few are special selections from the wild. A cultivar can be a cross between two related species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weeping Hornbeam Crabapple

Please Note:
 * Denotes new tree to be planted 2021-2025
 ** Not all tree numbers are used due to tree mortality. New trees and shrubs may be added that are not on this list.

Activities to Do in the Arboretum

1. **Easy ID Game** Find a tree with a label, or identify one with the map. Then, look nearby and try to find the same species by looking at its bark, leaves and form. In City Park, many trees are planted near other trees of the same species. Then, as you walk through the park, try to pick out the species of trees you have learned this way.
2. **Scavenger Hunts** Visit our website to find a scavenger hunt for young children and another for older children and adults. Have a contest to see who can find every item on the scavenger hunt. Please don't pick things but show your finds, or take photos.
3. **Take a self guided tour.** See pages 2 and 3.
4. **Learn to distinguish related trees.** Using the map, try to find all of the species in a particular group of trees, such as all of the oaks, pines, birches, or maples.
5. **Learn native forest understory trees.** Using the map, find these native Maine forest understory trees: American hophornbeam, musclewood (blue beech), striped maple, witchhazel, nannyberry, and winterberry holly.
6. **See some fascinating exotic trees.** Using the map, find these Eurasian trees: Dawn redwood, sawtooth oak, ginkgo, Katsura tree, stewartia, European hornbeam, paperbark maple, golden rain tree, Veitch's fir.
7. **Grove Meditation** Sit silently under a grove of trees, such as the northern white cedars or American basswood groves along the road. Look up and notice the form and beauty of each species.
8. **Visit the Conifer Discovery Area,** on the ocean side of the tennis courts. Here you can see many native conifers and some exotic ones. An interpretive sign here and tree markers can help you learn to identify conifers by their needles.

Resources

[Maine Forest Service Canopy Grant](#)

[Online picture guide to common urban trees](#)

[GoBotany: see pictures of each tree](#)

[Arboday Foundation](#)

[Project Learning Tree: Learning activities for families and schools](#)

[Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District's Learning Activities for Planting, Growing and Observing Trees](#)



The City Park Arboretum is a community collaboration that has been many years in the making. The founders of the park planted many types of trees, and local groups have worked to create an arboretum in the decades since. This vision has become a reality thanks to many supporters, including the State of Maine Canopy Grant Program, the USDA Forest Service, the Menig Trust, The McKeage Family Fund, Friends of Belfast Parks, the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition, the City of Belfast Parks and Recreation Department, Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District, and many individuals who contributed their time and expertise to the project. Please join us if you would like to help! Contact Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District for more information.