

# COLONIAL TREE WALK

(1.2 miles)



DRAFT SEPT 2011

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**1 Museum & Shop at Brick Market**

You are starting your tree walk at the site of one of Newport's most well known buildings, the Brick Market. Designed by Peter Harrison and built in 1762, this building served as an open air market. The Brick Market now houses the Museum of Newport History, and is a wonderful starting point for your tour. Restrooms can also be found inside.

To begin your tree walk, cross Thames Street to Washington Square. The Florence K. Murray Judicial Complex is straight ahead, with Eisenhower Park in the foreground.

**2 Washington Square**

Washington Square was deeded in a grant to Newporters in the 1660's by King Charles II. Miraculously, this original town common still exists today and is used much in the same way for cultural, social, governmental and commercial purposes as it has for the last 350 years.

**3 Camperdown Elms**

*Ulmus glabra 'Camperdownii'*

Perhaps the most unique trees in the park are the matching set of Camperdown Elms, planted circa 1905. This elm is a grafted tree. In grafting, a shoot of one tree is inserted into a groove of another. In this case, the twisted weeping branches on top were grafted into the trunk of another species at a young age.

In the mid-1800's in Scotland, the Earl of Camperdown's gardener grafted the top Camperdown branches to a trunk of a Wych Elm tree to create this variety of grafted tree.

**4 Dawn Redwood**

*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

The Dawn Redwood tree is a deciduous conifer. Unlike most conifers, it sheds its needles in the winter. It was introduced to the United States from China in 1947. This particular tree was planted in 1980 in honor of the Newport Tree Warden.

**5 Monument to Oliver Hazard Perry**

A Newport native, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry is known for the phrase,

"We have met the enemy and they are ours!"

**6 American Elm**

*Ulmus americana*

This particularly large specimen forms a wonderful shade canopy in the park.

**7 Norway Maple**

*Acer platanoides*

This Norway Maple has managed to find a foothold in the park, as it leans out over Touro Street. The Norway Maple is a very invasive tree because of the multitude of seed it bears. We encourage the planting of native maples such as the Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*).

**8 European Beech**

*Fagus sylvatica*

The European Beech is Newport's signature tree. Native to Europe, it was widely planted during the Gilded Age and thrives in Newport's temperate climate, growing faster here than in Europe.

**9 Information station**

**10 Littleleaf Linden**

*Tilia cordata*

The Tilia, also known as Linden, Basswood or Lime, is a genus of about 30 species of trees native throughout most of the temperate Northern Hemisphere. Soft, pliable basswood is widely used in model-making and intricate carving.

In Europe, Lime trees are known to have reached ages measured in centuries, if not longer. This tree is tolerant of air pollution as well as hot, dry conditions. It is a vigorous growing tree with a straight and very strong trunk.

**11 American Elm**

*Ulmus americana*

This impressive elm is one of a half dozen or so American Elms that have survived Dutch Elm disease on the island. As with many New England cities and towns, Newport once was awash with American Elms.

**12 Colony House (1739)**

The Colony House, the fourth oldest statehouse still standing in the country, was designed by builder/architect Richard Munday who also designed Newport's Trinity Church and the Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House. It served as Rhode Island's primary state house from its completion in 1739 until 1901.

**13 Observation point**

As you exit the park, take a moment to look south down Clarke Street. This view takes you back in time to colonial Newport. The white steeple in the background is Trinity Church, the oldest Episcopal Church in continuous use in the United States.

**14 Touro Synagogue**

Established in 1658, Touro Synagogue is the oldest synagogue in the United States. The synagogue was designed by Peter Harrison who also designed the Redwood Library and the Brick Market.

**15 Crimean Linden**

*Tilia x euchlora*

**16 Japanese Maple**

*Acer palmatum*

The Japanese Maple offers dappled light and unusually artistic branch formations.

**17 Horsechestnut**

*Aesculus hippocastanum*

Prized for its showy white flowers in early May, this tree is well planted throughout the city. Newport also has a reddish-pink flowering variety, *Aesculus x carnea*.

Horsechestnuts are very tolerant of ocean and wind conditions. The seed pods and fruit are a favorite of children and resemble a buck's eye. Native to the Balkan Peninsula, the Horsechestnut is a relative of our native Buckeye.

**18 Silver Maple**

*Acer saccharinum*

Silver Maple is a fast-growing tree that will tolerate wet conditions. We must take care where we plant this tree, as it can be invasive.

**19 Copper Beech**

*Fagus sylvatica 'Atropunicea'*

The Copper Beech is one of the most impressive trees in Newport. This particular tree has served as a landmark for many years.

**20 Maidenhair**

*Ginkgo biloba*

A 'living fossil,' the Ginkgo tree is one of the oldest surviving plant species on earth. At one time native to New England, and considered one of the most primitive plants on earth today, it was long thought to be extinct in the wild. There is still debate about this. Rake up fruit in the fall; it quickly becomes rancid.

**21 European Beech**

*Fagus sylvatica*

**22 Information station**

**23 Crimean Lindens**

*Tilia x euchlora*

**24 Fernleaf European Beech**

*Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia'*

This Fernleaf Beech is thought to be the first in the United States. The story is told that a young girl traveling by ship from England in 1835 brought this tree with her in a bottle. A grand specimen, this beech has developed a great relationship with the iron pipe fence used to protect it.

**25 European Beeches**

*Fagus sylvatica*

Located on the grounds of the Redwood Library and Athenæum, the oldest lending library in America. There were three trees here at one time. In the early 1980's, there was talk of cutting down the middle one because they were too crowded. Doris Duke came to the rescue and moved the tree to Rough Point.

**26 Redwood Library & Athenæum**

The Redwood Library and Athenæum is the oldest lending library in continuous use in America and the oldest library building in the country.

**27 Weeping Cutleaf Japanese Maple**

*Acer palmatum dissectum*

Introduced to England in the 1820's, these specimen trees have been cultivated by the Japanese for centuries. This fine example was transplanted from James-town in the early 1980's. It was donated by a friend of Richard Champlin, Redwood Librarian, noted horticulturist, and author of Trees of Newport.

**28 Fernleaf European Beech**

*Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia'*

**29 Kousa Dogwood**

*Cornus kousa*

These Dogwood trees are valued for their beautiful mottled bark and the display of creamy white color in the month of June. This color, which is commonly believed to come from the flower of the tree, is in fact provided by bracts which sit below the small, not-so-showy flower.

**30 Newport Art Museum**

Designed by renowned American architect Richard Morris Hunt, this building was the first of many homes Hunt designed in Newport. Home for the Museum since 1916, the Griswold House is a National Historic Landmark and an Official Project of Save America's Treasures.

**31 Star Magnolia**

*Magnolia stellata*

This Star Magnolia creates an impressive sight in late March to early April when it is a mass of white flowers. The flowers arrive before the leaves; this is a tree that signals that Spring has arrived.

**32 Tulip Tree**

*Liriodendron tulipifera*

This Tulip Tree is planted on the grounds of the Elks Lodge. An American native, it is one of the most majestic giants of the Northeast. The Tulip's distinctively-shaped leaves mimic the bloom of the tulip and turn a rich butter-yellow in autumn. Its peculiar flowers are tulip-shaped, yellow-green, and banded with orange at the petals' base.

**33 Horsechestnut**

*Aesculus hippocastanum*

**34 Pin Oak**

*Quercus palustris*

This Pin Oak is one of the older and most majestic trees in Touro Park.

**35 Yoshino Cherry**

*Prunus x yedoensis*

This Yoshino Cherry tree exhibits a dramatic display of soft pink blossoms in late March to early April. It is a handsome tree when in bloom and can be seen throughout Newport.

**36 Information station**

**37 American Yellowwood**

*Cladrastis kentukea*

Notice the smooth, silvery bark of this tree. It is called Yellowwood because the interior wood (heartwood) is yellow.

Rare in the wild, the Yellowwood has one of the most spectacular flowering displays of any tree, flowering every few years in early June. The flowers are white, fragrant, and pendulous (weeping, from the Latin *pendulus*) in habit.

**38 Monument to Commodore Matthew C. Perry**

Brother of Oliver Hazard Perry; credited with cooperating with the country of Japan in 1853, encouraging trade with the United States.

**39 Kwanzan Cherry Trees**

*Prunus serrulata*

This grouping of flowering cherry trees surrounds the monument of Commodore Perry. In May they are covered in pink blossoms, which arrive prior to the leaves.

**40 Information Station**

**41 Old Stone Mill**

**42 Kousa Dogwood**

*Cornus kousa*

**43 Black Walnut**

*Juglans nigra*

Native to the United States, the Black Walnut was introduced into Europe in 1629. The nut has a wonderful flavor, but because of the difficulty in shelling, the Persian walnut has exceeded it in popularity.

Black Walnut is highly prized for its dark-colored true heartwood, historically used for gunstocks, furniture, flooring, paddles, etc.

**44 Fernleaf European Beech**

*Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia'*

From this location look across the street to the large Fernleaf Beeches in front of number 142 Mill Street.

**45 Pollarded Lindens**

Behind the ivy-covered wall you can see linden trees that have been pollarded. This is an artistic pruning style that is begun when the trees are young. Branches are pruned at some location year after year, eventually becoming knob-shaped.

**46 London Plane**

*Platanus acerifolia*

This London Plane is arguably the most impressive sidewalk tree in Newport. Take a moment to stand beneath this majestic beauty and peer up into its canopy.

**47 Horsechestnut**

*Aesculus hippocastanum*

**48 Sawara Cypress**

*Chamaecyparis pisifera*

The Sawara Cypress, introduced to the U.S. in 1861, is native to Japan. The plant pictured in the traditional blue and white “willow pattern” design on pottery and porcelain represents this species. This cypress is a backbone Olmstead conifer; look for it on Newport estates.

**49 Thornless Common Honeylocust**

*Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis*

This salt-tolerant tree provides nice dappled shade during the hot summer months.

**50 Kwanzan Cherry**

*Prunus serrulata*

This tree provides a dependable show of spring color in early May, when it is awash in pink flowers. The flowers appear just before and during the emergence of the tree’s leaves.

**51 Upright English Oak**

*Quercus robur 'Fastigiata'*

This upright oak is a good choice where limited space is a factor.

**52 Information Station**

**53 Scarlet Oaks**

*Quercus coccinea*

The churchyard is planted with Scarlet Oaks along its perimeter. This tree exhibits a glossy dark green foliage in summer, turning scarlet in the fall.

**54 Upright Irish Yew**

*Taxus baccata 'Fastigiata'*

This mature specimen most likely dates to the early years of Trinity Church. This fastigiate form of the English yew was first

discovered in County Fermanagh in what is now Northern Ireland around 1780.

**55 European Beech**

*Fagus sylvatica*

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