

# GILDED AGE SOUTH TREE WALK

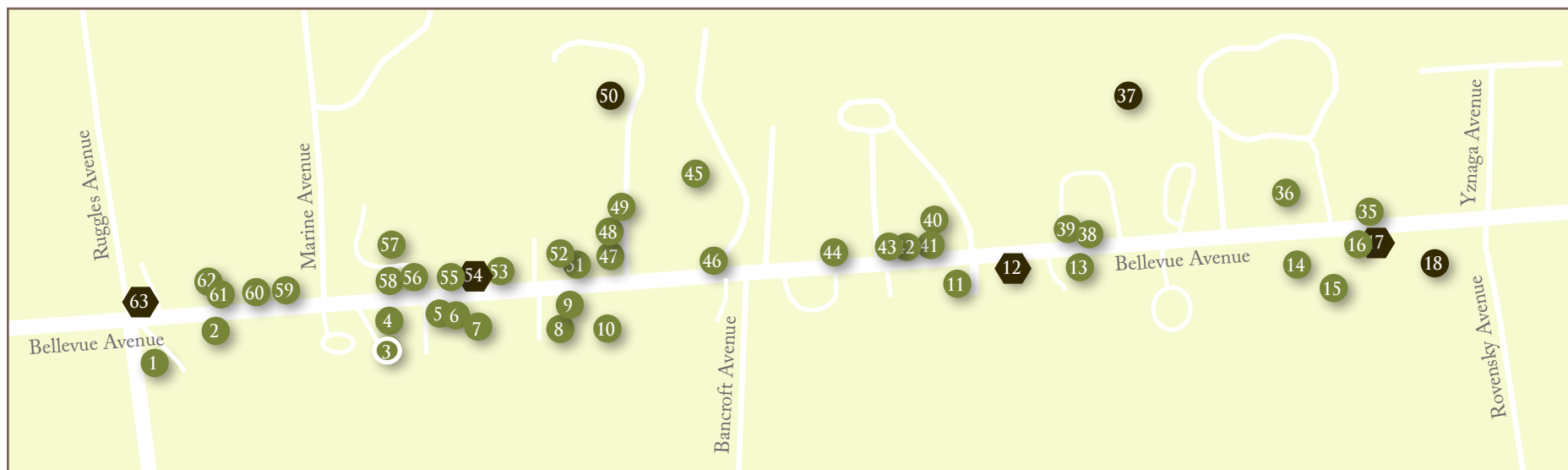
*(2-mile loop)*

- 1 Copper Beech
- 2 European Beech
- 3 Weeping Japanese Maple
- 4 American Yellowwood
- 5 Horsechestnut
- 6 Maidenhair
- 7 Copper Beech
- 8 Fernleaf European Beech
- 9 European Beech
- 10 Katsura

- 11 Katsura
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- 14 Japanese Cedar
- 15 Dawn Redwood
- 16 European Ash
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- 19 River Birch
- 20 Fernleaf European Beech
- 21 Fernleaf European Beech
- 22 Fernleaf European Beech
- 23 Sugar Maple
- 24 Hinoki Falsecypress
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- 26 Rough Point
- 27 Turkey Oak
- 28 London Planetree

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- 31 Turkey Oak
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- 34 Silver Linden
- 35 London Planetree
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- 37 Marble House
- 38 London Planetree
- 39 Copper Beech
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- 41 European Hornbeam
- 42 Weeping European Beech
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- 45 Weeping European Beech
- 46 Littleleaf Linden

- 47 American Elm
- 48 Horsechestnut
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- 50 Rosecliff
- 51 London Planetree
- 52 Turkey Oak
- 53 Littleleaf Linden
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- 55 Tulip Tree
- 56 Magnolia hybrid 'Yellow Bird'
- 57 English Oak
- 58 Oak Leaf Copper Beech
- 59 Maidenhair Tree
- 60 Littleleaf Linden
- 61 Dawn Redwood
- 62 Fernleaf European Beech
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**1 Copper Beech**

*Fagus sylvatica 'Atropunicea'*

Copper or Purple European Beeches are declining in Newport due to old age, stresses from planting conditions and a fungal disease that attacks many of these vulnerable trees, most of which are over 100 years old.

Other beech cultivars are threatened as well, but Copper Beeches appear to be dying at a much faster rate. Newport's landscape, both historically and culturally, would be devastated by the loss of this species.

**2 European Beech**

*Fagus sylvatica*

This row of European Beech trees were all planted over 125 years ago. In front of the trees, notice that beech seedlings have made their way into the hedge.

**3 Weeping Japanese Maple**

*Acer palmatum dissectum atropurpureum*

This red-leafed cultivar is located in the center of the circular driveway.

**4 American Yellowwood**

*Cladrastis kentukea*

This grouping of three young Yellowwood trees are located on the front lawn behind the privet hedge close to the sidewalk. When mature, they can be mistaken for Beech trees due to a similar bark color and texture and similar leaf shapes. The Yellowwood leaves differ from that of the Beech with their bright green leaves in summer and their impressive yellow fall color.

**5 Horsechestnut**

*Aesculus hippocastanum*

This tree is awash in white

flowers during mid-May of each year. Although it is known as a messy tree with dry leaves falling prematurely in late summer and the chestnut fruit cluttering the ground beneath the tree during the fall months, this species has remained a favorite for its stately appearance and show of seasonal color. Generations of children have utilized chestnuts for collecting and making necklaces.

**6 Maidenhair**

*Ginkgo biloba*

A 'living fossil', the Ginkgo tree is one of the oldest surviving plant species on earth (over 150 million years old). At one time native to North America, and considered one of the most primitive plants on earth today, the last surviving species of this unusual genus was rescued from near extinction just over a century ago.

**7 Copper Beech**

*Fagus sylvatica 'Atropunicea'*

**8 Fernleaf European Beech**

*Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia'*

The limbs of this mature specimen of a Fernleaf Beech have been pruned over time to allow the tree to adapt to its location close to the driveway.

**9 European Beech**

*Fagus sylvatica*

A fine example of a European Beech tree. One can imagine how this tree once complemented this former estate during the years when horse-drawn carriages traversed the main drive in place of the automobiles of today.

**10 Katsura**

*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*

This Katsura, to the right of the front door, has an interesting clump-forming (multi-trunk) structure.

**11 Katsura**

*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*

**12 Information Station**

**13 Littleleaf Linden**

*Tilia cordata*

As you approach the drive of this estate, you can find a large Linden tree on the edge of the property that has grown to consume the iron fence. Within the gates is the Silver Linden (*Tilia tomentosa*) with large, silver-backed leaves.

**14 Japanese Cedar**

*Cryptomeria japonica*

Here you see a grouping of Cryptomeria in the park. This tree is the national tree of Japan where it is held in high regard and planted in close proximity to prominent temples and buildings. The wood of this tree is similar in appearance to cedar and is used for paneling in Japan. The plant is found in great abundance growing in forest environments on the islands of the Azores.

**15 Dawn Redwood**

*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

Here we see two Dawn Redwood trees. This tree can easily exceed 100' in height. Unique as a deciduous conifer, this tree's needles grow to a bright green during the summer months and evolve to a rust color in late fall just prior to falling away and leaving the tree bare for the winter months.

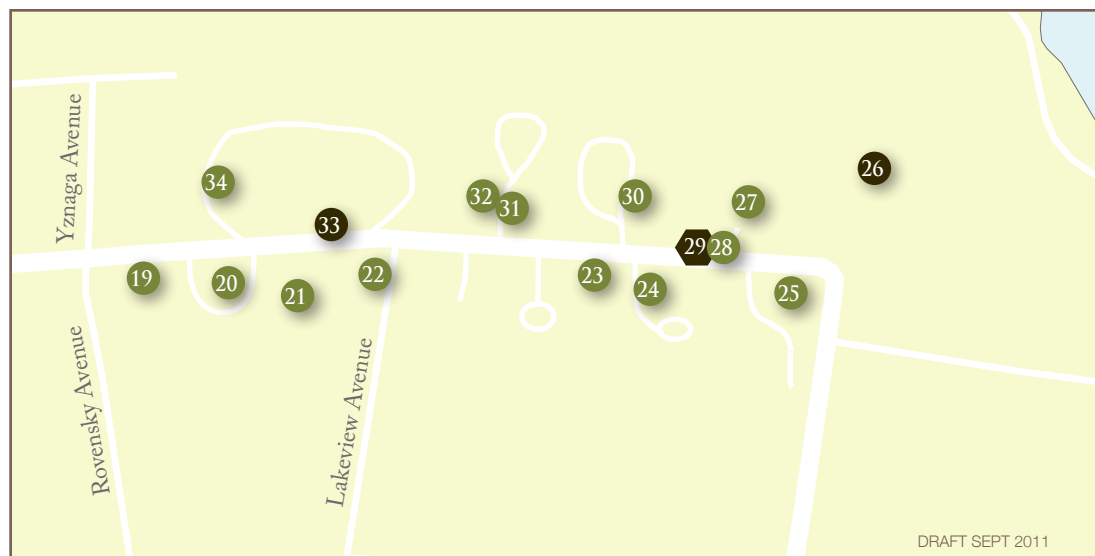
**16 European Ash**

*Fraxinus excelsior*

**17 Information Station**

**18 Rovensky Park**

Rovensky Park was given to the Preservation Society of Newport County in 1959 by John E. Rovensky in memory of his wife, Mae Cadwell Rovensky. (Clarendon Court, directly across the street, was the Rovensky residence.)



In 2011, the Aquidneck Island Land Trust was granted a perpetual conservation easement, ensuring that this extraordinary open space will forever be maintained as a passive, pastoral park for the enjoyment of the public. Many of the park's trees are labeled.

**19 River Birch**  
*Betula nigra*

An ornamental tree valued for its exfoliating bark, its color and texture vary with age and is most appreciated in winter.

**20 Fernleaf European Beech**  
*Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia'*

**21 Fernleaf European Beech**  
*Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia'*

**22 Fernleaf European Beech**  
*Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia'*

**23 Sugar Maple**  
*Acer saccharum*

Sugar Maples have some of the most impressive fall color. They are salt-sensitive and should not be planted by the water.

The winged seeds of the tree are called *samaras*. I.D. tip: Sugar Maple seeds are spherical while Norway Maple seeds are flat.

**24 Hinoki Falsecypress**  
*Chamaecyparis obtusa*

A native of Japan and Taiwan, this conifer was introduced to the United States in 1861. The varying contrast of light and dark on the opposite sides of its

evergreen branches make it a favorite specimen tree.

**25 Horsechestnut**  
*Aesculus hippocastanum*

These Horsechestnuts have re-rooted themselves into the ground, creating a billowing and animated look. A London Planetree (*Platanus x acerifolia*) can be spotted in the distance.

*Cross Bellevue Avenue to continue.*

**26 Rough Point**

The summer home of tobacco heiress, Doris Duke, still decorated as she left it. The expansive grounds were designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.

**27 Turkey Oak**  
*Quercus cerris*

As you peer through the entrance gate to Rough Point, this stately tree serves to frame the magnificent view of the main lawn and ocean beyond.

**28 London Planetree**  
*Platanus x acerifolia*

A magnificent specimen of this hearty tree. This majestic hybrid tree can reach heights of 100' or more at maturity.

Tolerant of air pollution and soil compaction, the London Planetree is most appreciated and planted for its stately appearance and its interesting bark.

**29 Information Station**

**30 Japanese Cedar**  
*Cryptomeria japonica*

Just inside the entrance of this estate, you can see a stand of mature Japanese Cedar grouped with some Rhododendron at their base.

**31 Turkey Oak**  
*Quercus cerris*

**32 Fernleaf European Beech**  
*Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia'*

**33 Trumbauer and Greber**

This estate and the Elms share the same building architect (Horace Trumbauer) and landscape architect (Jacques Greber).

Looking past the fountain, note the *Chamaecyparis picifera filifera* 'Aurea' that were once the anchors for a very elaborate parterre garden. The Beech and Linden trees along the gate most likely formed a deciduous backdrop to the garden as viewed from the house.

**34 Silver Linden**  
*Tilia tomentosa*

Looking through the left gate, note this large specimen on the right side of the driveway (as the drive turns back toward the house).

**35 London Planetree**  
*Platanus x acerifolia*

Just as the brick wall begins, note the beautiful puzzle bark of this grand tree.

**36 Maidenhair Tree**  
*Ginkgo biloba*

Growing beyond the oak tree is one of Newport's largest Ginkgo trees.

**37 Marble House**

Marble House was built between 1888 and 1892 for Mr. and Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt. Mr. Vanderbilt was the grandson of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, who established the family's fortune in steamships and the New York Central Railroad.

**38 London Planetree**  
*Platanus x acerifolia*

**39 Copper Beech**  
*Fagus sylvatica 'Atropunicea'*

**40 Maidenhair Tree**  
*Ginkgo biloba*

**41 European Hornbeam**  
*Carpinus betulus*

Note the smooth bark and muscular growth of this tree which is situated in front of and just to the left of a Maidenhair Tree.

**42 Weeping European Beech**  
*Fagus sylvatica 'Pendula'*

**43 Copper Beech**  
*Fagus sylvatica 'Atropunicea'*

**44 Weeping European Beech**  
*Fagus sylvatica 'Pendula'*

**45 Weeping European Beech**  
*Fagus sylvatica 'Pendula'*

**46 Littleleaf Linden**  
*Tilia cordata*

Note the deeply-grooved root flare in this grove of three Lindens.

**47 American Elm**  
*Ulmus americana*

**48 Horsechestnut**  
*Aesculus hippocastanum*

**49 Weeping European Beech**  
*Fagus sylvatica 'Pendula'*

**50 Rosecliff**

Built 1898-1902 (and now home to the annual Newport Flower Show), architect Stanford White modeled Rosecliff after the Grand Trianon, the garden retreat of French kings at Versailles.

**51 London Planetree**  
*Platanus x acerifolia*

This is a wonderful opportunity to study the marvelous puzzle bark of the London Planetree.

**52 Turkey Oak**  
*Quercus cerris*

Also note the example of a very young Turkey Oak to the left of this mature specimen.

**53 Littleleaf Linden**  
*Tilia cordata*

Pleaching is the art of training trees into formal hedgerows. A labor intensive practice, pleaching was first seen in late medieval gardens of Europe.

**54 Information Station**

**55 Tulip Tree**

*Liriodendron tulipifera*

Another common name for Tulip tree is canoe wood. This is because eastern Native Americans used the fine grain trunks of this tree to carve out canoes.

This tree is related to the magnolia tree and displays impressive tulip-shaped flowers. These flowers go mostly unnoticed by passersby due to the fact that the trees grow so tall and the flowers are not readily visible unless one makes a concerted effort to look up into the tree's branches at flowering time. It is well worth the effort, and a pair of binoculars will help to enhance the experience.

**56 Magnolia hybrid 'Yellow Bird'**

**57 English Oak**

*Quercus robur*

Note this fine specimen towering above the Oak Leaf Copper Beech.

**58 Oak Leaf Copper Beech**

*Fagus sylvatica 'Rohanii'*

A striking Beech cultivar, 'Rohanii' has the strong form of a beech and the lobed leaves of an oak.

**59 Maidenhair Tree**

*Ginkgo biloba*

**60 Littleleaf Linden**

*Tilia cordata*

Notice the two gnarly speci-

mens to the left of the *Ginkgo biloba*.

**61 Dawn Redwood**

*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

Once considered to be extinct in the wild, a group of Dawn Redwood trees was found in China in the 1940's by the great plant hunter Ernest Wilson of the Arnold Arboretum. Just a few years later, the collected seeds were propagated by the Arnold Arboretum. It is also one of the few deciduous conifers. Unlike most conifers, it sheds its needles in the winter.

**62 Fernleaf European Beech**

*Fagus sylvatica 'Asplenifolia'*

**63 Information Station**

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The Newport Arboretum*

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