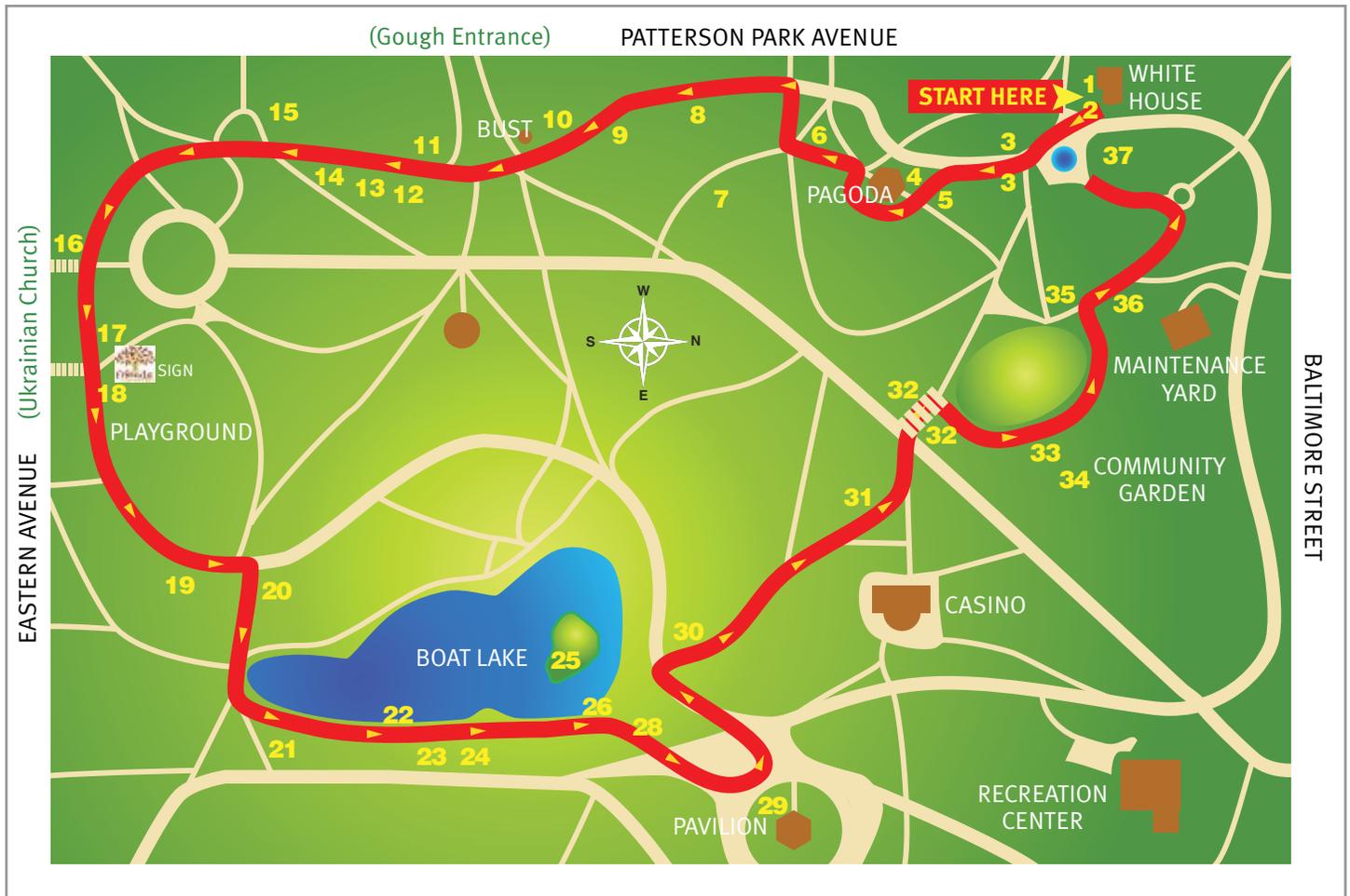


Patterson Park Guided Tree Walk

A one-hour loop trail. Download an audio podcast at pattersonpark.com.



On April 19, 1827, Baltimore merchant William Patterson presented the city of Baltimore with the first six acres of what is today one of Baltimore's best-loved parks, a picturesque urban oasis of 137 acres. This Guided Tree Walk takes you through the west side of the park, conceived as a Victorian pleasure ground. Enjoy the pastoral vistas as we amble along the park's gently curving paths and learn about several dozen of the park's tree species. Our walk begins at the White House (offices of the Friends of Patterson Park) at the Lombard Street entrance. We will then wend our way past the Marble Fountain, the four-story Pagoda, loop down around the Boat Lake, walk back up past the rustic stone Casino, the Bullshead Circle, and finish up back at the Marble Fountain.

JOIN THE

Friends of Patterson Park Tree Team!

We meet the fourth Saturday of every month (April-October)
at 9 a.m. Please call [410-276-3676](tel:410-276-3676) or
email volunteer@pattersonpark.com
for more information.

The Patterson Park Guided Tree Walk has been created in partnership with
THE BALTIMORE TREE TRUST.



To learn more about the way trees serve the planet,
go on-line to check out the Maryland Tree Benefits Calculator.

1. On the small lawn immediately in front of the White House (1866) grows a **WHITE OAK** (*Quercus alba*). The white oak is the Maryland state tree and this handsome specimen is an offspring of Maryland's famous Wye Oak, the largest white oak in America (96 feet tall) when it fell over in a storm June 6, 2002. That majestic tree near Wye Mills dated back to 1543. Yes, the Wye Oak was 459 years! Settlers loved the Eastern white oak wood for making log cabins, furniture, and ships. Migrating warblers in spring and fall love them, too.
2. Right across the path stands a somewhat taller **ENGLISH OAK** (*Quercus robur*), one of the forty-three species of oak trees found in the Eastern United States. Also known as the Common Oak, this species' bark was once used to brew astringent medicinal teas. Why is it that squirrels eat some oak tree acorns in the fall and bury others? Somehow they know which have the most tannins, and those they store, for they last better.
3. 3) As we go past the fountain and follow the main path down (south) towards the park's signature structure—the Pagoda (1891, restored 2002)—we pass on each side several towering **GINGKO** (*Ginkgo biloba*) trees, quite fitting because ginkgoes were brought to Europe from Japan in the 1700s. In Asia, ginkgoes are a sacred tree, planted near temples and monasteries. These trees have an ancient lineage going back 260 million years, yet are highly tolerant of modern urban life. Today, ginkgoes flourish in cities all over the world. In the fall, their unique fan-shaped foliage turns a gorgeous gold-yellow. The female trees are infamous for their stinky yellow cherry-sized fruits. What few of us know is that the ginkgo tree creates its off-spring (the stinky fruits) using live sperm! Trees play a big role in cooling and filtering city air. A mature tree like one of these ginkgoes can bring down the temperature by ten degrees, while absorbing up to 240 pounds of air pollutants yearly, including 26 pounds of carbon dioxide, thus cutting down smog.
4. If you're taking this walk in the spring, you will see two beautiful **SAUCER MAGNOLIA** (*Manolia x soulangeana*) trees in full pink-white flower framing the Pagoda. Again, the Asian theme holds, for these deciduous magnolias are an 1820s hybrid of China's ivory white yulan magnolia and Japan's lily magnolia, named after Etienne Soulange-Bodin (1774-1846), director of the Royal Institute of Horticulture near Paris. Magnolias are evolutionarily so ancient, they predate bees and thus have sturdy flowers meant to be pollinated by beetles.
5. While you're enjoying the views of the lower park and Highlandtown from behind the Pagoda, look over to your left and notice a line of young fan-shaped **CHERRY TREES** (*Prunus serrulata*), some of the 800 trees planted by volunteers since 2000. On the far left, continuing the Asian theme, are a series of **CRAPE MYRTLES** (*Lagerstroemia*), small flowering trees. And, as you start down the hill on the smaller path (a lone cannon will be on your left), notice to your right a young American Redbud, a native understory tree identifiable by its heart-shaped leaves. In the spring, its slender branches are cheery with tiny clustered bright pink flowers.
6. Continue on the downhill cobblestone path and observe on your right with awe this magnificent towering **LITTLE LEAF LINDEN** (*Tilia cordata*). In June, Lindens are covered with little yellow flowers that perfume the air and are beloved of honey bees and bumble bees. Hence, the Linden's nickname of "bee tree." Long ago, men used the tree's fibrous inner bark, known as bast, to make string, rope, and fishing

nets. The leaves were lopped off to feed cows, for their fatty acids made for rich milk. Today the long-lived linden is a favored city tree for its tolerance of pollution and drought.

7. Continuing on this downhill cobblestone path, right ahead you will see a large **HORSE CHESTNUT TREE** (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) with its distinctive six-part palmate leaves. Despite its name, this is not really a chestnut, but a European relative (native to the Balkans) of the American buckeye. In the spring, it boasts large creamy pyramid flowers that will turn into spiky fruits holding shiny, polished fruits that look like chestnuts. Do not eat!! In England, they play a game called “conkers” with these shiny nuts. Two players face off with one of these nuts on a string drilled through the center and vie to see which can smash the other’s “conker” first. (You can see it on YouTube.) Nearby you will notice many smaller trees planted since 2000, including numerous red maples whose leaves are ablaze in the fall.
8. Turn right on the paved path, walk by the Ginkgo and return to the main downhill path. About 50 yards down the walkway on your left is a **HACKBERRY** (*Celtis occidentalis*). Part of the elm family, it has distinctive corky bark, and a small hard round fruit seed popular with birds. It is largely a fast-growing ornamental, for its wood is not valued as lumber.
9. Continue and on your left find a **NORWAY MAPLE** (*Acer platanoides*). In the mid-1700s, Quaker nurseryman John Bartram introduced this tree to North America, and it was prized for its fast growth and tolerance of shade, pollution, and bad soil. George Washington was among the many who planted Norway maples. Today, it has fallen out of favor as a city tree, due to its invasive domination in woodlands. You can distinguish it from other maples by its pure yellow leaves late in the fall.
10. Continue down the path a ways and at the park’s Gough Street entrance is a beautiful **SWEETGUM** (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) shading the statue of German composer Conradin Kreutzer (1915). The Latin name comes from the “liquid amber” that exudes from the bark and in colonial times was used for everything from treating dysentery to chewing gum! In summer, the round spiky fruits, nicknamed “monkey balls” and “sticker balls,” are delightful ornaments. When they go to seed in October, gold finches like to eat them. By fall, when the glossy star-shaped leaves turn an amazing array of rainbow colors—yellow, orange, red, and purple, the spiky fruits turn brown and litter the ground.
11. At the other side of the Gough Street entrance, on the right stands a gigantic **ENGLISH ELM** (*Ulmus americana*). Readily identifiable by its three large pruning cuts, this grandfather American elm is a magnificent centuries-old tree. Once, most American villages and cities were shaded with this graceful American species, but since 1930, Dutch elm disease spread by a bark beetle has largely decimated them.
12. Continue down the main path about 100 feet to where the lamp post is. Looking left about 35 feet off the path you’ll see a forty-foot-high **JAPANESE ZELKOVA** (*Zelkova serrata*), a graceful, fan-shaped tree with small feathery leaves and a beautiful grey bark mottled with patches of pale orange. In recent decades, as American elms began dying, they have been replaced by Zelkova elms. Though these lovely

trees will not become as towering as American elms, they are resistant to Dutch elm disease, and also withstand drought and heat, key to flourishing in Baltimore summers.

- 13.** To the right of the Zelkova and next to the path is a not-very-healthy **NORTHERN RED OAK** (*Quercus rubra*) with a rather spiraled, striated trunk. There are hundreds of kinds of oak trees, but this fast-growing genus is the most common in the Northeast. Beloved of lumbermen for its swift growth, the red oak turns a lovely red-rust in the fall. The tree's acorns, now mainly prized by squirrels and blue jays, were important fodder for domesticated pigs rooting about in oak forests.
- 14.** Continue on the main path for fifty feet and look left to see the **OSAGE ORANGE** (*Maclura pomifera*). This old tree's two twisted trunks form a striking natural sculpture. A native of the Red River Valley in Texas and Oklahoma, the Osage Orange gets its name from the Osage Indians who lived in that area and the slight orange smell of the tree's distinctive bumpy lime-green softball-sized fruits. A male tree, this has no fruit. Known as hedgeapples, the fruits are used to ward off insects, and for decorative arrangement and crafts. The tree's wood was prized by Indians for making bows.
- 15.** Look to the right 50 feet off the path and notice a majestic **EUROPEAN TURKEY OAK** (*Quercus cerris*). As one of its common names is a Lombard oak, one wonders if that inspired its planting in the vicinity of Lombard Street by a botanically minded punster?
- 16.** Continue heading south on the main path towards the golden domes of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church. When you get to where the path parallels Eastern Avenue, notice the many **HONEY LOCUST** (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) trees framing the golden domes. Their tiny oval leaves on long slender stems create a wonderfully airy, pretty canopy. A native of the Mississippi River states, the honey locust gets its name from the sweetness of the pulp in its long leathery pods. It has also proved to be America's toughest urban street tree—the predominating species in Manhattan. Where Montford Street meets Eastern Avenue is another **HACKBERRY** (*Celtis Occidentalis*) with that interesting bark.
- 17.** Follow the main path as it curves downhill (and east) by the fenced children's playground. You'll notice two more big Osage Orange trees on either side of the uphill playground fence that is coming up in our walk.
- 18.** As you continue along the playground path, it's hard to miss just inside the playground fence on your left, the **AMERICAN SYCAMORE** (*Platanus occidentalis*) with its bright bleached white bark. Sycamores are some of the giants of the woodlands, growing more than a hundred feet tall. And like the oak, they can live for centuries. As sycamores grow, they shed their bark in peels, creating that beautiful mottled look.
- 19.** On the right, at the bottom of the playground and to the right side of the path is a gigantic **PIN OAK** (*Quercus palustris*). A native of the Eastern United States, these trees do not become as huge as other kinds of oaks and rarely live more than a century. Unlike most deciduous trees, pin oaks do not shed their leaves in the fall. All winter, the dead leaves remain on the branches until strong winds, rain, or fresh spring leaves push them off.

20. Continue on the main path and you will pass another towering **NORTHERN RED OAK** (*Quercus rubra*) with its more columnar appearance. Beyond to the left are young **SAWTOOTH OAKS** (*Quercus acutissima*). The long narrow leaves with a saw-like edge look nothing like the typical oak leaf, and their acorns are especially charming—like shaggy-haired little heads.
21. Turn right at the tall oak and take the path here that heads toward the Boat Lake (renovated 2003). As the path curves round the bottom of the boat lake, on your right see a row of young **LINDENS**, that reliable city tree beloved of the bees. The Boat Lake is home to a large flock of mallards, wood ducks who nest in tree hollows, little grebes, and redwing blackbirds, which love the cattails, as well as dozens of other species of migrating birds. The Audubon Society, which has a nearby office, gives regular guided bird walks in the park. Check Friends of Patterson Park website for the schedule.
22. To your left alongside the Boat Lake grow a row of multi-trunked slender **RIVER BIRCH** (*Betula nigra*), lovely trees with cinnamon-tan peeling bark and small leaves that dance in the breeze. As the name says, these trees thrive near water. Native Americans used to boil their sap to make a sweet syrup.
23. To your right is a tremendous **SILVER MAPLE** (*Acer saccharinum*), whose giant girth and deep furrowed bark are striking. This maple is so named because the underside of its leaf is a silvery-white. When the breeze ruffles through these trees, the green/silver leaves make a pretty show. Native Americans long used its bark to treat sore eyes, cramps, coughs, and sores.
24. Just to the left of the **SILVER MAPLE** is a large **GREEN ASH** (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), its sturdy trunk showing the species distinctive deep furrows. This is the wood most preferred for making electric guitars! When full grown, an ash tops 120 feet. Sadly, the Emerald Ash Borer, a 1998 invader from East Asia, has already decimated millions of ash trees in the Midwest and poses a threat to East Coast trees. It has arrived in Maryland, and it is expected to show up in Baltimore in coming years, a serious threat to one of our most common city trees.
25. On the island of the Boat Lake stands a **BABYLON WEeping WILLOW** (*Salix babylonica*), that ultimate riverbank tree, fast-growing with its curtains of elegant, ground-sweeping branches. The tree's long thin flexible branches (stripped of their sinuous slender leaves and fuzzy catkins) have traditionally been used to make wicker furniture and baskets. It was in willow bark that early scientists first isolated salicylic acid, the pain-relieving and anti-inflammatory ingredient. In 1897, Bayer developed a synthetic version of the drug and marketed it as aspirin.
26. On the left of the path as we amble along stand a grove of **FLOWERING CHERRY** (*Prunus Serrulata*).
27. We're still at the lower part of the Boat Lake. If you look up towards the Pagoda, its peaked roof hovers just above a lustrous grove of **SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA** (*Magnolia grandiflora*), shiny-leaved evergreens on the Boat Lake's upper right bank. A native of the American Deep South, the magnolia's large creamy white flowers blossom in the spring (and a few in late summer), perfuming the air with

a lemony fragrance. The soft cone-like upright fruit that develops after the flowers has brilliant scarlet seeds beloved of birds and squirrels. If you're lucky in the spring, you'll see black-crown night herons or great egrets perching here in the sturdy branches.

- 28.** Just to your left at the end of the Boat Lake is one of the park's oldest and most magnificent trees, an **ENGLISH ELM** (*Ulmus procera*). Based on the tree's incredibly broad trunk, multiple huge branches, and broad stately canopy, this elm could well be more than 200 years old. This grandfather tree (as such ancients are called) offers a deep and welcoming shade on warm days. Sadly, you can see the tree is in decline. At a time when so many of the park's old elms have died, this is a reminder of what has been lost. Britain itself lost most of its English elms to Dutch elm disease in the 1970s and 1980s.
- 29.** From here if you look north (towards E. Baltimore Street) you'll see an open-air pavilion. In front of that stands a very large and old **WEeping SCOTTISH ELM** (*Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii'). These rare pendulous specimen trees were first created in 1835-40 near Dundee, Scotland, when the Earl of Camperdown's chief forester produced the original weeping elm through grafting. These weeping elms were quite the rage in the Victorian era and thus well-suited to Patterson Park. This tree's trunk is a sculpture worth seeing.
- 30.** Retrace your steps towards the Boat Head, but then head briefly uphill to where the path forks towards the rustic stone Casino, a Victorian term for Italian villa, (1893, restored 2007). Go right onto this path whose beginning is marked (on the left hand side) by a seven-trunked **MULBERRY TREE** (*Morus*). King James I sent white mulberries and silk worms to the Virginia Colony, the first of numerous failed efforts to start a silk industry in this country. While silk worms depend on their leaves, birds love mulberry fruits, and have helped the trees spread swiftly. This is a male tree and thus has no fruits. Walking uphill to the Casino, notice a few young oaks along the path.
- 31.** Hold left at the fork and walk up towards the Bullshead Circle. Enjoy the view of the Pagoda, continue past the Casino and notice dominating the grove of trees a **SMOOTH LEAF ELM** (*Ulmus carpinifolia*), another beautiful elm with handsome rough-hewn bark of wavy grey. This is the most common elm in Europe, and here it shares a grove with more mulberry trees and a sweet gum tree. If you look closely at the elm's bark, you'll notice endless "drill holes," the work of hungry sapsucker birds looking for insects.
- 32.** Walking up the steps to the Bullshead Circle, these new trees are **PRINCETON ELMS** (*Ulmus americana*, 'Princeton'), planted to replace the four magnificent elms that have died since 2004. The Princeton Elm was first developed and planted on city streets before Dutch Elm disease struck in the 1930s. In tests at the National Arboretum, this elm was the hardiest. Over 95 percent of Princeton elms planted along streets seventy-five years ago survive today, making them that rare American elm largely resistant to Dutch elm disease. And so, those who remember the majesty of whole streets canopied by elms hope the Princeton variant will create urban bowers once again. A number of other DED-tolerant American elms have been developed and are also being planted.

- 33.** At the Bullshead Circle, to your right you'll see the fenced-in community gardens, filled with flowers and vegetables during the growing seasons. There is a grove of trees just off the path (go northeast) that includes several large **BLACK MAPLES** (*Acer nigrum*) with beautiful dark sculptured bark. These trees can be tapped for maple syrup. It takes forty gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup, which contains minerals like potassium and calcium, folic acid, and vitamin A.
- 34.** Go a bit deeper into this little forest patch and you'll see a lovely grove of **WILLOW OAK** (*Quercus phellos*), another oak whose slender, elegant leaves look nothing like what we expect from an oak tree. But its little, shallow acorns are the definitive clue. This was Thomas Jefferson's favorite tree. Ironically—since Jefferson was no fan of cities—these trees have turned out to be great street trees and once you recognize them—not hard with their distinctive leaves—you'll notice huge ones on various city streets and avenues.
- 35.** As you come back out to the Bullshead Circle, there is another gigantic **LINDEN**, just above the Bull's Head bas-relief. Trees, especially mature trees like this, play a vital role in absorbing and filtering city rain water, not just through its roots, but through the actual leaves and bark. In the course of the year, this linden will absorb about 700 gallons of rainwater. Engineers and planners have begun suggesting planting large swaths of trees to handle storm run-off rather than build more expensive storm water systems.
- 36.** Hold right on the path towards the city's maintenance yard. Notice the frothy bright foliage of these **CHINESE SCHOLAR** Trees (*Styphnolobium japonicum Schott*) with their clusters of white and yellow flowers in the summer, followed in the fall by almost lime-green seed pods. The Chinese view this long-lived tree (some as old as 500 years!) as a symbol of luck and happiness. Residents of Beijing have chosen it as their city tree. Though a native to China--a French Jesuit missionary sent the tree's first dried pods to the west in 1747—it is also known as a Japanese Pagoda Tree.
- 37.** As you head back towards the Marble Fountain, you'll see to the far right a trio of **ENGLISH HAWTHORN** trees (*Crataegus monogyna*), small slender trees with fearsome thorns. The Hawthorn's white flowers are a herald of spring, while its small fall berries are loved by birds. In Welsh folklore, as the goddess of the hawthorn walked through an empty universe her white petals became the Milky Way.
- 38.** As we return to the Marble Fountain, look once again at the large **GINGKO** tree across and to your right. In the many discussions of climate change and carbon footprints, we hear about the importance of trees for carbon sequestration. A giant tree like this not only sequesters about 1600 pounds of carbon a year, it absorbs 6,000 gallons of storm water.