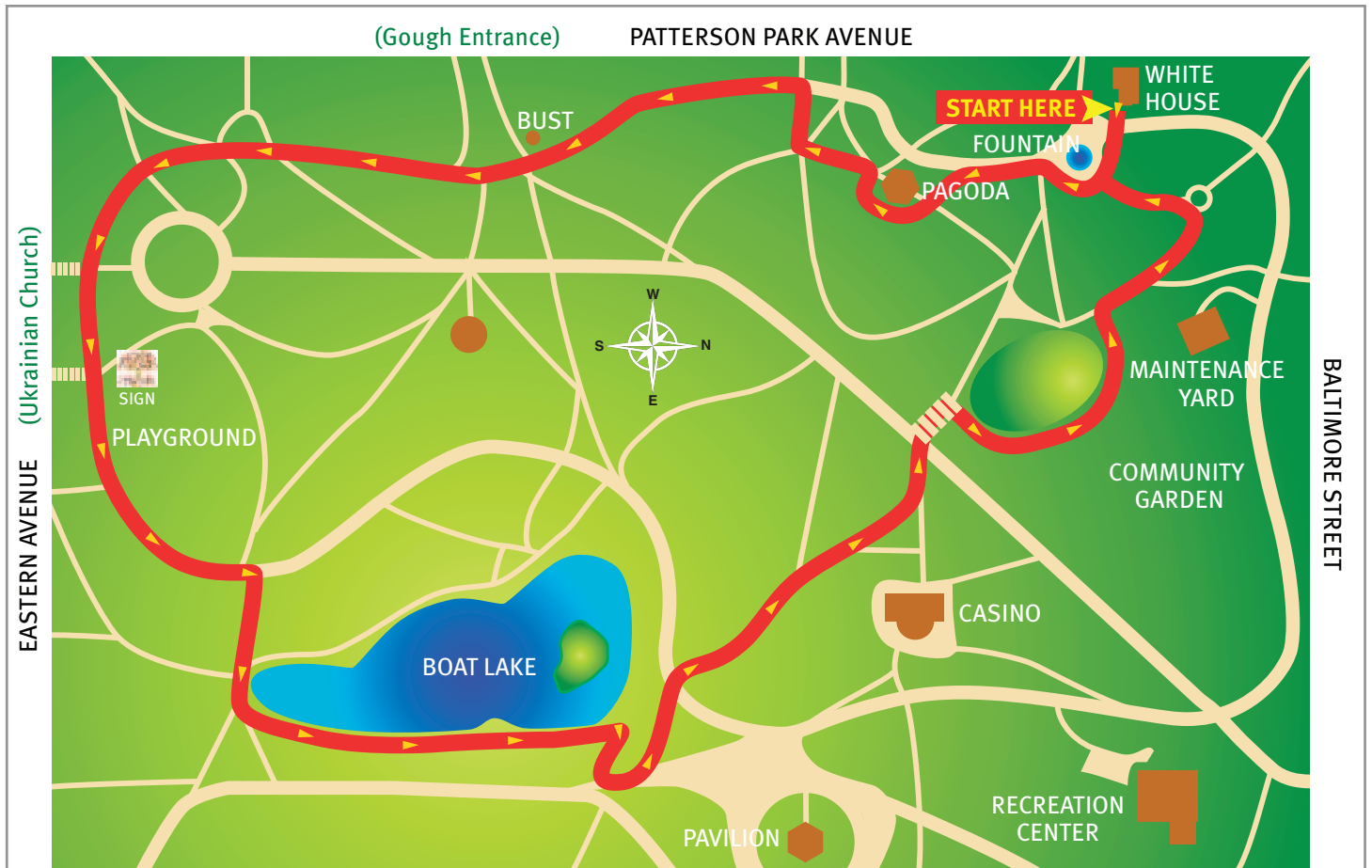


Patterson Park Guided Tree Walk

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.



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 much 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. As you walk towards the circular Marble Fountain (1865, restored 2004), on the left on the lawn stands a **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.
4. As we go round 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 ginkgos were brought to Europe from Japan in the 1700s. In Asia, ginkgos 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, ginkgos flourish in cities all over the world. In the fall, their unique fan-shaped foliage turns a gorgeous gold-yellow.

Trees play a big role in cooling and filtering city air. A mature tree like one of these ginkgos 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.

5. If you're taking this walk in the spring, you will see two beautiful **SAUCER MAGNOLIA** (*Magnolia 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.
6. 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 sp.*), 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 far to your right a miniature weeping cherry, whose pendulous branches serve as a leafy curtain to small children seeking shady hiding places.

7. Staying straight 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. Nearby you will notice many smaller trees planted since 2000, including numerous red maples whose leaves are ablaze in the fall.
8. 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.
9. Turn right, walk by the Ginkgo and return to the main downhill path. About 100 yards down 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. At the other side of the Gough Street entrance, on the right stands a gigantic **AMERICAN 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 these graceful shade trees (hence, the huge number of Elm Streets), but since 1930, Dutch elm disease spread by a bark beetle has largely decimated them.

- 13.** 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 twenty-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.
- 14.** To the right of the Zelkova (s) is a handsome **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.
- 15.** 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.
- 16.** On the right is another majestic **WHITE OAK** (*Quercus alba*).
- 17.** And right next to the oak is a handsome **SYCAMORE MAPLE** (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Native to the mountains of Europe, these hardy trees are rare in Baltimore. Like the Norway Maple, foresters are now leery of further planting them here because of their domination of native woodlands. Children will always love the whirligig seedpods that spin down in fall and fit nicely on small noses. The tree's fine-grained wood makes good kitchen tables because it has no scent and cleans well. Maple wood is also prized for making oars and paddles.
- 18.** Continue heading south on the main path towards the golden domes of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church. As the path parallels Eastern Avenue, notice the many **HONEY LOCUST** (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) trees. 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.
- 19.** 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. Where Montford Street meets Eastern Avenue is another **HACKBERRY** (*Celtis Occidentalis*) with that interesting bark.

20. Look across to the partly renovated loft building at 2413 Eastern Avenue to get your bearings. To the right of the path is a young **WHITE ASH** (*Fraxinus Americana*), its grey bark already showing the species distinctive deep furrows. From the 1890s on, most American baseball bats were made of white ash, giving that memorable crack! as the bat hit the ball. Today, ash is still used for some 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.
21. **AMERICAN SYCAMORE** (*Platanus occidentalis*) The bright bleached white bark of this sycamore tree standing just inside the playground fence makes it hard to miss. 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 distinctive and beautiful mottled look.
22. On the right, at the bottom of the playground is a majestic **PIN OAK** (*Quercus palustris*). A native of the Eastern United States, these trees do not become as gigantic 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.
23. 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 edges look nothing like the typical oak leaf, and their acorns are especially charming—like shaggy-haired little heads.
24. Turn right here and head toward the Boat Lake (renovated 2003). You'll see 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.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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.

28. On the left of the path as we amble along stand a grove of **FLOWERING CHERRY** (*Prunus sp.*).
29. 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.
30. 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. Numerous picnic tables have been arrayed under the elm's massive branches. 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.
31. Head left and uphill and as the path forks, continue up towards the rustic stone Casino, a Victorian term for Italian villa, (1893, restored 2007). Take the path whose beginning is marked 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 the young oaks now lining each side of the path
32. Hold left at the fork and walk up towards the Bullshead Circle. Towering above the grove of trees here is 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 sweetgum. If you look closely at the elm's bark, you'll notice endless "drill holes," the work of hungry sapsucker birds looking for insects.
33. 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.

- 34.** At the Bullshead Circle, to your right you'll see the fenced-in community gardens, filled with flowers and vegetables during the growing seasons. Behind you are 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.
- 35.** Just behind them is 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.
- 36.** If you come back out to the Bullshead Circle, to the left is another gigantic **LINDEN**. 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.
- 37.** Follow the path past the Bullshead and hold right 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.
- 38.** As you head back towards the Marble Fountain, you'll see 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.
- 39.** 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.

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