



A self-guided
WALKING TOUR
of
NOTABLE TREES
in CHATHAM'S OLD VILLAGE

This tour is about two miles long and takes one hour at a leisurely pace. It begins and ends at the Eldredge Public Library at 564 Main Street in the center of Chatham. Start at Tree #1 and have fun finding some of Chatham's most notable trees.

Many of the trees on this tour are notable not because they are beautiful or old, but because they are survivors. Frequent storms bring wind, ice, and lightening that often damage or destroy our trees. Many survive nature's storms but then fall victim to development.

We all share a concern for preserving our landscape and the trees that give Chatham its character. If you enjoyed this walking tour, consider donating to Chatham's Friends of Trees.



For more information and to find out how you can help, please visit our website:

www.friendsoftreeschatham.org

Walkers: Please keep to the roadway or sidewalk at all times and respect private property. Dogs must be leashed and dog owners must clean up after their animals.



1 Horsechestnut - *Aesculus hippocastanum*

At the corner of Library Lane and Main Street is a Horse-chestnut, sometimes known as the Buckeye, one of the first trees to leaf out in spring. It has handsome white or red flowers in May, followed by a nut-like toxic fruit. It tends to develop leaf scorch in warm, dry summers and may prematurely drop its leaves. Due to its size, it is best planted in parks and other large areas.



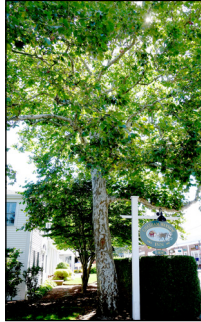
2 American Elm - *Ulmus americana*

Next to Town Hall on Main Street by the parking lot, is a young American Elm "Princeton." It is native to eastern North America and has shown resistance to Dutch elm disease and the elm leaf beetle. It makes a fine lawn, shade or street tree that grows well under a variety of conditions.



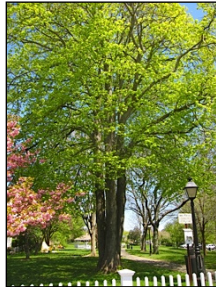
3 Sycamore - *Platanus occidentalis*

At the Wayside Inn at 512 Main Street is a fast-growing native Sycamore whose mottled bark is a stand-out in winter. Its wood is hard and often used for furniture and butcher blocks. Sycamores like to grow along the banks of rivers where they often become one of our tallest native trees.



4 American Linden - *Tilia americana*

The first tree on the left inside Kate Gould Park is a tall, stately Linden tree native to eastern North America. When flowering in June it is full of bees that produce a strong-flavored honey from the nectar. The flowers are also used to make a fragrant tea. The wood is soft and valued for carving and making guitars.



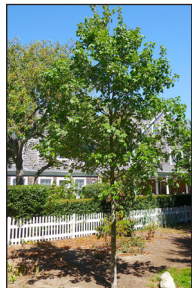
5 Black Tupelo - *Nyssa sylvatica*

The Black Tupelo in Kate Gould Park is one of our most beautiful native trees. Its fruit is eaten by many birds and mammals. It prefers moist, well-drained soil in a sheltered location. Plant it for its outstanding summer and fall foliage. It is a stately tree that makes an excellent shade tree for lawns or streets.



6 Red Maple - *Acer rubrum*

This native Red Maple in Kate Gould Park is called "October Glory" for its brilliant fall foliage. It is an excellent specimen tree for lawns or parks. It tends to be adaptable in most soils but likes some protection from wind. The early red flowers let us know spring is here.



7 Silver Maple - *Acer saccharinum*

Between The Squire and the Mayflower on Main Street is a native Silver Maple, distinguished by the silver color of the underside of its leaves. This maple tolerates poor soils and its vigorous root system often causes sidewalks to buckle. It provides welcome shade in summer and habitat for birds and insects, but becomes a liability with age.



8 River Birch - *Betula nigra*

In the courtyard near the Mayflower grows a wonderful native River Birch. This tree is best known for its peeling reddish brown bark and resistance to disease and insects that plague most birches. It grows best in moist, acid soil.



9 American Linden - *Tilia americana*

Just past the Mayflower Shop, turn right on Mill Pond Road. At the Mill Pond, the road continues uphill to Homestead Lane. A grove of six native Lindens is on the right with numerous low spreading branches that provide shade and habitat for birds and insects.



10 Siberian Elm - *Ulmus pumila*

A right turn onto Main Street leads past two old Siberian Elms. This Elm is highly resistant to Dutch elm disease and was widely planted as a replacement for the American Elm that succumbed to the disease.



11 American Elm - *Ulmus americana*

From Main Street, turn right on School Street. Near a rock pillar on the left is a native American Elm, the state tree of Massachusetts. It was planted in the 1800s, making it one of Chatham's oldest trees. The Historic Elm Institute has designated this tree a historic landmark.



12 Red Maple - *Acer rubrum*

At the corner of School and Water Streets are two very old Red Maples. In early spring, a cluster of red buds and tiny red flowers distinguish this tree.



13 Northern Catalpa - *Catalpa speciosa*

A right turn onto Silverleaf Avenue brings walkers to the heart of the Old Village. About half-way down on the left is an old Catalpa tree. Bell-shaped white flowers grace the tree in late May. If you look closely you can see a long scar in the trunk where this tree was hit by lightning and survived.



14 Horsechestnut - *Aesculus hippocastanum*

A lovely spreading Horsechestnut is on the left a bit further down Silverleaf Avenue. This tree is striking for its convoluted trunk and branch structure which are most apparent in winter. It is native to Greece and Albania.



15 Copper Beech - *Fagus sylvatica*

On Water Street just off Main Street, is the queen of the walking tour in terms of age and stately elegance in all seasons. In winter the elephant-hide-like bark is stunning; in summer the copper foliage is unrivaled. There is no finer tree in Chatham.



MAP LEGEND:

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|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Horsechestnut - Eldredge Public Library | 7 Silver Maple - Main Street | 13 Northern Catalpa - Silverleaf Ave. |
| 2 American Elm "Princeton" - Town Hall | 8 River Birch - Courtyard | 14 Horsechestnut - Silverleaf Ave. |
| 3 Sycamore - Wayside Inn | 9 Linden Grove - Homestead Lane | 15 Copper Beech - Water Street |
| 4 American Linden - Kate Gould Park | 10 Siberian Elms - Main Street | |
| 5 Black Tupelo - Kate Gould Park | 11 American Elm - School Street | |
| 6 Red Maple - Kate Gould Park | 12 Red Maples - Water Street | |



Founded in 1978, Friends of Trees, Inc. is a non-profit organization that has planted hundreds of trees on Chatham's streets and parks, many in memory of loved ones and friends. Through education and grants, Friends of Trees is promoting an awareness of the environmental, economic, and aesthetic benefits that trees provide our community. With your help, Friends of Trees can continue its work of keeping Chatham green and beautiful. Thank you.