

## TREES OF BALLARD PARK

Situated in the heart of historic downtown Ridgefield, Ballard Park is a unique place for both repose and recreation. It is the juxtaposition of formal and informal spaces with many stunning vistas and interesting plants from around the world.

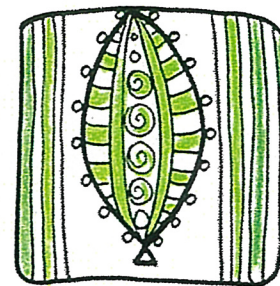
The five-acre grounds have served as the town green since 1964 when Elizabeth Biglow Ballard, who had lived on the property for 80+ years, donated the land to the town with the purpose of leaving a park, a quiet space, retaining as many of the trees and shrubs planted by her father as practicable. The graceful landscape the family shaped structurally remains much the same today.

Elizabeth's father, Lucius Biglow purchased the colonial estate in 1887, the heyday of the Victorian Era, and the



nineteenth century craze of plant collecting. He was very interested in trees and plants, and passed this passion on to his daughters. He wasted no time designing a formal-style estate. Lawns were installed (for those new lawn mowers!) and dozens of trees were planted. Vintage photographs of the property show many of the current trees as saplings. The majestic Copper Beech trees with generations of names carved into them date back to the original estate as do others planted by Mr. Biglow including red oaks, hemlocks, and sugar maples.

Over the years, with John Pinchbeck's help, more than 40 specimen trees have been added to enhance the Ballard Park landscape with foliage, fragrance, and flowers. The trees found in the park today range in age, size, and color and create an interesting palette throughout the year.



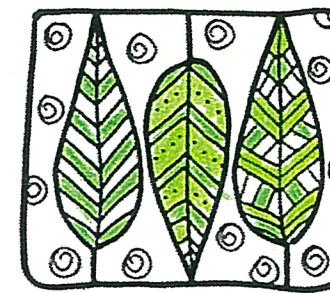
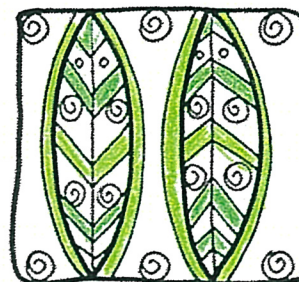
The Ridgefield Tree Committee's mission is to encourage the town to commit community effort and resources to preserving and improving our trees and greenscape. Our goal is to establish and maintain an optimum, stable, and safe public tree and plant environment, thereby enhancing Ridgefield's historic character: esthetic, natural and economic.



If you would like to support the committee and/or volunteer, contact our Tree Warden, Steve Lavatori at 203-431-2358 or [treewarden@ridgefieldct.gov](mailto:treewarden@ridgefieldct.gov).

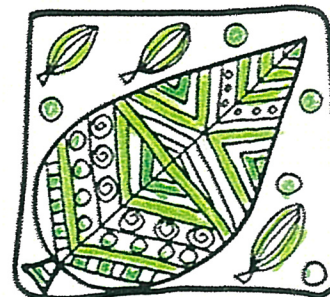
John Pinchbeck was the previous Tree Warden, serving the community in this role for more than 20 years. An oak tree was planted near the northeast corner of the park honoring John's steadfast dedication to the Town's trees.

*The purpose of this tour is to encourage visitors to recognize the trees of historic Ballard Park, to enjoy their beauty, and to appreciate their role in the environment. We hope you enjoy your walk and will emerge from it with more knowledge and appreciation of these and all other trees.*



## DISCOVER THE TREES IN BALLARD PARK

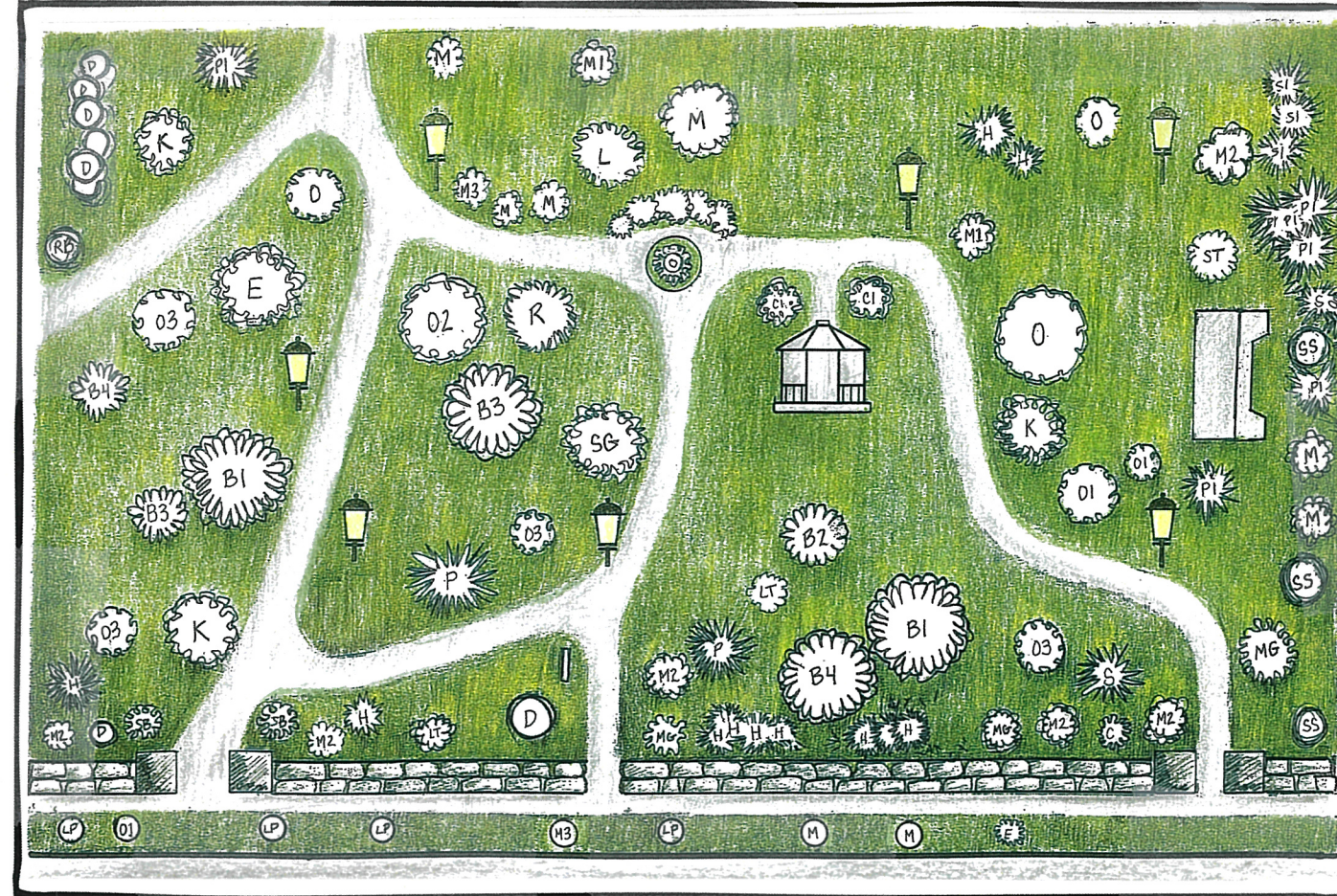
A self-guided tour map by  
The Ridgefield Tree Committee





Letters below correspond to trees identified in map to the right.

- B** American Beech *Fagus grandifolia*  
The American Beech was a sign of fertile soil to early settlers. The nut is food for wildlife.
- B1** Copper Beech *Fagus sylvatica var. Purpurea*
- B2** European Beech *Fagus sylvatica*
- B3** Fernleaf Beech *Fagus sylvatica Asplenifolia*  
The layered structure of the branches gives the tree a fan-like appearance. Great fall color.
- B4** Weeping Beech *Fagus sylvatica var pendula*
- C** Kwanzan Cherry *Prunus semulata Kwanzan*  
In the early 1900s, the Japanese sent thousands to our nation's capitol.
- C1** Yoshino Cherry *Prunus x yedoensis*  
Fragrant, pink flowers produce fruit that is a food source for many birds.
- D** Cornelian-cherry Dogwood *Cornus mas*  
The tight clusters of small star-shaped flowers bloom in early spring.
- D1** Kousa Dogwood *Cornus kousa*  
Spring blooms are not actually petals but are modified leaves surrounding small flowers.
- E** Accolade Elm *Ulmus 'Morton' Accolade*  
Arching limbs and vase-like shape similar to the classic American elm. Excellent disease and pest resistance.
- H** Eastern Hemlock *Tsuga canadensis*  
A graceful evergreen valued by Native Americans and settlers for the tannin in the bark. A popular landscaping tree.
- K** Katsura *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*  
Mature tree displays florescent yellow leaves in fall that have a cinnamon or butterscotch odor when crushed.
- K1** Weeping Katsura *Cercidiphyllum japonicum f. pendulum*
- L** Littleleaf Linden *Tilia cordata*  
Super-fragrant flowers attract hummingbirds and bees. Soft wood provides nesting sites.



- LP** London Planetree *Plantanus acerifolia*  
Shares many visual similarities with the American sycamore.
- LT** Giant Tree Lilac *Syringa reticulata*  
Showy fragrant blooms attract hummingbirds & pollinators.
- MG** Magnolia *x soulangeana*  
A dramatic spring flowering tree.
- M** Sugar Maple *Acer saccharum*  
One of America's best loved trees. Their 'winged-seeds' are called samaras. Shaggy bark seen on older trees.
- M1** Norway Maple *Acer platanoides*  
Leaves appear earlier than most maples and often remain on the tree longer in the fall.

- M2** Japanese Maple *Acer palmatum*  
Lacy, finely-cut leaves. Brilliant fall color.
- M3** Red Maple *Acer rubrum*  
Also known as swamp maple; most abundant native tree in eastern North America.
- O** Northern Red Oak *Quercus rubra*  
A national treasure. Brilliant fall color. Red oak acorns are a food source to Wildlife; high value as lumber and veneer.
- O1** Pin Oak *Quercus palustris*  
This native tree has great fall color, strong Wood, dense shade. This fast-growing oak is a common sight in landscapes.

- O2** Scarlet Oak *Quercus coccinea*  
A parade of red throughout the seasons. Produces an especially large crop of acorns every 3-5 years.
- O3** White Oak *Quercus alba*  
One of the preeminent hardwoods in eastern North America. A long-lived oak that can reach magnificent heights in the open.
- P** Japanese Umbrella Pine *Sciadopiys verticillata*  
An ancient species. Large, flat needles resemble umbrella spokes. A glorious conifer!
- P1** Eastern White Pine *Pinus strobus*
- R** Dawn Redwood *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*  
An impressive tree with fine, feathery leaves. One of three species of conifers known as redwoods; an example of a living fossil species.
- RB** Eastern Redbud *Cercis canadensis*  
Pea-sized blossoms emerge in early spring covering bare branches in garlands of pink; has heart-shaped leaves.
- S** Norway Spruce *Picea abies*
- S1** Serbian Spruce *Picea omorika*  
"One of the most graceful and beautiful spruces." Ideal for home landscapers- sturdy branches and tolerant of most conditions
- S2** Green Colorado Spruce *Picea pungens*  
Native Americans used it as a ceremonial item. Twigs were given as gifts to bring good fortune.
- SB** American Snowbell *Styrax americanus*  
Provides early summer fragrance and showy flowers. Attracts butterflies, bees, and birds.
- SG** American Sweetgum *Liquidambar styraciflua*  
Star-shaped leaves, interesting 'gum-ball' shaped fruits. Excellent landscaping tree for large areas.
- SS** Shadblow Serviceberry *Amelanchier canadensis*  
An all-season beauty. Delicate white flowers bloom early in the spring; vibrant foliage in the fall.
- ST** Japanese Scholar Tree *Sophora japonica*  
Outstanding ornamental features.