

This is a self-guided tour of the trees at St. Paul's Church National Historic Site. It takes approximately 45 minutes. During the early 18<sup>th</sup> century the traditional Village Green was the central location for colonial life, as a result, most of the trees in the area were cleared. However, during the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, cemeteries were viewed as places of tranquility and reflection so trees were either planted or permitted to grow at the site. Reflecting the effect of the Industrial Revolution on the region surrounding St. Paul's, the vast majority of the trees highlighted on this tour are hardy and able to withstand urban pollution. The map on the reverse side will assist in locating the trees. **The tour begins at the Black Locust next to the Museum.**

**1. Black Locust** *Robinia pseudoacacia* - Although black locust trees are native to the south eastern United States, they have been widely planted and naturalized elsewhere in temperate North America and are considered an invasive species in some areas. It has a thick, deeply furrowed blackish bark and strongly fragrant flowers (similar to orange blossoms) that are white and edible. It is a major honey plant in the eastern USA and when it was planted in France it became the source of the famous *acacia monofloral* honey.



**2. Norway Maple** *Acer platanoides* - This type of maple is considered an invasive species in states such as New Hampshire and Massachusetts where it is banned. Nonetheless, it is still being planted in many urban areas. In North America it is grown as a street tree and used for shade. It is favored because it has a tall trunk and tolerance for poor compacted soils and urban pollution. Thus it is likely that this tree was planted here during the Industrial Revolution. The Asian long-horned beetle is its natural enemy. The wood is typically used for furniture and turnery.



**3. Cherry tree** *Prus cerasus* - A sour cherry tree will take 3-4 years to produce its first crop of fruit and require exposure to cold in order to germinate. Because of the cold-weather requirement, none of the *Prunus* family can grow in tropical climates. The peak growing season for cherries is the summer, in North America they peak in June. A form of cherry was introduced to England by order of King Henry VIII. Most sour (or tart) cherries are grown in New York.



## St. Paul's National Historic Site The Tree Tour

**4. American Sycamore** *Platanus occidentalis* - Trees are often easily distinguished from other trees because of their mottled exfoliating barks which flakes off in larger pieces leaving the surface mottled, white, gray, and brown. In 1770, George Washington recorded in his journal a sycamore measuring almost 45 feet (14m) in circumference. The American Sycamore is able to endure a big city environment and has been



extensively planted as a shade tree. The terms of the New York Stock Exchange are called the "Buttonwood Agreement," since it was signed under a buttonwood (sycamore) tree at 68 Wall Street, NYC in 1792.

**5. Paperbark Maple** *Acer griseum* - This type of maple is native to Central China but was introduced to cultivation in Europe in 1901. It is a small to medium-sized deciduous tree whose bark is smooth, shiny orange-red, peeling in thin, papery layers. It is admired for its decorative exfoliating bark, translucent pieces of which often stay attached to the branches until worn away. It also has spectacular autumn foliage, which can include red, orange and pink tones.



**6. Sourwood** *Oxydendrum arboretum* - Sourwood or sorrel tree is native to eastern North America. The leaves can be chewed (but should not be swallowed) to help alleviate a dry-feeling mouth. It is renowned for nectar, and for the honey that is produced from it. Juice from its blooms is used to make sourwood jelly. The Cherokee and Catawba tribes used its shoots to make arrow shafts. "Sourwood Mountain" is the name of a popular old-time tune in the Appalachian region of the United States.



**7. Sycamore Maple** *Acer pseudoplatanus* - This type of maple is highly tolerant of wind, urban pollution and salt spray so it is a very popular tree for planting in the cities and in coastal locations. Commonly grown in New England, New York City and the Pacific Northwest, it is also planted for timber production, particularly for furniture, wood



flooring and parquetry. It is a traditional wood for use in the backs, necks and scrolls of violins but is sometimes considered an environmental weed in some parts of the United States.

**8. Sweetgum** *Liquidambar styraciflua* - The American sweetgum, is a deciduous tree native to warm temperate areas of eastern North America and tropical regions of Mexico and Central America. A popular ornamental tree in temperate climates, it is recognizable by the combination of its five-pointed star-shaped leaves and its hard, spiked fruits; popularly nicknamed "gum balls." The rich dark green, glossy leaves generally turn brilliant orange, red, and purple colors in the autumn. Trees may live to 400 years.



**9. Northern Red Oak** *Quercus rubra* - The northern red oak is native to North America and is also the state tree of New Jersey. It is one of the most important oaks for timber production in North America. Popular in the construction industry, it is used for flooring, veneer, interior trim, and furniture. It is also used for lumber, railroad ties and fence posts.



**10. Pin Oak** *Quercus palustris* - The pin oak tree is native to North America, mainly in the eastern United States, and is one of the most popular ornamental trees in the United States. The acorn is unpalatable because the kernel is very bitter. Native American tribes used the bark to make a drink for treatment of intestinal pain. Its name was most likely derived from a historical use of the hard wood for pins in wooden building construction.



**11. Weeping Willow** *Salix babylonica* - Native to dry areas of northern China, the weeping willow spread elsewhere in Asia as it was traded along the Silk Road to southwest Asia and Europe. Although it grows rapidly, it has a short lifespan ranging between 40 to 75 years. It was also common practice in ancient Greece to place willow branches on the coffins of the dead and then plant young saplings on the graves in the belief that the spirit of the dead would rise up through the tree.



The weeping willow is a common symbol found on many gravestones within the cemetery of St. Paul's Church.

**12. Pine Tree Grove** *Pinus* - Pine trees are evergreen, coniferous resinous trees with thick and scaly bark. Because pines have no insect or decay resistant qualities after logging, they are generally recommended for construction purposes as indoor use only (ex. indoor drywall framing). It is commonly referred to by several different names that include North American timber, SPF (spruce, pine, fir) and whitewood.



**13. Hawthorne Trees** *Crataegus* – The hawthorne tree is native to the temperate regions of North America. The wood of some hawthorn species is very hard and resistant to rot. In rural North America it was prized for use as tool handles and fence posts. Hawthorns provide food and shelter for many species of birds and mammals, and the flowers are important for many nectar-feeding insects. St. Paul's has sister hawthorne trees located across from each other on the pathway.



**14. Colorado Blue Spruce** *Picea mariana* – This species of spruce is native to northern North America, from Newfoundland to Alaska, and south to northern New York and central British Columbia. The blue spruce is a slow-growing, small upright evergreen coniferous tree with a straight trunk, little taper, a scruffy habit, and a narrow, pointed crown of short, compact, drooping branches with upturned tips. The bark is thin, scaly and grayish brown.



**15. Flowering Dogwood** *Cornus florida* - The flowering dogwood is a small deciduous tree that is an important food source for dozens of species of birds, which then distribute the seeds. It was used to treat dogs with mange, which may be how it got its name. In 2012, the United States sent 3,000 dogwood saplings to Japan to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the Washington D.C. cherry trees given as a gift to the U.S. by Japan in 1912.



**16. Eurasian Smoketree** *Continus coggygria* – These are multi-stemmed small trees native to the warm temperate northern hemisphere. Most of the flowers elongate into yellowish-pink to pinkish-purple feathery plumes and when viewed together they have a wispy 'smoke-like appearance.' The leaves are also showy, turning from medium blue-green to yellow-red purple in the fall. It is commonly grown as an ornamental plant and the wood was formerly used to make the yellow dye called young fustic.

