

Buxton Park ARBORETUM



SELF GUIDED TREE TOUR

14. COLORADO BLUE SPRUCE

These silvery blue-green conifers were discovered high in Rocky Mountain meadows in 1862 and have become one of the most widely planted landscape trees. An excellent border tree, it also provides nesting habitat for many songbirds. The pyramidal shape makes them a classic choice for Christmas trees.

15. PURPLE BEECH 'DAWYCK PURPLE'

This species is said to have derived from one tree in central Germany around 1680. Massive and slow-growing, the purple beech lives for hundreds of years. Note its smooth grey bark and glossy purple-copper leaves. When mature, the beechnuts are important food for woodland mammals and birds.

16. RED SPRUCE

Needles one-half inch long surround the red stem of this evergreen that ranges from Nova Scotia south to the mountains of the Carolinas and Tennessee. The wood is light in color and weight. Red spruce is used for construction and for making musical stringed instruments due to its uniformly straight grain and resilience.

17. DAWN REDWOOD

Fossil records indicated this rare and unusual deciduous conifer had lived over 20 million years ago. It was believed to be extinct so it was the horticultural sensation of 1945 when the tree was discovered still living in small groves in China. In spring the fern-like foliage is a fresh light-green that turns to pale apricot-pink in the fall before dropping.

18. EASTERN HEMLOCK

The graceful arching branches of the hemlock with its soft, flexible needles make this conifer a popular garden ornamental. Due to its ground-hugging foliage it is an excellent choice for hedges and screens. A long-lived tree, up to 1,000 years, it is a major food source and shelter for many forest mammals and birds in its native habitat. The bark was once used widely for tanning.

19. SWEET GUM

Only one species of the small sweet gum grows in North America and it is native to the southeastern U.S. The star shaped leaves, four to seven inches across, are shiny green in late spring turning to yellow, orange, bronze or scarlet in the fall. The hardwood is used for veneer and plywood. Gum obtained from the bark was used in the World Wars I and II as a base for soaps, drugs and adhesives.

20. WEEPING CRAB

The natural structure of the branches of this tree are similar to the Weeping Willow. Its cascading branches are covered with white blossoms in the spring and dark green foliage in summer. By fall the tree is loaded with bright red fruit that persists throughout the winter and is enjoyed by park wildlife.

21. TRICOLOR BEECH

The extra-slow growth of this tree makes it a wonderful accent in smaller gardens as well as large open spaces. Tricolor beeches can display a number of color patterns. Sometimes you'll see purple leaves bordered by rose and light pink. Other times, green and white centers are encased in a rosy border. The small brown tri-cornered beechnut is bitter and mildly toxic in large quantities.

22. REDBUD 'RISING SUN'

This is a tree with a compact size that makes it easy to showcase. Large, heart-shaped leaves are bright orange-peach when they emerge, then they turn chartreuse as they age. New leaves emerge all summer, so there's always a mix of colors on the tree. Fall foliage is yellow and orange. Its flowers attract bees and butterflies.

23. JAPANESE RED MAPLE 'EMPEROR'

Attractive dark red foliage turns brilliant scarlet in fall. Interesting blackish red bark. Well-suited for use as a small lawn tree. Thrives better in colder climates than most Japanese Maples since leaf buds open later in spring, avoiding danger of late frosts.

24. KATSURA

Katsura is grown as an ornamental tree known for its delicate leaves, shaggy bark and strong branching habit. In spring, its heart-shaped leaves emerge reddish-purple, changing to blue-green as they mature. Its autumn color is a mix of bright yellow, pink and orange-red. During the fall these leaves release a warm and spicy fragrance, reminiscent of cotton candy or burnt sugar.

25. RUSTY BLACKHAW VIBURNUM

This compact, small tree has glossy dark-green leaves that are rusty-hairy on the underside. The white flower cluster is umbrella-shaped and produces a dense clump of berries that turn from red to blue-black when mature. The berries are a favorite food for turkey, grouse, quail, songbirds and small rodents. Its showy colors and textures make it a popular garden ornamental.

PARK HISTORY

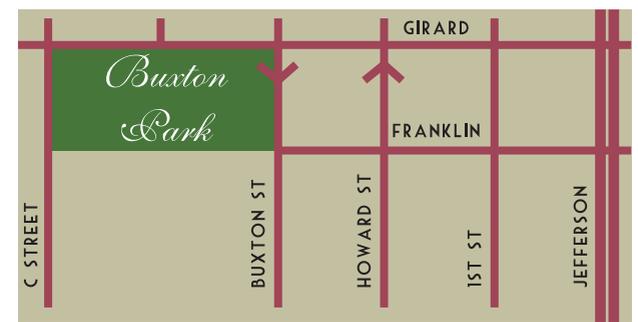
William and Elizabeth Buxton donated the land for this park to the City of Indianola in 1906, making it the city's first public park. First used as a picnic area and meeting spot, the park originally contained a wading pool and a small pagoda. The **Formal Garden** was added in the 1920's, and planting of rare and unusual plants has continued to the present. The park is home to many memorial trees, benches, berms and gardens such as the **Beymer Rose Garden**. The Indianola Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for its upkeep.

PARK FEATURES

Today Buxton Park features a **gazebo** which can be reserved for small outdoor weddings, photo shoots or other special events. Throughout the park and near the **Memorial Fountain**, benches offer a quiet spot for study or reflection. Plantings in the **Formal Annual Display** offer inspiration for gardeners of every experience level. The **Memorial Garden** offers another quiet spot to sit and soak in the beauty of the park. The **Butterfly Garden** is filled with plants that are irresistible to those pretty creatures. Specially commissioned Lyman Whitaker **Wind Sculptures**™ silently move and interact with one another, reflecting the mood of the wind and generating joy. The **Jerry Kelley Trail**, part of the city-wide trail system, passes along the south and west sides of the park.

PARK LOCATION

Buxton Park is located at the north end of the Simpson College campus in Indianola, Iowa, between Buxton and C Streets, bordered on the north by Girard Avenue. The park is open daily year-round for the public's enjoyment.



INDIANOLA PARKS & RECREATION
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TOUR INFORMATION

This interpretive self-guided tree tour will acquaint you with several of the non-native, unusual or rare trees that live in Buxton Park Arboretum. The city-owned park contains over sixty species of trees and shrubs in addition to flower gardens and other features.

1. SAUCER MAGNOLIA

Flowers of the saucer magnolia unfold from fuzzy buds in early May. The six to ten inch flowers vary in color from white to a rosy purple. The fruit, shaped like a bumpy cucumber, is green turning to orange or red in the fall. The seed husk opens to reveal bright red seeds. Note the smooth gray bark.

2. PACIFIC SUNSET MAPLE

Small compact hybrid of the Norway Maple and Shantung Maple. Its drought resistance, orange to red fall color and smaller ultimate size are inherited from the Shantung. Faster growth, larger leaves and adaptability to varied growing conditions are due to its Norway parent. The tree grows to 30 feet with a rounded crown.

3. GINKGO ROW

Native to southeastern China, the ginkgo is the sole surviving species of a family of trees known to be millions of years old. Disease and pest-free, the ginkgo is an adaptable city tree. Each fall on the morning after the first hard frost, this row of trees is bare within hours of sunrise in a dramatic shower of golden fan-shaped leaves.

4. KOUSA DOGWOOD

Prized by gardeners, the flowering dogwood has tiers of showy white flower clusters before the leaves unfold in the spring. The red berry-like fruits in the fall attract many songbirds and small mammals. The flowering dogwood grows from southwestern Maine to eastern Kansas and south to Texas and Florida. The red-brown wood is hard, tough and was used for making tool handles, shuttles, wheel hubs and barrel hoops. The bark was used instead of quinine for a fever remedy.

5. ROYAL FROST BIRCH

Beautiful glossy deep burgundy red leaf color and cinnamon to white exfoliating bark puts this Birch tree in a class of its own. The desirable leaf color holds very well through out the summer. Fall is a festival of colors ranging from bright red, orange, yellow and purple.

6. GOLD RUSH DAWN REDWOOD

A fast-growing deciduous conifer with striking golden to chartreuse foliage and a cinnamon colored trunk, the tree loses its soft, feathery needles in the winter and goes dormant.

7. JAPANESE TREE LILAC

The only lilac that attains tree stature, the Japanese tree lilac is a multi-stemmed shrub or tree covered with clusters of creamy white flowers in early summer on its stiff, spreading branches. Interesting clusters of warty fruit are quite attractive in fall and winter.

8. MAGNOLIA 'BUTTERFLIES'

This small tree grows up to 25 feet tall, with abundant 4-5 inch, fragrant yellow flowers that sit upright on the branches in mid-spring, before the leaves appear.

9. MAGNOLIA 'LEONARD MESSEL'

One of the most desired Magnolias, this shrub is slow growing to a height of about 15-20 feet with a similar spread. Its fragrant blossoms are star-shaped with twelve narrow petals, white on the inside and purplish-pink on the outside. The shrub is disease and deer resistant.

10. PAGODA DOGWOOD

The unique horizontal branching pattern of this shrub or small tree has a distinct tiered habit, often catching snow in the winter. Clusters of white flowers show up in spring, dark green foliage turns a beautiful burgundy-red in fall, and blue-black berries attract many birds.

11. SERVICEBERRY

Serviceberry offers white spring flowers which develop into tasty purple berries. Its bright green or bluish green leaves turn stunning shades of red and orange in fall, and its silvery bark offers winter appeal.

12. TULIP TREE

The tulip tree derives its name from the tulip-shaped flower. The upright pale green flower has a vivid orange base and is over two inches wide. One of the largest trees of the eastern forests, it generally grows over 100 feet in height. Also called yellow poplar, the tulip tree is a lightweight, soft wood used in general construction, plywood, furniture and paper products. Daniel Boone is said to have carved a 60-foot canoe from a large tulip tree to move his family and belongings from Tennessee. This specimen is possibly Iowa's largest Tulip Tree.

13. YELLOWWOOD

In mid-June fragrant sweet-pealike blossoms droop gracefully like wisteria. The mottled silvery-gray, smooth bark covers the yellow heartwood that was used to make dye for homespun cloth. Though rare, the yellowwood is a favored wood for gunstocks due to its lightness, strength and polished finish.

