

Map Highlights KEY

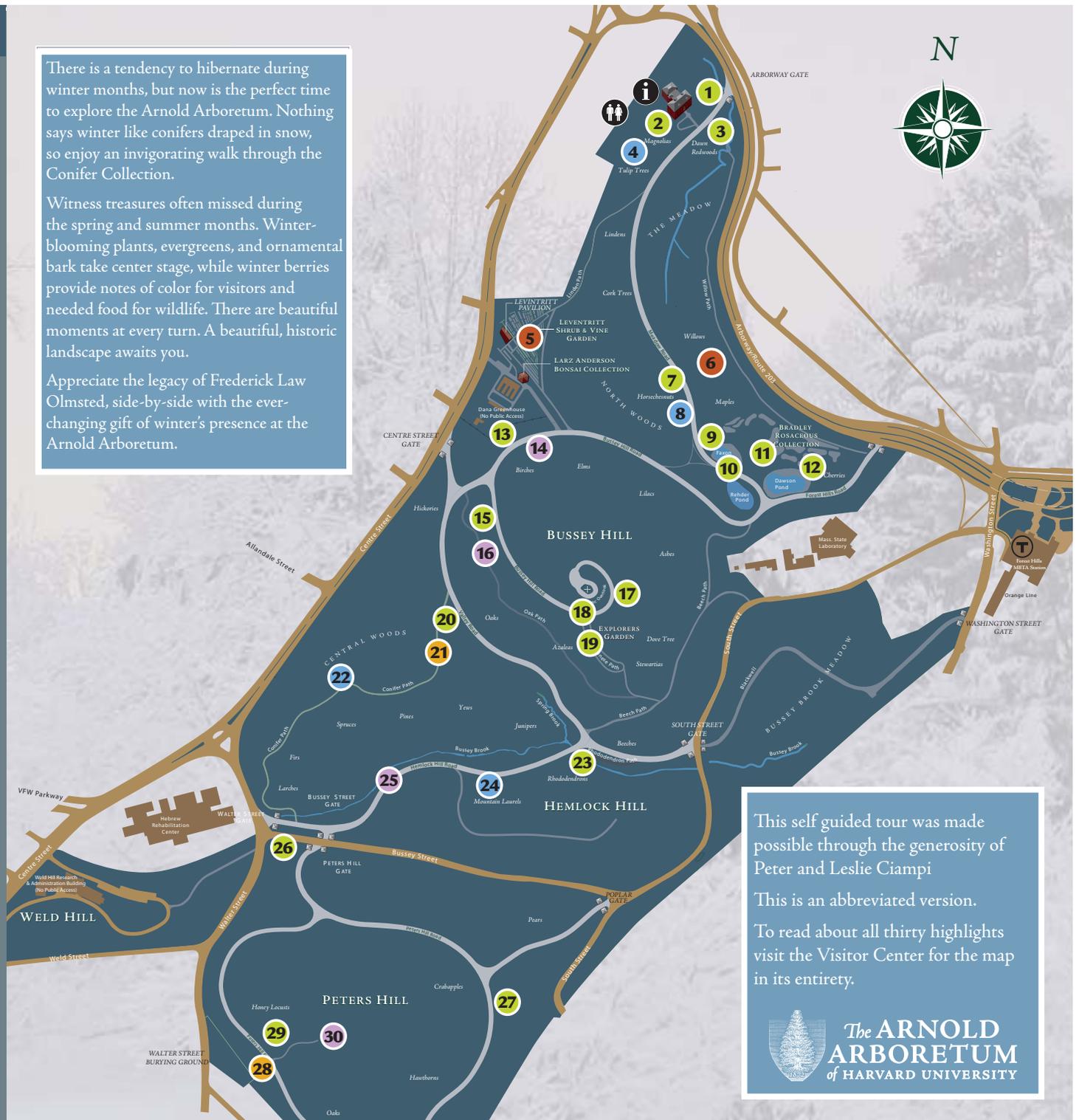
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There is a tendency to hibernate during winter months, but now is the perfect time to explore the Arnold Arboretum. Nothing says winter like conifers draped in snow, so enjoy an invigorating walk through the Conifer Collection.

Witness treasures often missed during the spring and summer months. Winter-blooming plants, evergreens, and ornamental bark take center stage, while winter berries provide notes of color for visitors and needed food for wildlife. There are beautiful moments at every turn. A beautiful, historic landscape awaits you.

Appreciate the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted, side-by-side with the ever-changing gift of winter's presence at the Arnold Arboretum.



This self guided tour was made possible through the generosity of Peter and Leslie Ciampi

This is an abbreviated version.

To read about all thirty highlights visit the Visitor Center for the map in its entirety.



Arnold Arboretum Winter Tour

PLANT HIGHLIGHTS

Colored Bark



10 Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) is an unassuming shrub during the growing season, but from late autumn until early spring its showy red stems take the spotlight. Color, from the red pigment anthocyanin, is brightest on young stems. Catch the brilliant colors of *Cornus sanguinea* 'Wisley Form' and *C. sericea* 'Flaviramea' in the landscape surrounding the ponds after a snow fall.

Evergreens



1 During his first plant collecting trip to Japan in the fall of 1892, Arboretum Founding Director Charles Sprague Sargent admired a distinctive holly growing along the Nagasendo Highway. The longstalk holly (*Ilex pedunculosa*) has lustrous, dark green leaves and is distinguished by its long flower stems, or peduncles, which droop under the weight of bright red fruit beginning in early fall.

2 The cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*) is native to Syria, Turkey, and Lebanon. A handsome and historically significant tree, it was long sought after for the Arboretum collection. Seeds collected in 1900 from trees growing high in the mountains of Turkey finally proved successful in our cold Boston winters. The cedar of Lebanon adjacent to the Hunnewell Building was collected in 1947.



Plant Architecture

3 Winter is the perfect time to appreciate the architecture of deciduous trees. A light snowfall enhances the experience, making structure, from trunk base to twig tip, more noticeable. Each tree species has a characteristic branching structure, and the dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) bears an especially notable one. In winter you can see its distinctly conical shape, horizontally spreading branches, and deeply-fluted lower trunk.

Textured Bark

13 Once its leaves have fallen, the rich cinnamon, orange, and brown bark of the paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*) glows in winter light. The bark exfoliates in thin, paper-like sections, curling away and exposing a creamy undersurface. Originally from China, the Arboretum specimens in the maples and Explorers Garden are the largest and oldest in the United States. Paperbark maple is another Ernest Henry Wilson introduction.



17 Chinese or lacebark elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) cultivar 'King's Choice' has mottled bark that resembles silvery lace. Many overlapping, irregularly shaped cork cambia (squat, dividing cells near the surface) appear in an intricate pattern over the trunk. 'King's Choice' is low maintenance and a good inner city tree. Although the name calls up images of royal patronage, this cultivar was named by Benjamin J. King of Hampstead Maryland.

Interesting Seasonal Phenomenon



9 Imagine a party blowout noisemaker, this movement is mimicked by a witch hazel (*Hamamelis* spp.) flower influenced by air temperature. The strap-like petals unfurl on warm days and curl inward when temperatures drop. This helps to prevent damage from freezing.

Flowers



10 Witch hazels (*Hamamelis*) include some of the latest and earliest bloomers in any year at the Arboretum. A North American native, common witch hazel (*H. virginiana*) bears flowers in late autumn, into early December. Vernal witch hazel (*H. vernalis*), another native, blooms between January and March, as do Chinese witch hazel (*H. mollis*), Japanese witch hazel (*H. japonica*), and hybrids of the latter two (*H. × intermedia*).

19 Winter jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) has cheerful, petite, waxy, golden flowers that offer a welcome sight during the bleak days of winter. Unlike other jasmine species, the winter jasmine's scent is unremarkable. Luckily, it makes up for this with an extended bloom time from November to March.

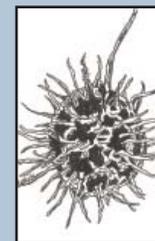


Fruit



12 Medlar (*Mespilus germanica*) is a large shrub or small tree with fruit that persists long into the winter. The hard fruit requires a period of cold weather before it softens and becomes edible, a process called bletting.

15 Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) is easily identified by its golf ball sized, spherical, spiky fruit. This unusual fruit has inspired numerous common names including monkey ball, bommyknocker, and conkleberry. The surface of a fully-matured and dried sweetgum fruit is punctuated by forty-five to sixty holes, which serve as exit hatches for their tiny seeds. Seeds are a preferred delicacy of finches and mourning doves.



WILDLIFE



4 After a fresh snow, see if you can spot wildlife tracks near the Hunnewell Building. Did you know that squirrels move by placing their front feet together, but rabbits usually have one front foot in front of the other?

8 A rufous-morph Eastern screech-owl, affectionately called "Screechie" by Arboretum staff, has been seen in the same roost hole since 2015. If you are lucky, you might see it puffed up and absorbing some warmth from the sun on cold winter mornings.



HISTORICAL

21 In 1997, Boston and the Arnold Arboretum were the recipients of an unexpected April Fool's Day weather joke. Twenty-five inches of heavy, wet snow, driven by gusty winds, crippled roadways and downed trees and limbs in the Arboretum. It surpassed even the Hurricane of 1938, which had been the most destructive storm in 125 years.

LANDSCAPE VIEWSHEDS

25 Conifer Collection



30 Peters Hill Summit

