

“View from Battle Hill” (1846) by James Smillie

TOUR GREEN-WOOD AT YOUR OWN PACE!

Visit the most celebrated trees of the arboretum, learn about Green-Wood’s natural history, enjoy sculpture and historic architecture, and pay respects to some of Green-Wood’s most notable residents.

CELEBRATED TREE WALK

Use Tree Finder: green-wood.com/trees to access the entire Living Collection of more than 8,000 trees.

- European Horse Chestnut** (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)
Producing large white flowers in early spring, the European horse chestnut is one of the largest flowering trees in the temperate world. Susceptible to leaf blotch, the tree often loses its leaves long before autumn.
- London Plane Tree** (*Platanus x hispanica*)
The American sycamore/oriental plane tree hybrid, so named because of its tolerance to the pollution produced in London during the Industrial Revolution, has established itself as a staple New York City street tree.
- Grove of Quaking Aspen** (*Populus tremuloides*)
The leaf stem of this species is flat and catches even the slightest breeze. This grove is a memorial to the victims of the 1960 mid-air collision of two planes above Staten Island and Brooklyn.
- American Chestnut** (*Castanea dentata*)
Due to chestnut blight (first reported in 1904) the species has all but disappeared. These trees were planted in collaboration with the American Chestnut Foundation, are an attempt to restore the species.
- Yoshino Cherry** (*Prunus x yedoensis*) Group of 5
The origin of this cherry hybrid dates back to the mid-1800s in Edo, former Tokyo, Japan. The flowers on these trees emerge before the leaves in early spring, and have a faint almond fragrance.
- Catawba Rhododendron** (*Rhododendron catawbiense*)
The name of this enormous specimen of the species is derived from its original habitat: the Catawba River of western North Carolina. The river was named after the Native Americans of the area.
- Kentucky Coffee Tree** (*Gymnocladus dioica*)
Felled by Superstorm Sandy, this tree caused the damage to the nearby Brown family mausoleum. Today, as a “stump garden”, it is resprouting and showing signs of growth.
- Dawn Redwood** (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)
This deciduous conifer is the sole living species of its genus. Dating back 50 million years, this “living fossil” was rediscovered in the 1940s in central China.
- American Elm** (*Ulmus americana*)
Between the 1920s and 1945, 75% of elms in North America were lost to Dutch Elm Disease, a fungal infection spread by the elm bark beetle. This is one of the largest still existent at Green-Wood.
- Common Persimmon** (*Diospyros virginiana*)
Folklore claims that one can predict how harsh winter will be by the shape of a persimmon seed embryo. If you see a spoon: heavy snow, a knife: icy wind; a fork: a mild winter.
- Sassafras** (*Sassafras albidum*)
Believed to be one of the oldest tree in Green-Wood, the species is easily identified by the leaves. It has three distinct forms: three-lobed, mitten-shaped, and entirely ovate.
- Tulip Tree** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
Its Latin name “tulip-making lily tree” may refer to both its flowers and its leaves. This specimen is the largest tree in Green-Wood, at 110-feet tall and a trunk that measures nearly six feet in diameter.
- Weeping Beech Tunnel** (*Fagus sylvatica* “Pendula”)
This “tunnel”—a visitor favorite—is formed by the cascading canopies of six weeping European beech trees.
- Littleleaf Linden** (*Tilia cordata*)
Symbolizing love and truth in Norse and Germanic mythology, Lindens were focal points during weddings and judicial assemblies. Their dense canopy of heart-shaped leaves and fragrant flowers are attractive to both bees and humans alike.
- Maidenhair Tree** (*Ginkgo biloba*)
This specimen, known as “The Phoenix Ginkgo,” is comprised of twelve ginkgo trees that sprouted from a stump and have now been insulated (grown together) into one.
- Cedar of Lebanon** (*Cedrus libani*)
Native to the mountains of the eastern Mediterranean, this conifer has long been prized for its timber and essential oils; the resin of the tree was used by ancient Egyptians for mummification.
- Shagbark Hickory** (*Carya ovata*)
This species of hickory lives up to its common name. It features long strips of peeling bark, giving it a shaggy appearance. The fruit, bark, and leaves are a valuable food source for wildlife.
- Sourwood** (*Oxydendrum arboreum*)
Endemic to the United States, the sourwood tree is the lone species of the genus Oxydendrum. In the wild, the sourwood occupies the ecological niches of upland and ravine habitats.
- Common Hackberry** (*Celtis occidentalis*)
This tree is a State Champion! Recognized by the State Department of Environmental Conservation as a native species of record size.
- Northern Red Oak** (*Quercus rubra*)
In the fall of 2016, a red oak in Green-Wood was infected with oak wilt, a fungus that chokes the tree’s vascular system, the first case in New York City. Efforts are underway to preserve our remaining specimens of this majestic native species.

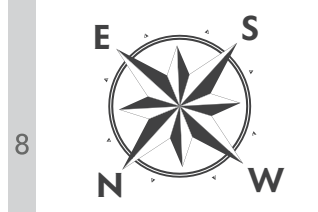
NATURE WALK

- From Rural Cemetery to Urban Oasis**
Our Evolving Landscape
- Islands of Green**
Nature in a Sea of Cityscape
- The Ice Age Beneath Your Feet**
Green-Wood’s Glacial Origins
- A Legacy of Trees**
An Urban Arboretum
- Tree Families**
Our Diverse Plant Community
- Nature at Your Service**
Natural Processes Support Daily Life
- A Place for Wildlife**
Green-Wood’s Rich Diversity of Flora and Fauna
- Planting for the Future**
Trees Tell a Story about Climate Change
- Green-Wood is Good for You**
Nature’s Many Health Benefits
- Ideas to Take Home**
How to Create Your Own Living Legacy
- Planting for Resilience**
High Biodiversity Keeps Landscapes Healthy
- Seasons of Change**
A Year in the Life of Green-Wood

RURAL CEMETERY TO URBAN OASIS

Green-Wood is a living cemetery that brings people closer to the world as it is and was, by memorializing the dead and bringing to life the art, history and natural beauty of New York City.

- 1838: Green-Wood is founded as the third rural cemetery in the United States.
- 1840: First burials occur at Green-Wood.
- 1883: Brooklyn Bridge opens and increases access to Green-Wood from Manhattan.
- 1966: Green-Wood receives New York City Landmark designation.
- 2006: Green-Wood is honored with designation as a National Historic Landmark.
- 2015: Green-Wood’s tree collection is accredited as an arboretum.



ART & ARCHITECTURE WALK

- Gothic Arch** (1861–1863): a NYC landmark, designed by Richard Upjohn and Son
- Historic Chapel** (1911): a NYC landmark, designed by Warren and Wetmore
- John Matthews** (1808–1870): “The Soda Fountain King,” monument designed by Karl Müller
- The Greeter** (2012): tribute to artist George Catlin (1796–1892), by John Coleman
- Cabeza de Mijel** (*Sopladora Grande*) (2005): by Javier Marin, gifted by Michel Langlais
- Here Lie the Secrets of the Visitors of Green-Wood Cemetery** (2017): art installation by Sophie Calle
- Brooklyn Theatre Fire of 1876 Memorial** erected by the City of Brooklyn
- Angel of Music** (2012): monument honoring composer and pianist Louis Moreau Gottschalk (1829–1869), sculpted by Giancarlo Biagi and Jill Burkee
- Van Ness-Parsons Mausoleum** (1931): unique monument encompassing Christian & Egyptian symbols
- Civil War Soldiers’ Monument** (1869): dedicated by the City of New York in 1876
- Minerva and the Altar to Liberty** (1920): commemoration of the Battle of Brooklyn (1776), sculpture by Frederick Wellington Ruckstull
- Civic Virtue** (1922): controversial sculpture by Frederick MacMonnies, brought to Green-Wood in 2012

- Prospect Park West Entrance** (1925–1926): designed by Warren and Wetmore
- L’Ours the Bear** (2002): memorial to artist William Holbrook Beard (1825–1900), by Dan Ostermiller
- Our Drummer Boy** (1886): monument honoring Clarence MacKenzie (1848–1861), Brooklyn’s first casualty of the American Civil War, by Monumental Bronze Company
- Pierrepont Monument**: memorial to the family of Green-Wood’s founder, Henry Elvyn Pierrepont (1808–1888), by Richard Upjohn
- Steinway Mausoleum** (1870): memorial to the piano-making family, the largest mausoleum at Green-Wood, designed by John Moffitt
- Niblo’s Vault**: memorial to the family of William Niblo (1790–1878), prominent theater owner
- Valentine Angel**: memorial to Charles Valentine (d. 1901), by Italian sculptor Adolfo Apolloni
- The Catacombs** (1850s): thirty family vaults which offer above-ground burial, without the expense of a free-standing mausoleum
- Monument to Rose Merello Guarino** (1909): striking bronze memorial to Guarino who was fatally shot at a young age, artist unknown
- Azrael, the Angel of Death**: memorial to Brooklyn mayor Charles Schieren (1842–1915), and his wife, Mary Schieren (1839–1915), sculpture by Solon H. Borglum
- Fort Hamilton Parkway Entrance** (1876–1877): a NYC designed by Richard Michell Upjohn

HISTORY WALK

- Do-Hum-Me** (1825–1843): daughter of Sac (or Sauk) Native American Chief
- Louis Comfort Tiffany** (1848–1933): pioneer of the decorative arts
- DeWitt Clinton** (1769–1828): NYC mayor, senator and governor of New York State, and driving force behind the Erie Canal
- Charlotte Canda** (1828–1825): Victorian socialite who died on her seventeenth birthday
- Margaret Pine** (1778–1857): born into slavery in Brooklyn, Pine became free by 1827 when slavery legally ended in New York. She is interred in the lot of the Van Zandt family, who enslaved her
- Leonard Bernstein** (1918–1990): composer and conductor
- Charles Ebbets** (1859–1925): owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers
- Henry Chadwick** (1824–1908): baseball pioneer, inventor of the box score, author of first rulebook
- William “Boss” Tweed** (1823–1878): notorious Tammany Hall politician
- Samuel F.B. Morse** (1791–1872): inventor of the telegraph, artist
- Lola Montez** (1821–1861): actress, performer, and famous courtesan
- Freedom Lots** (established in the 1840s): encompasses seven public lots where approximately 1,350 African Americans are interred
- Laura Keene** (1826–1873): actress on stage when President Lincoln was assassinated
- Sarah Cairns** (1737–1854): mother of twenty-two children, died at age 117, the oldest person at Green-Wood
- Roosevelt Family Lot** President Theodore Roosevelt’s first wife, father and mother, and many relatives are interred here



- Peter Cooper** (1791–1883): philanthropist and inventor
- John La Farge** (1835–1910): stained glass innovator
- Henry Bergh** (1811–1888): founder of the Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
- Henry Ward Beecher** (1813–1887): abolitionist preacher
- James Renwick, Jr.** (1818–1895): architect of St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Manhattan
- Frank Morgan (Wuppermann)** (1890–1949): actor who portrayed “The Wizard” in The Wizard of Oz
- Jean-Michel Basquiat** (1960–1988): neo-expressionist painter
- Henry Halleck** (1815–1872): commander-in-chief of all Union Armies during the US Civil War
- Susan Smith McKinney-Steward** (1847–1919): first African American woman to earn an M.D. in New York State
- James Weldon Johnson** (1871–1938): civil rights leader, poet, lyricist of the song “Lift Every Voice and Sing”(1900)
- Charles Feltman** (1841–1910): inventor of the hot dog

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