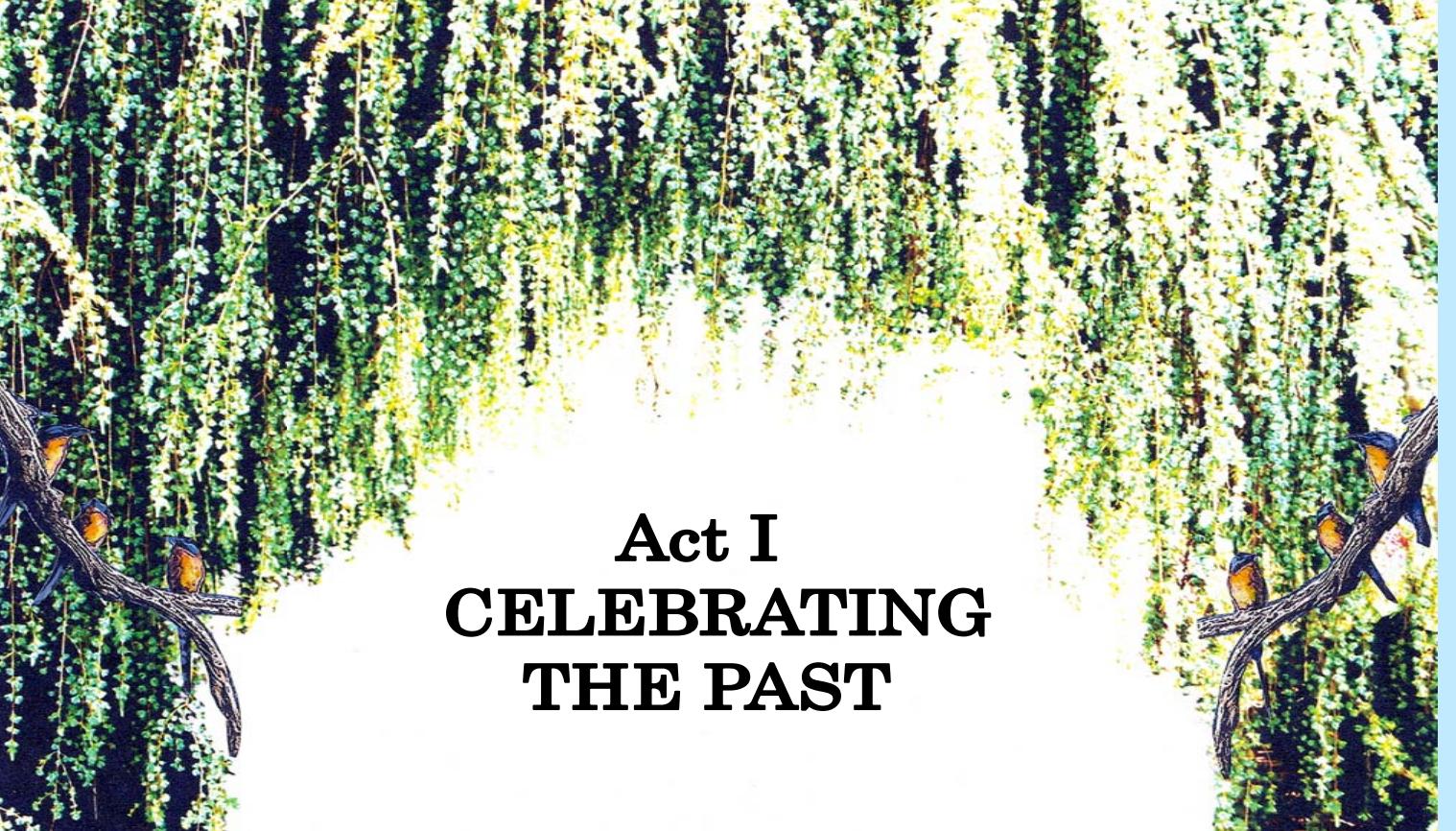


TREESCAPES OF GREENWICH

A TRUE
STORY in Three Acts....
and YOU help to
create the ending !



Act I
CELEBRATING
THE PAST

All of Greenwich was once a forest...

Over millions of years, the forest evolved and was held together by nature's balance and it's diversity of plant and animal life.



The Mianus River Gorge has one of the few stands of virgin forest in the Greenwich area.

(Photo by Carl Heilman)



"Summer" painted by John H. Twachtman in the 1890's, shows large tracts of treeless farmland surrounding the Twachtman home on lower Round Hill Road.

In the 1800's, much of this forest was felled to make fields for farming as settlers moved into the town.



Field Point Road looking south from the Post Road about 1870. (from Greenwich Old and New by Lydia Holland 1935)



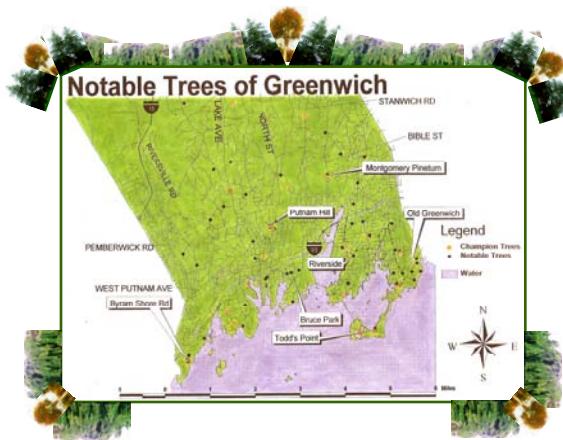
Grahampton, an original estate on Clapboard Ridge Road. Courtesy of the Historical Society of Greenwich on behalf of the Junior League of Greenwich, Connecticut, Inc.

In the 1900's, some abandoned farms reverted to new forest. Many wealthy people created large homes and planted trees to landscape, often importing exotic and specimen trees.

Later, as Greenwich developed, trees were planted in parks and along the street of the town.



And so grew the Community Forest of Greenwich, adorned by many Notable and Champion Trees.



NOTABLE Trees
are **BIG** Trees,

both native and introduced, based on size and historic connection. Greenwich has 100 Notable Trees inventoried.

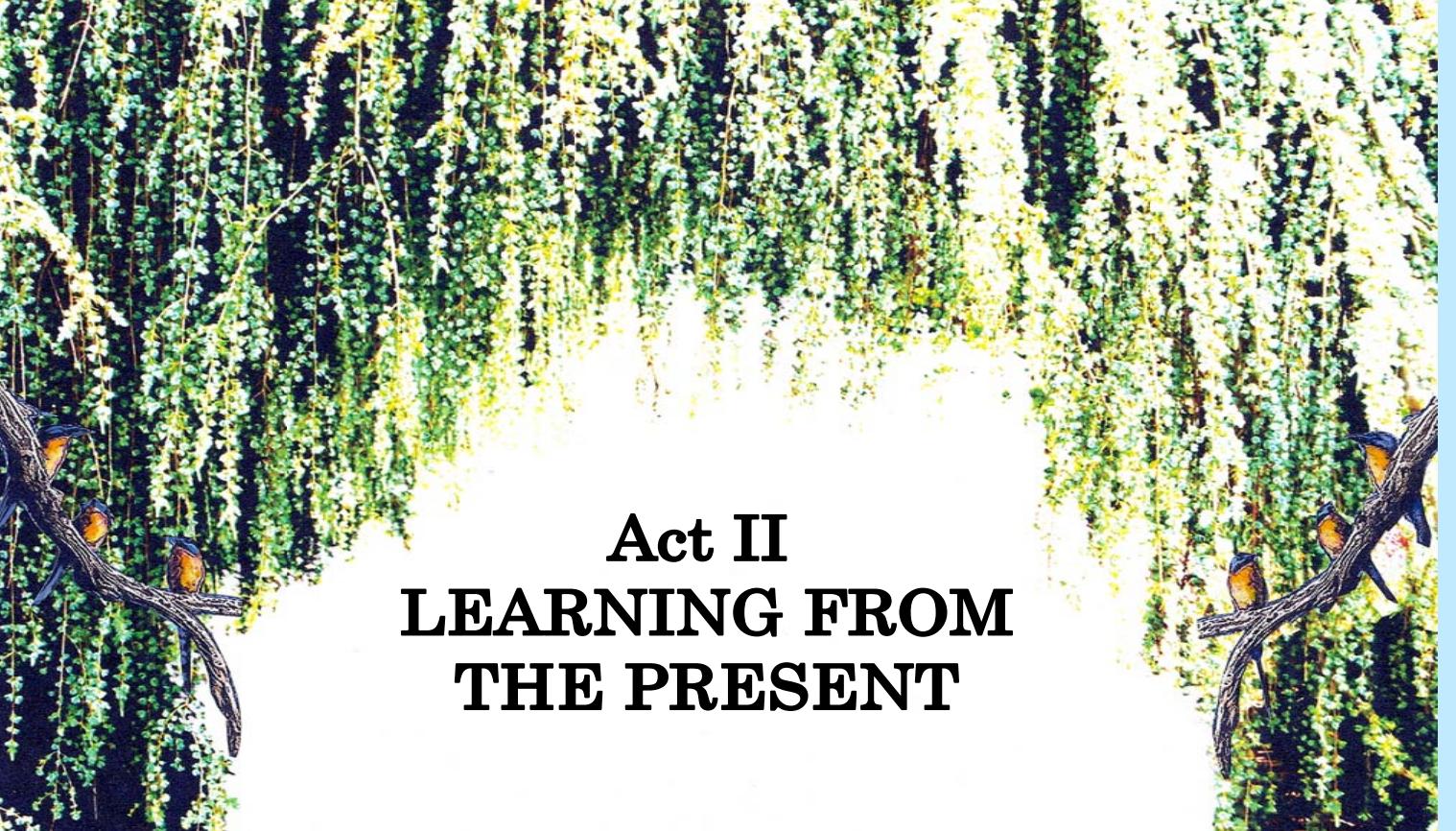
CHAMPION Trees are the
BIGGEST OF A SPECIES

in a given geographical area. Greenwich has 34 CT Champions and 1 National Champion.

Did you know that the Copper Beech here on the Christ Church grounds is over 300 years old?

There are five Connecticut Notable trees on the Christ Church property, two of which are Connecticut Champions. Use one of the maps below to take a self-guided tour.

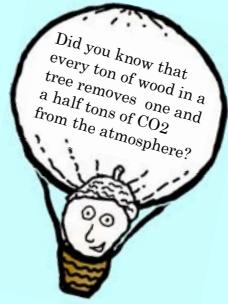




Act II
LEARNING FROM
THE PRESENT

The Treasure in Trees

Trees provide a multitude of benefits on a global, community and personal level.



Air Quality

- Remove atmospheric carbon dioxide, ozone and sulfur dioxide
- Break down pollutants such as nitrogen oxide creating oxygen
- Slow global warming

Water Quality

- Reduce water pollution by improving filtration
- Retard storm water runoff and soil erosion

Climate Control

- Moderate temperatures
- Emit healthy water vapor

Noise and Light Pollution

- Screen noxious sources of both noise and light

Wildlife Habitats

- Provide food and shelter
- Encourage biodiversity

Aesthetics

- Add beauty while hiding unsightly structures

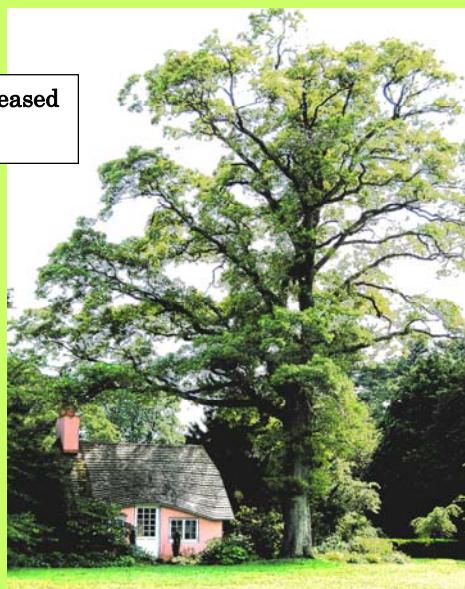
Economic

- Enhance retail sales

Property values are increased by up to 30%

Shade reduces air conditioning costs

Wind breaks reduce heating costs



Quality of Life

- Afford recreation opportunities
- Reduce stress
- Improve medical recovery and convalescence
- Reduce aggressive behavior
- Improve mental function

The Greenwich Tree Scene Today: Leading Players

Greenwich is two thirds forest cover, 94% of which exists on private and non-profit land.

THAT GIVES YOU A STARRING ROLE



The other 6% represents trees in parks, schools, and along streets, cared for by the **TOWN TREE WARDEN**, whose responsibilities include:

- 🍂 Balancing conservation and public safety
- 🍂 Creating and maintaining an inventory of town trees
- 🍂 Pruning and removal of hazardous trees
- 🍂 Implementing public service environmental programs

UTILITIES

40% of Greenwich Power Outages are caused by trees.

Backbone Lines which connect to power substations, have maintenance priority and may require up to 20 ft of clearance.

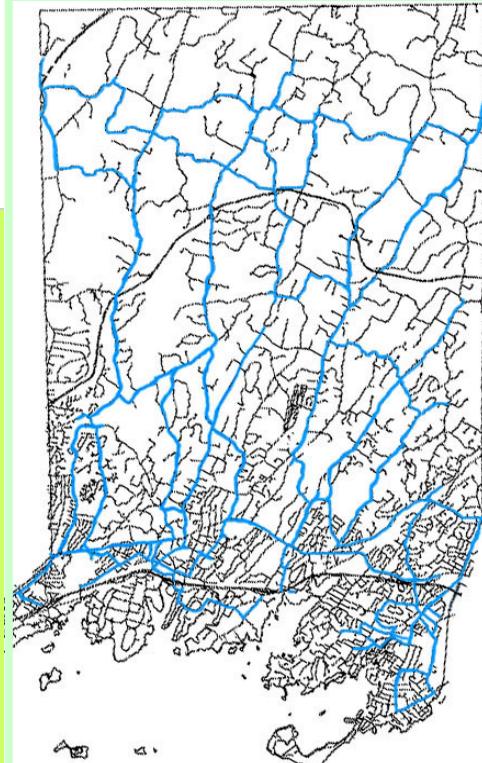


CL&P works with the town to maintain its lines and identify hazardous trees. Except in the case of an immediate hazard, CL&P must give notice of its intention to cut or prune

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS--

Making good things happen

Greenwich Tree Conservancy
Garden Education Center
Greenwich Point Conservancy
Mianus River Gorge Conservancy
Audubon Greenwich
Greenwich Land Trust
Garden Clubs



And...



YOU!!



**Act III
STEWARDS
FOR THE FUTURE**

Starring YOU!

The path to a healthy, sustainable community forest, tree by tree ..



Let our living architecture be your guide.



Take your own tree Inventory to assess the health, age, species and safety of your trees.



Maintain current trees with proper pruning and feeding.

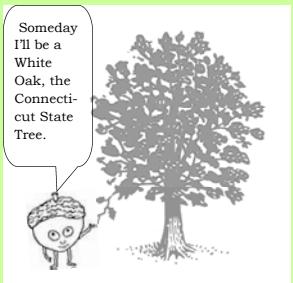


Develop a planting plan

1. Select Native Trees

Use a variety of species, bigger species provide more benefits, stagger maturities

Avoid invasives which crowd out the native vegetation that supports wildlife habitats



The CT highway commission in the 1970's planted along the Post Road, using Norway Maple Trees, that are now considered CT's worst invasive tree.



2. Choose the Right Site

Consider the tree's mature size and shape

Avoid planting under overhead wires and above underground utilities.

A tree's roots system can extend 2-3 times the diameter of its canopy.

3. Plant with patience and follow instructions (see brochure below) avoiding these common pitfalls:

Poor Site Preparation

Excessive Fertilizing

Under/over watering

Mulching too close to trunk



Protect trees on new construction sites

Avoid clear cutting: it severely disrupts the ecosystem and mature trees will not grow back for many years.

Fence off wide areas around trees to protect roots and avoid compacted soil.

Don't change grade level or cut tree roots when excavating.



Educate yourself and others on the unique role that trees play in the ecosystem.

Promote awareness and appreciation of Landmark Trees.

Participate in supportive Public/Private Partnerships

AND...

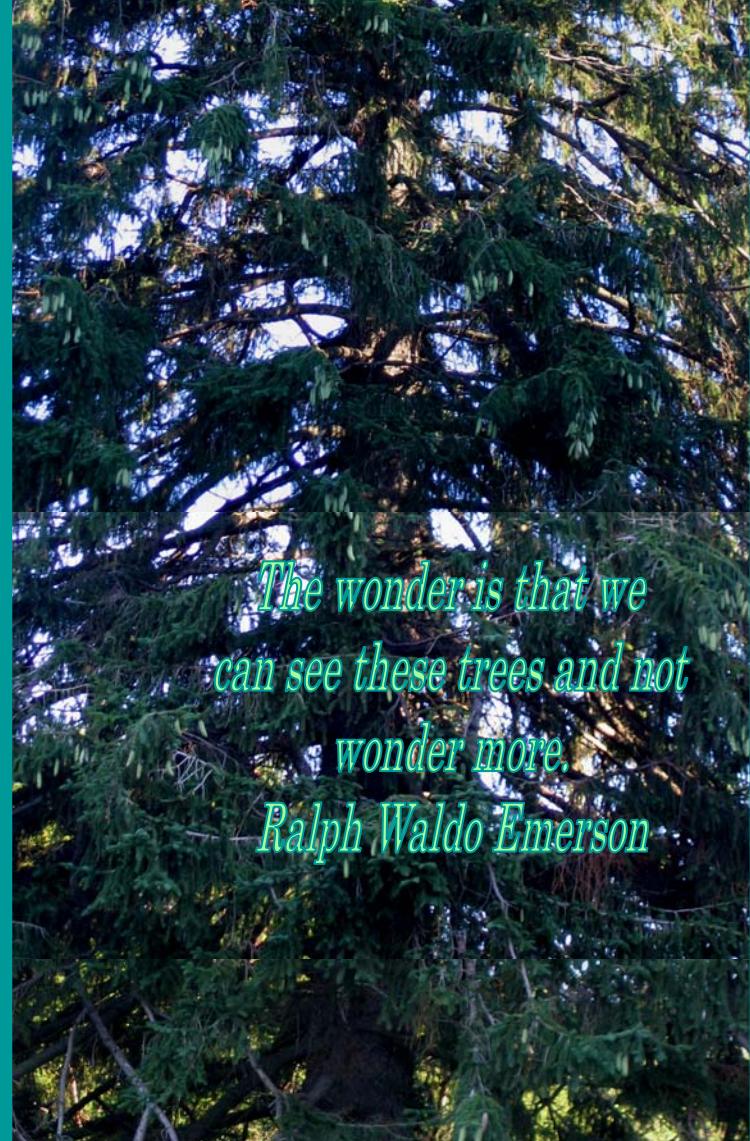


Plant a Tree... You never know how it will mark time in the landscape for future generations .

This Moreton Bay Fig, an Australian native, was planted in Santa Barbara, CA by the (pioneer) great grandmother of our current Green Fingers Garden Club President, Gaby Hall, and is now the largest tree of its kind in the US.



Trees give us
a sense of time
and place.



*The wonder is that we
can see these trees and not
wonder more.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson