

Forest Home Cemetery & Arboretum

Tour & Explore

Map & Guide

A NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES SITE
NON-PROFIT AND OPEN TO ALL FAITHS SINCE 1850

Welcome to Forest Home Cemetery & Arboretum

Forest Home Cemetery was established in 1850 by St. Paul's Episcopal Church as a cemetery for the city. As Milwaukee prospered and expanded, the cemetery became the final resting place for 26 mayors, more than 1,000 Civil War veterans and countless prominent people who left their marks on Milwaukee's history.

Along with the stories it tells about our history, Forest Home's scenic grounds make it a fascinating destination. Well before there were public parks, the property was one of the first landscaped sites in Milwaukee offering a natural respite. Designed by Increase A. Lapham, known as Wisconsin's first naturalist, it is considered one of the finest examples of a rural garden cemetery in the Upper Midwest. Cemeteries such as Forest Home are rare, distinguished by thousands of opulent Victorian-era funerary monuments and majestic mausoleums.

The cemetery grounds are a resource for the living, where visitors can enjoy towering trees, a peaceful lake, soothing fountains, and glimpses of wildlife.

In 1892, the landmark English Gothic chapel made from Lake Superior sandstone was built, designed by the architectural firm Ferry and Clas, which also designed the Milwaukee Central Library and the Pabst Mansion. The chapel's basement houses the first crematory built in the Upper Midwest. It was in use for more than 100 years, from 1896–1998.

Today, Forest Home is an independent non-profit that operates as a historic site, arboretum, and active cemetery, assisting families with traditional and green burials as well as cremation. More than 118,000 people are buried here, with enough land to continue serving families for another 100 years.

Visitor Information

Open daily for self-guided tours. Joggers, dog walkers, bicyclists and birders are all welcome. Unique public tours and events are offered throughout the year, with all proceeds benefiting the Forest Home Historic Preservation Association.

Stay connected at foresthomcemetery.com



Symbolism



Book

Represents a person's life or, if open, symbolizes a human heart open to God, as well as the deeds of a person's life being recorded.



Draped Urn

Very common 19th century funerary symbol depicting the veil between life and death.



Hands Pointing Up & Obelisks

Indicates that the soul has risen to heaven.



Ivy

Symbol of attachment, friendship, and undying affection. Its three-point leaves also make it a symbol of trinity.



Laurel Wreath

Symbol of spiritual victory. It is associated with immortality as its leaves never fade or wilt.



Torch

Upright, it represents eternal life and inverted, a life snuffed out.



Tree Stones

Derived from the Victorian rusticity movement. It was a popular design that reflected a desire to rejoin nature. If the tree is broken, it is referring to a life cut short.

Points of Interest

Office Building

Belfry

Maintenance Building

Chapel Gardens & Abby

Grotto & Alcoves

Halls of History

Landmark Chapel

Grotto Fountain

Victorian Gardens

Lawn Place

Garden of Angels

Veteran's Garden of Honor

Muslim Gardens

Garden of Christus

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Garden of Time

Pond and Bridge

Cleveland Bridge

Prairie Rest Green Burial

Greenwood Jewish Cemetery

Civil War Soldier's Lot

Faith Hill

Sunset Garden

Newhall House Monument

Legend

Points of Interest



Office Building



Yellow Line to Office



Statuary Highlight 1
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Statuary Highlight 2
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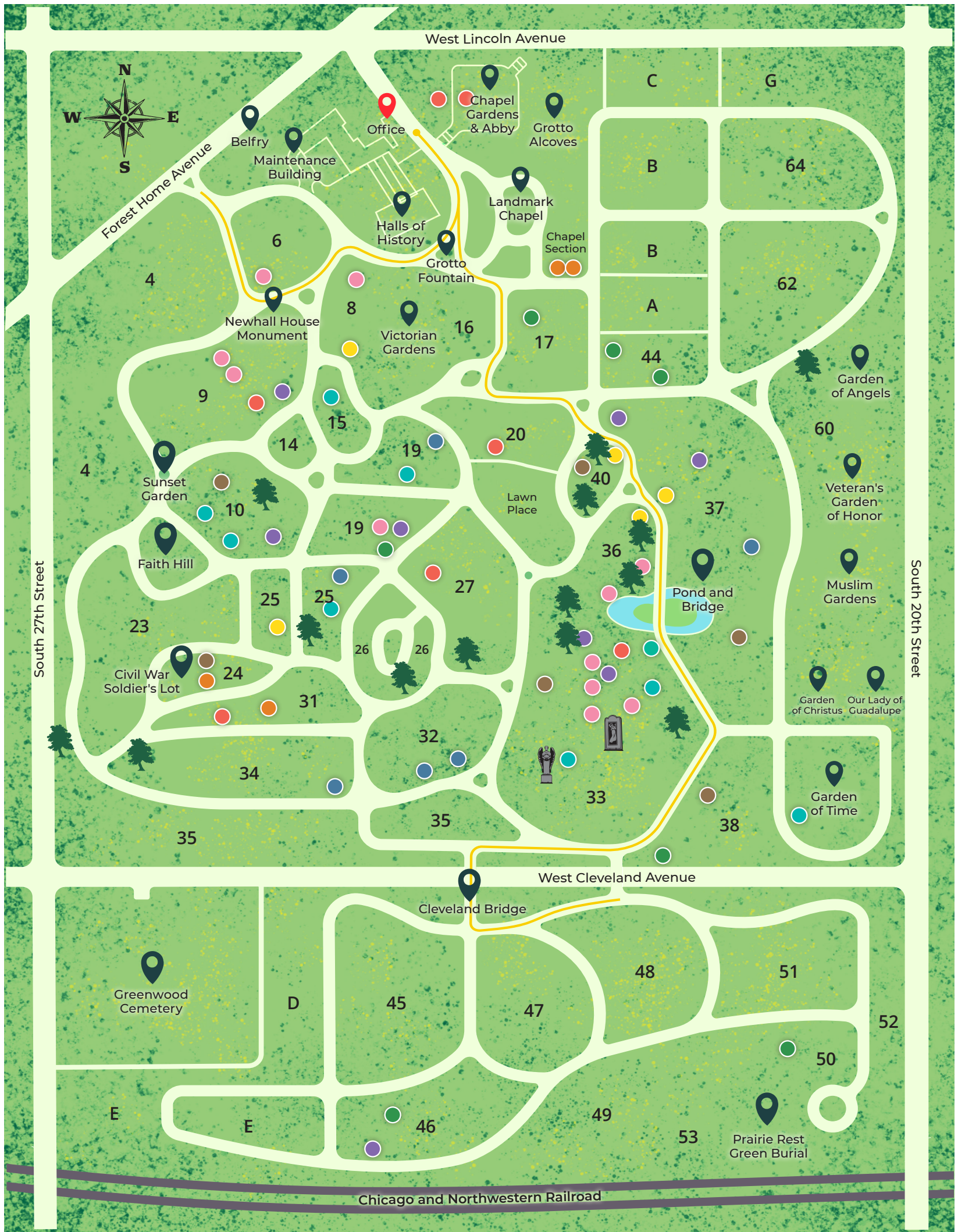
Tree Tour Walk
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Tours by Interest*



* The colors of these icons correspond with the headstone illustrations featured on the following pages. Beer barons are yellow, Industrialists are pink, and so on.



Tours by Interest



Beer Barons



Jacob Best, Sr. (1786–1861), Section 8

Established Milwaukee's largest brewery in 1844. Best's granddaughter Maria married Capt. Frederick Pabst and changed the name to Pabst Brewing. Its slogan became, "He drinks Best who drinks Pabst".

C.T Melms (1819–1869), Section 25

One of the earliest beer barons. The year-by-year history of his brewery is located on the back of the monument.

Joseph Schlitz (1831–1875), Section 36

Schlitz was a bookkeeper for Krug's Brewery. After August Krug passed away, Schlitz married his widow, Anna, and renamed the brewery Schlitz Brewing Company. On a voyage to Germany, Schlitz's ship sank and his body was never found. The ship is carved into this cenotaph -- a memorial for a person who is not buried at that location. Anna Schlitz and her nephews, the Uihlein brothers, inherited the business, which became America's number one brewery from 1902 to 1955.

Valentin Blatz (1826–1894), Section 37

The Blatz Brewing Company produced Milwaukee's first bottled beer. The Blatz family mausoleum is considered one of the largest in the Midwest, weighing more than 500 tons.

Capt. Frederick Pabst (1836–1901), Section 40

While working as a Great Lakes steamer captain, Pabst met brewer Phillip Best and eventually married Best's daughter, Maria. When he inherited the Best Brewery, he changed the name to Pabst Brewing Company. By the end of the 19th century, it was the largest producer of lager beer in America at more than 1 million barrels annually.



Industrialists & Business Magnates



Henry Harnischfeger (1855–1920), Section 9

Partnered with Alonzo Pawling to start a machine shop that eventually led to the development of the Harnischfeger overhead crane.

Alonzo Pawling (1857–1914), Section 9

Along with Henry Harnischfeger, Pawling created P&H, the undisputed leader in mining equipment for 135 years. Today, the company is owned by the Komatsu Corporation.

Lynde (1878–1942) and Harry Bradley (1885–1965), Section 19

With an investment from Dr. Stanton Allen, these brothers started the Allen-Bradley Company, one of the world's largest manufacturers of electronic controls. The company is now part of Rockwell Automation.

Arthur Oliver (A.O.) Smith (1859–1913), Section 33

Smith became involved in manufacturing frames for early automobiles. After Henry Ford placed an order for 10,000 frames, the A.O Smith Company rapidly became the nation's largest frame producer. Today, A.O Smith is a global water-technology company manufacturing water heaters and boilers.

Edward P. Allis (1842–1889), Section 36

Allis became one of Wisconsin's leading industrialists as his Allis Company supplied water pipes and pumping engines for Milwaukee's first water system. The Edward P. Allis Company became Allis-Chalmers Corporation in 1901. The Allis Family Mausoleum is the second largest at Forest Home.

Fred Usinger (1860–1930), Section 6

Milwaukee's most famous "Wurstmacher." Usinger brought his Old World sausage recipes when he immigrated from Germany, and eventually bought his employer's butcher shop. Four generations later, the Usinger Sausage Company is still at its original location and continues to ship sausages around the world.

August F. Gallun (1834–1912), Section 33

In 1858, Gallun established a tannery with partner Albert Trostel. By 1885, the Gallun Tannery became the fourth largest in the U.S. Gallun was known for encouraging immigrant laborers to become U.S. citizens and helping them purchase homes.

Guido Pfister (1818–1889), Section 33

A key player in the tanning industry, Pfister joined Frederick Vogel in 1872 to form one of the largest leather companies in the Midwest. His son, Charles Pfister, financed the Pfister Hotel that still operates downtown and is the epitome of Victorian Elegance.

Frederick Vogel (1823–1892), Section 36

By WWI, the Pfister & Vogel tannery, which Vogel founded with Guido Pfister, was ranked the world's largest leather firm.

Thomas R. Bentley (1848–1910), Section 8

Bentley grew the family's construction company, whose notable projects include the Forest Home Landmark Chapel. The family business has continued for six generations, shifting from construction to packaging. It is now named Bentley World Packaging.

Robert Nunnemacher (1854–1912), Section 33

In the 1890s, through the turn of the century, Nunnemacher was among the top 20 wealthiest businessmen in America. He was best known for developing a malting drum used in brewing and founding the company known today as Galland Henning Nopak, Inc., which remains family-owned and operated.





Pioneers, Inventors, & Publishers



Increase A. Lapham (1811–1875), Section 24

Lapham is considered Wisconsin's first naturalist. He was a city surveyor and created the design of Forest Home Cemetery, taking inspiration from Mount Auburn, a garden-style cemetery in Cambridge, MA. Lapham's records of weather data helped develop the U.S. Weather Bureau.

Arthur (1881–1951), **Walter** (1876–1942), and **William A. Davidson** (1870–1937), Section 38

These three brothers founded the Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Company along with William Harley to become one of the world's largest motorcycle manufacturers and an iconic brand widely known for its loyal following.

Christopher L. Sholes (1819–1890), Section 10

Inventor of the QWERTY keyboard typewriter. Sholes was also a newspaper publisher and politician.

Oscar Werwath (1880–1948), Section 37

Founder and president of the Milwaukee School of Engineering. MSOE was a pioneer in radio broadcasting, creating in 1922 what is now WMSE radio.

George Brumder (1839–1910), Section 33

Brumder developed the largest chain of German-language newspapers in the U.S. and a wide array of books, calendars, and almanacs.

Lucius Nieman (1857–1935), Section 40

As a young man, Nieman helped found The Milwaukee Journal. He ran the newspaper for five decades, presiding over many ambitious journalistic efforts and earning the 1919 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. Harvard University's prestigious Nieman Foundation for Journalism was established by his widow, Agnes Wahl Nieman, in his honor.



Mayors & Founders



Lieut. Carl Zeidler (1908–1942), Chapel Section

Elected Mayor in 1940, Zeidler requested a leave from his duties in 1942 to fight in WWII. He died six months later when his ship, the USS La Salle, was torpedoed and everyone on board perished. Because his remains were never recovered, he was memorialized with a cenotaph — a memorial for someone not buried at that site.

Frank Zeidler (1912–2006), Chapel Section

Carl Zeidler's brother Frank was the last of Milwaukee's three socialist mayors and the most recent socialist mayor of any major U.S city. He served three terms from 1948 to 1960.

Sherburn M. Becker (1876–1949), Section 33

Milwaukee's youngest mayor, elected at 29. He did not like the sidewalk clocks on what is now Wisconsin Avenue because he felt they were too old-fashioned, so he had them torn down.

George H. Walker (1811–1866), Section 31

One of Milwaukee's three founders. He was a fur trader who settled what is now called Walker's Point, and saw Wisconsin transform from territory to state. He twice served as Milwaukee's mayor.

Byron Kilbourn (1801–1870), Section 24

One of Milwaukee's three founders. Kilbourn is also credited with founding the Wisconsin Dells, originally called Kilbourntown. He died in Florida and was buried there until 1998, when a group of historically minded citizens moved his remains to Milwaukee to be buried with his wife and daughter.





Notable Women



Mathilde F. Anneke (1817–1884), Section 15

An outspoken advocate of equal rights for women and one of the city's leading suffragists. Anneke developed the first German-language newspaper that focused on women's issues.

Meta Schlichting Berger (1873–1944), Section 25

Active in education, socialism, and women's suffrage. Berger served on the Milwaukee School Board for 30 years and was the first female president of the board, from 1915 to 1916. In 2017, Girl Scout Troop 8617 raised funds to purchase a marker for her unmarked grave.

Lydia Docenia Ely (1833–1914), Section 19

In 1865, Ely led a group of women in organizing the Soldier's Home Fair an exhibition of important paintings and sculptures from American collections and the first of its kind in Wisconsin. The fair raised \$100,000 for the construction of the Soldier's Home for Civil War veterans.

Alice Miller Chester (1893–1972), Section 33

Best remembered for her involvement with the Girl Scouts, which spanned more than 50 years. Chester served as the national vice president of the Girl Scouts alongside Herbert Hoover's wife, Lou Hoover, who was national president.

Laura Ross Wolcott (1834–1915), Section 10

Wolcott was the first woman to become a physician in Wisconsin and the third woman in the United States to earn a medical degree. She helped found the Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association.

Georgia Green Stebbins (1846–1921), Section 10

Stebbins was the keeper of the North Point Lighthouse for 33 years. Her father, Daniel Green, initially held the job but was in ill health, so Stebbins unofficially performed his duties for seven years before being appointed to the position.

Dickey Chapelle nee Georgette Louise Meyer (1919–1965), Section 33

Chappelle was a daring civilian photojournalist during WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. She photographed men in combat for Reader's Digest, Life, and National Geographic. When she died by land mine, she became the first female photojournalist to be killed in combat in Vietnam.

Melodie Wilson Oldenburg (1950–2009), Section 33

A popular local television news anchor. Oldenburg helped found After Breast Cancer Diagnosis (ABCD), a one-on-one mentoring program for women fighting breast cancer, after her own bout with the disease.

Clementina Rocha Castro (1933–2016), Garden of Time

Rocha Castro was among a group of Latino women known as the "Adelitas" who marched in the civil rights movement of the 1970's. She was a co-founder of La Causa Day Care in Milwaukee.



Black Leaders & Abolitionists



Ardie Clark Halyard (1896–1989), Chapel Gardens Building 2

A banker, activist, and the first woman president of the Milwaukee chapter of the NAACP. In 1925, she and her husband, Wilbur, co-founded the first Black-owned savings and loan in Milwaukee, Columbia Savings and Loan Association, to serve the Black community.

Ezekiel Gillespie (1818–1892), Section 31

A freed slave from Tennessee, Gillespie was instrumental in winning a court case over being denied the right to vote. In 1866, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled in his favor, thus giving all Black men in Wisconsin the right to vote. He also founded the first Black church in Milwaukee, St. Mark Methodist Episcopal Church.

Edward D. Holton (1873–1944), Section 27

An active abolitionist, Holton sponsored a group of Milwaukeeans who settled in Kansas so they could vote against the new state becoming a slave state. The town of Holton, KS, is named after him.

William T. Green (1860–1911), Section 20

Milwaukee's first Black attorney and civil rights activist. Green was instrumental in getting Wisconsin Civil Rights Act of 1893 enacted.

Marcia P. Coggs (1928–2003), Chapel Gardens West Terrace

The first Black woman elected to the Wisconsin Legislature. Coggs is quoted as saying, "You cannot legislate the heart, but you can legislate laws. My mission is to work for social change".

Sherman Booth (1812–1904), Section 9

An abolitionist, editor, and politician. Booth became known nationally after helping instigate a jailbreak for the runaway slave Joshua Glover, in violation of the Fugitive Slave Act.



Entertainers, Artists, & Art Collectors

Alfred Lunt (1892–1977) and Lynn Fontanne (1887–1986), Section 33

The legendary acting couple was active from the 1920s through 1960s. After they retired, they lived at Ten Chimneys in Genesee Depot, WI. They were married for 55 years and were inseparable both on and off stage.

Susan Stuart Frackelton (1848–1932), Section 10

An internationally known ceramics artist, Frackelton authored a book *Tried by Fire*, which explained her techniques. She invented a portable gas kiln allowing people to make pottery in their own home.



Henry Vianden (1814–1899), Section 46

A landscape artist and instructor known as the "oak tree" painter. Vianden said that trees were God's noble creatures. "When you paint a tree, you have a King sitting for you". His studio and home were once on land that is now part of Forest Home.

Mary Louise Nohl (1914–2001), Section 33

A professionally trained sculptor and silversmith, Nohl was best known for transforming her home on Beach Drive in Fox Point, WI, into a total art environment. She left her \$11 million estate to the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to expand art opportunities for children and support emerging artists.

Frederick Layton (1827–1919), Section 9

A successful meat-packing businessman, Layton's lasting legacy comes from the art collection he donated to the City of Milwaukee and that now comprises the founding, core collection of early European and American art at the *Milwaukee Art Museum*.

Margaret "Peg" Bradley (1894–1978), Section 19

Wife of Harry Lynde Bradley, Peg Bradley was an influential art collector. Her collection is the backbone of the Milwaukee Art Museum's Modern Art collection. Her former home in River Hills, WI, is now open to the public as the Lynden Sculpture Garden.

Constance (1929–2014) and Dudley Godfrey, Jr. (1926–2007), Section 33

Dudley Godfrey was one of the founders of the Godfrey & Kahn law firm, now one of the largest Milwaukee firms. With his wife, Constance, he was an avid collector of American furniture and decorative art.

Stanley (1896–1987) and Polly Stone (1898–1995), Section 37

Stanley Stone's father was one of the founders of the Milwaukee-based Boston Store. He and his wife, Polly, collected American furniture and British pottery. Together, they created the Chipstone Foundation in Fox Point, WI, dedicated to preserving, studying, and collecting decorative arts.

Brooks Stevens (1911–1995), Section 37

A major force in American industrial design, Stevens is known for designing the Oscar Mayer Weinermobile, the Miller Brewing Logo, and Harley-Davidson's Hydra-Glide motorcycle.



Military Heroes



General Billy Mitchell (1879–1936), Section 32

Mitchell attained the rank of general in WWI. A strong advocate of the use of planes in wartime, he founded the U.S Army Air Corps and is considered the father of American air power.

General Lysander Cutler (1807–1866), Section 25

Cutler served in the Union army. His brigade was the first in the Union to engage with Confederates in the field. After being severely wounded by shrapnel to the face, he was placed on recruiting duty and promoted to Major General.

Lt. Col. Charles Hamilton (1826–1901), Section 32

A grandson of America's founding father, Alexander Hamilton. At the battle of Gainesville, he was shot in the right thigh by a bullet that traveled through and lodged in his left thigh. It remained there for the rest of his life. Professionally, he was an attorney and circuit court judge in Milwaukee.

Colonel Xay Dang Xiong (1943-2018), Section 37

Xiong was a Hmong veteran from Laos who risked his life in secrecy working with the CIA during the Viet Nam war. He spent 16 years in the Royal Lao Army fighting in numerous battles while commanding 4,500 troops. He was wounded three times. After he moved to Milwaukee in 1982, he taught English as a second language and was instrumental in establishing the Lao Hmong Veterans of America. Col. Xiong received a full military burial.

Gen. Harrison C. Hobart (1815–1902), Section 34

Gen. Hobart was captured at the battle of Chickamauga during the U.S Civil War. Along with two other officers, he devised a plan to dig an escape tunnel, working in secret for months until 109 prisoners crawled to freedom.

Gen. Charles King (1844–1933), Section 19

King began his career as an aide to his father, Gen. Rufus King, during the U.S Civil War and was wounded by Apaches during the Indian Wars. He is credited with writing more than 65 books, short stories and movie scripts. The city of King, WI, is named after him.



Tragic and Distinctive Burials



Miriam Noel Wright (1869–1930), Section 44

Wright was a divorcee from Tennessee when she began an affair with architect Frank Lloyd Wright, eventually becoming his second wife. She was a morphine addict and self-proclaimed spiritualist and sculptor. The couple's short, tumultuous time together ended in a dramatic legal battle and divorce.

George Marshall Clark (1839–1861), Section 17

A Black Milwaukee barber, Clark was the victim of Milwaukee's only recorded lynching. After being jailed for his involvement in a street fight, he was dragged from jail by a mob and hanged.

Max Schuster (1850–1895), Section 44

Schuster was a train engineer who fell off the top of a box car to his death. His tombstone tells the tale.

Orville Cadwell (1828–1850), Section 19

Forest Home's first burial. His original marker was so worn, it was replaced at an event celebrating the 150th year of the cemetery.

The Newhall House Monument (1883), Section 9

This is a mass grave for unidentified victims of the Newhall House fire. The Newhall House was a magnificent Milwaukee hotel that caught on fire in the middle of the night. It is estimated that 90 people perished; 64 are buried here.

John "Babbacombe" Lee (1864–1945), Section 50

Notorious for surviving three hangings after being convicted of murdering his employer in Babbacombe Bay, England. Three attempts were made to carry out Lee's execution, but the scaffold's trap door failed each time and the medical officer refused to continue. Lee became popularly known as "the man they couldn't hang". After his release from prison, he moved to the United States where he re-married and had a daughter.

Iroquois Theatre Fire Victims (1903), Section 46

This monument memorializes five Milwaukeeans who died in the Chicago Iroquois Theatre fire. It was one of the deadliest single-building fires in U.S history, killing 602 people.

Edmund Fitzgerald (1895–1986), Section 38

Fitzgerald came from a long line of Great Lakes ship captains and rose to prominence as president and then chairman of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company. While chairman, the company launched an ore carrier bearing his name that was, at the time, the largest vessel on the Great Lakes. The vessel later sank in a storm, killing all 29 on board, an event immortalized in the song "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald".





Statuary Highlight #1

When Getrude Nunnemacher Schuchardt shot herself in the chest in a downtown Los Angeles hotel, her husband, William Schuchardt, commissioned the great American sculptor Paulanship (1885–1966) to make a decorative tombstone. Cast in concrete, it features an Art Nouveau-style silhouette of a woman surrounded by a border of the Zodiac signs. Manship created more than 700 works in his lifetime, most notably the Prometheus fountain in Rockefeller Center, NYC.



Statuary Highlight #2

The T.A. Chapman monument includes a bronze statue of an angel created by the American artist Daniel Chester French (1850–1931), who is known for his sculpture of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Chapman was the founder of one of the largest high-end department stores in the region. The T.A. Chapman store closed in the 1970s.



Tree Walk

Forest Home Cemetery is an arboretum of more than 2,600 trees representing over 100 species.

This self-guided tree tour provides a colorful sampling of our remarkable tree collection.

Each tree is tagged with a silver disk and its own unique number.

#1755 White Oak (*Quercus alba*).

A preeminent hardwood, the White Oak may live to be 200-300 years old.

#1989 Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*).

The Honeylocust's lacy foilage turns yellow in autumn.

#1667 Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*).

Leaves are green on top and silvery-white on the underside, creating a shimmering effect.

#1553 Burr Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*).

The stately Burr Oak's acorns are the largest of any North American oak.

#1529 Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*).

The Shagbark's hickory nut is edible and very sweet. It gets its name from its shaggy bark.

#778 Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioicus*).

The tree gets its name from Kentucky settlers who noticed the seeds resembled coffee beans.

#892 Northern Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*). Heralded by tree experts as "one tough tree", it can withstand strong winds and air pollution.

#970 American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*).

Golden bronze leaves in the fall and slow growing for generations to enjoy.

#978 Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*). With unique, fan-shaped leaves, this tree is a living fossil, with the earliest leaf fossils dating from 270 million years ago.

#992 Northern Catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*).

This is a tree that demands your attention. White, showy flowers and giant heart-shaped leaves.

#1010 Katsura Tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*). Native to Japan, its heart-shaped leaves are reddish-purple in the spring and apricot colored in the fall.

#1024 Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*).

The Sugar Maple's leaves put on quite a show in the fall, turning yellow, burnt orange and red.

#1028 Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*).

Spring blossoms, fall color, and fragrant flowers. The interior wood is yellow in color.

#293 Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*).

Smooth white bark and bright yellow fall color. Early fur trappers would make sleek, light weight canoes from its bark.

All Welcome

Open for self-guided tours.

Joggers, dog walkers, bicyclists and birders are all welcome.

Tours + Events

Unique public tours and events are offered throughout the year, with all proceeds benefiting the Forest Home Historic Preservation Association.

Special Thanks

This guide was funded with the generous support of Joseph Pabst and John Schellinger. The Tree Walk was made possible by an urban forestry grant from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Forestry Program as authorized under s.23.097, Wis. Stat.

Photos courtesy of Barbie Brennan Nelson and Jennifer Ambrose.

MIAD Innovation Center alumni Sophie Yufa and Colleen Schinler for their design of this guide.



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