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# Red Wing Dinnerware & The Village Green Line

## PART 1

The information presented here has been gleaned from vintage Red Wing brochures, catalogs, price lists and internal documents as well as trade journals and magazines. In this discussion, a "pattern" is a dinnerware set in a particular shape with a unique handpainted design or color scheme. A "line" is a group of patterns that share the same shapes but have different handpainted designs or colors. Some of the introduction and exit dates presented have not been verified because of gaps in available documentation. When uncertain, an estimated date is provided. The end point of a pattern can be difficult to ascertain. In the 1940s and 1950s a discontinued pattern no longer appeared on price lists; in the 1960s patterns that were no longer in production remained on price lists as "limited stock" with only a few pieces listed. Here a pattern is considered to be discontinued when a full range of items was no longer available and orders were limited to remaining stock.

Each pattern has been assigned an Availability rating and a Collector Interest rating as described below. Availability represents an average for the pattern in question, however the scarcity of certain pieces within the pattern may differ. Collector Interest refers to the pattern in general, but there may be specific pieces in any pattern that are of greater interest to specialty collectors (teapots, pitchers, salt & peppers, etc). Please keep in mind these ratings are the authors' observations; your experience may vary.

### Availability

- 1 - Rare
- 2 - Very scarce
- 3 - Hard to find
- 4 - Average
- 5 - Readily available

### Collector Interest

- 1 - Highly sought, demand exceeds supply
- 2 - Primarily of interest to specialty collectors
- 3 - Above average
- 4 - Average
- 5 - Below average

The name "Village Green" referred to both a line and a pattern. The Village Green pattern was introduced in 1952; other patterns using the same shapes were added in subsequent years. Thus, Village Green also became the name for a line of dinnerware patterns.

### Village Green Availability: 5 Interest: 3 Years: July 1952 - 1967

Village Green sales remained strong and steady for many years, right up to the closing of the Potteries in 1967. It was probably the second best selling Red Wing pattern, and it continues to be popular with collectors today. The 1952 brochure that introduced Village Green referred to the "brown and green line originated in 1943", demonstrating the company considered Village Green to be an updated version of Bakeware (Oomph). The colors were named Silver Pine and Rustic Brown in this and subsequent brochures. The 1952 brochure included sketches of metal trays and warming stands. It stated these metal pieces "with an attractive wrinkled green finish will be added to the line", but this was apparently never done.

### Additions to the original 1952 Village Green lineup:

Early 1950s: Water cooler, 1 gallon coffee server (without metal stand), 1 gallon bean pot, cereal bowl, sauce bowl and casserole stands (plates with handles) in three sizes.

1953-1954: 1 gallon coffee server with protruding side knobs and metal pour stand.

1956-1957: Coffee mug (Town & Country mug)

1960: Gravy boat, 13-inch oval platter and nappy (vegetable bowl)

### Deletions:

Mid 1950s: Waffle dish with cover. This piece is rare. It is uncertain whether the base of the waffle dish was simply a dinner plate or another plate designed for this purpose. Brochures do not provide a clear view of the plate.

1955-1956: 1 gallon coffee server (without metal stand)

### Miscellaneous:

The Colonial Deep Dish Pie Plate, Fondue Casserole and a round brown egg plate were glazed in Village Green colors, but appeared only in giftware catalogs, not Village Green brochures. A spoon rest with a large support knob on the back has been found in Village Green colors (both green and brown, as well as white and beige fleck); also an individual size Village Green teapot (has the number 3 on the bottom). No documentation has been found for the spoon rest or teapot. Price lists dated 1958 and 1959 included a Village Green trivet.



Left: Village Green water cooler



Right: Front and back views of a rare Village Green trivet



Bottom right: Village Green cup & saucer



Above: Two sizes of Village Green teapots Left: Village Green plates



**Delta Blue Availability: 2 Interest: 1 Years: 1954-1956**

The second pattern produced in the Village Green shape, Delta Blue apparently did not sell well and was soon discontinued. Delta Blue pieces had a light blue background with dark blue teardrop-shaped decorations in groups of three. A 1954 brochure included the waffle dish and all Village Green pieces introduced by 1954 (including both 1 gallon coffee server styles). But the items added after 1954 were never made in Delta Blue. But the items added to the line after 1954 were never made in Delta Blue. Delta Blue water cooler covers are a bit of a mystery. The brochure showed the water cooler with a patterned cover, but white covers have also been found on Delta Blue coolers.



*Delta Blue plate*



*Delta Blue water cooler*



*Left to right: Delta Blue teapot, bean pot and coffee server*



*Left to right: Delta Blue mug, cup & saucer and syrup*

**Picardy Availability: 4 Interest: 5 Years: 1960-1962**



*Picardy teapot & warmer, salt & pepper and water pitcher*



*Picardy covered butter*



*Picardy plate*

**Two Step Availability: 4 Interest: 5 Years: 1960-1962**



*Two Step gravy*



*Two Step plate*



*Top: Two Step 8-inch warmer  
Bottom: Two Step sugar & creamer*

Neither the Picardy nor the Two Step pattern sold well. Picardy was in many ways an update of the Brittany pattern, with a yellow rose and smaller blue flowers and brown leaves. Two Step had the beige fleck background with turquoise and brown half-circle whirls. While both patterns included most standard dinnerware items, many Village Green pieces were not made in Picardy or Two Step. These omissions included the coffee mug (Town & Country mug), beverage mug, medium 9-inch salad bowl, 14-inch chop plate, casserole stands, small 4 cup pitcher, 1 gallon bean pot, marmite, handled marmite, syrup jug, 6-inch baking dish, 12-inch baking dish, 1 gallon coffee server with metal stand and the water cooler. 🍷

The remaining patterns in the Village Green line will be featured in the August issue of the *RWCS Newsletter*.

***Did you know?***

*The Red Wing Potteries gave President Dwight D. Eisenhower a 24-place, 200-piece set of Village Green dinnerware to celebrate his 1960 visit to Red Wing to dedicate the new Hiawatha Bridge over the Mississippi River. To read more about Ike's visit and the dinnerware he received, check out the stories in the February 1988, October 2006 and August 2008 RWCS Newsletters.*