

The group was set up to make West Park a safer and more enjoyable place to visit by addressing the issues that matter to you. If you want to find out more contact us...

Join the Friends of West Park!

Create a piece of art work by collecting leaves, flowers and seeds.
Grow your own Oak tree by gathering acorns from under your favourite tree.

Look for evidence of 'woodland past' in the names of pubs and streets - and even local people!

What you can do

Trees are the largest and oldest living things on Earth! They offer food and shelter to a huge range of plants and animals and are essential to our own health and well being. Trees make our surroundings more attractive, provide shade from the sun and shelter from the wind. Trees convert carbon into oxygen through a process called photosynthesis and filter out pollution from the air that we breathe. Taking care of our old trees links us with our past and planting new trees act as a symbol of hope for the future.

Introduction



West Park TREE TRAIL Long Eaton

Stroll through the park and discover its beautiful trees

WEST PARK TREE TRAIL

1 Copper Beech

(*Fagus sylvatica 'purpurea'*) Introduced to the U.K. Approximate height: 35m.

Sometimes called the 'Mother of the Woods' - the Beech Queen next to the Oak King. It was believed that a wish could be written on beech wood and buried. As the wood rotted away the wish would slowly come true. Beech nuts (masts) provide food for grazing cattle and have been used as fuel by people.

Did you know that one mature Beech tree produces enough oxygen for the needs of 10 people?

2 Atlas Cedar

(*Cedrus atlantica*) Introduced. Height: 36m.

Can be told apart from other cedars by its rising branch tips. It needs lots of room to grow and its cones ripen to a pale purplish-brown which are shaped like a wasps nest with a sunken top. In its native North Africa, it's only found in the Atlas Mountains.

Did you know that unlike other conifers Cedars flower in the autumn?

3 London Plane

(*Platanus x hispanica*) Introduced. Height: 30m.

London's most dominant tree, but not a native Londoner! The tree was planted in Victorian times because they tolerated the pollution that existed at that time. It sheds its bark in patches and has bobbly-like fruits which don't drop in winter.



4 Tulip Tree

(*Liriodendron tulipifera*) Introduced. Height: 35m.

Named after the showy tulip-like flowers on older trees in early summer. The rich yellow / russet leaves stay on the tree until late November and the pale grey bark develops a pattern of vertical ridges with age. The seeds float on water so they are found naturally in river valleys and flood plains.



Did you know that it was once called 'canoe wood' by North American Indians as a 20 person canoe could be carved out of one log?

5 Norway Maple

(*Acer platanoides 'Schwedleri'*) Introduced. Height: 21m.

Norway Maple grows well in British towns as it is frost resistant, tolerant of drought and this purple-leaved tree. It has yellow flowers in spring which show before the leaves providing an early source of food for our local bees.

6 Crack Willow

(*Salix fragilis*) Native. Height: 25m.

This willow gets its name because its trunk grows so fast it can split under its own weight. You will see its catkins in May which quickly turn fluffy white. It is good for making charcoal and is often cut at shoulder height (pollarded) to provide straight poles for fence making.

Did you know Willow twigs only need to be placed in damp ground to take root?

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Friends
of West Park
together we can ...

www.erewash.gov.uk

30 Common Lime

(*Tilia x europaea*) Origin uncertain. Height: 30m.

This is the tallest broadleaved tree seen in Britain. It has attractive heart shaped leaves and pale yellow flowers that attract bees in the summer. They can also become infested with aphids which feed on the leaves, causing sticky leaf sap to drip onto the ground below.



If you would like this leaflet in large print, on tape or in another language, please phone 0845 907 2244.

If you need this information in your language, please contact us using one of the methods below.

"એ તમારે આ માહિતીની તમારી પોતાની ભાષામાં જરૂર હોય, તો બીચેની પદ્ધતિઓમાંથી એકનો ઉપયોગ કરીને કાઉન્સિલનો સંપર્ક સાધો."

如果您需要您自己语言的此信息，请通过以下方法之一与委员会联系。

"ਜੇ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਇੱਕ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਦੀ ਵਰਤੋਂ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਬੋਰਡ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।"

اگر آپ کو اس معلومات کی ضرورت ہے تو اپنی زبان میں سے کسی ایک طریقے سے ہمیں رابطہ کریں۔



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27 Horse Chestnut

(*Aesculus hippocastanum*) Introduced. Height: 30m.

Often grown as ornamental avenue trees for their 'candles' of flowers, this tree is best known for its spiny fruit containing one or more shiny 'conkers'. The nuts are also known as 'cheggies' or 'obbylonkers'. Conkers can be eaten by cattle and deer and were sometimes ground up as meal to fatten sheep in the past.



28 Black Poplar : Tree Sculpture

(*Populus nigra*) Native. Height: 30m.

This tree's crown was severely damaged by storms and rather than fell it completely, it was turned into a magical sculpture in 2002.

The artist who created it, Andrew Frost, deliberately intended the meaning of the sculpture to be open to interpretation by all who see it!

29 Sweet Chestnut

(*Castanea sativa*) Introduced. Height: 30m.

Its fruit is green and spiny with one to three edible nuts inside, which squirrels and humans alike love! Sweet Chestnuts roasted on an open fire and chestnut stuffing at Christmas, have been winter traditions in Britain for generations. Very few sold in the shops here are home grown as the summers are too cool for the nuts to ripen. Most are imported from France and Italy.

7 Red Oak

(*Quercus rubra*) Introduced. Height: 25m.

This is a fast growing American Oak which prefers open situations, not shade and only lives for 180 years - not very old for an oak! In young trees the leaves turn dark red in autumn, but as the tree matures the leaves usually turn yellow / orange.

8 False Acacia

(*Robinia pseudoacacia*) Introduced. Height: 25m.

It has sweet scented pea like flowers which produce nectar for insects in summer. This is followed by brown seed pods in autumn which split to release kidney shaped beans. It has long spines on its branches and deep vertical fissures on the bark of old trees.



9 Deodar Cedar

(*Cedrus deodara*) Introduced. Height: 70m.

An evergreen tree with drooping branch tips and cones that are shaped like barrels. In its native Western Himalayas it is known as the 'Tree of God' or 'Sacred Indian Fir'.

10 Black Walnut

(*Juglans nigra*) Introduced. Height: 30m.

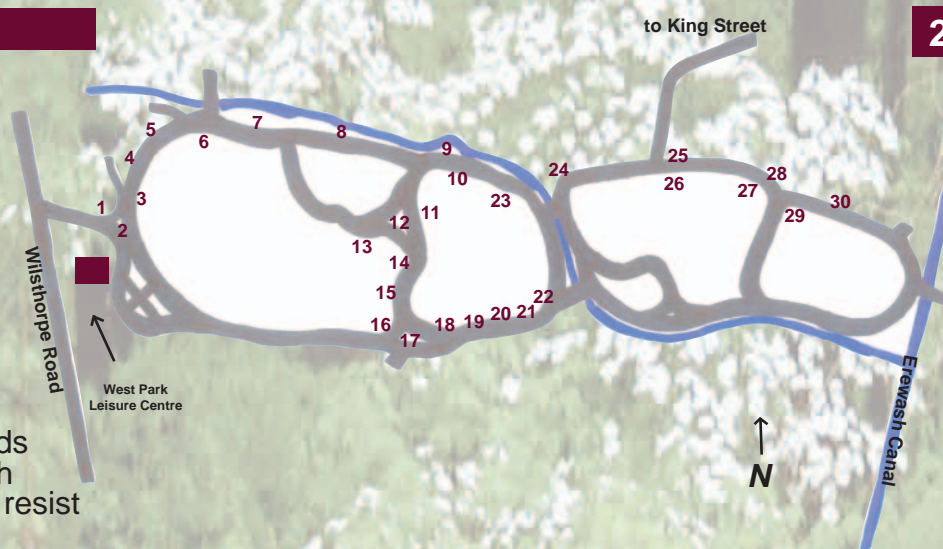
A fast growing spreading tree with scented leaves and fruits. The brown to purplish black wood is very sought after and can be used for almost any woodworking purpose imaginable!

Did you know that the Walnut is allelopathic - this means that it produces a poison that prevents other trees from growing close to it?

11 Whitebeam

(*Sorbus aria*) Native. Height: 24m.

This tree was named and used by the Anglo-Saxons as a boundary marker. It has sweet scented white flowers in May with red berries and golden leaves in autumn. The berries provide food for birds and used to be made into jelly to eat with meat. The hairy underside of the leaves resist pollution and give the tree a silvery look.



12 Grey Poplar

(*Populus x canescens*) Introduced. Height: 30m.

This tree is a cross between the white and black poplars. It is more tolerant of shade than the others and occurs in damp woods. Young suckers from its roots form dense thickets and as the tree gets older, its bark becomes pitted with diamond shapes.

Did you know that when dry the wood is very strong and is used for packing cases and storage pallets?

13 Handkerchief Tree

(*Davidia involucrata*) Introduced. Height: 18m.

Its name comes from the display of large bracts or 'flowers', which hide the true purple blossom beneath. It is also known as the Dove or Ghost tree and it has green brown speckled fruit, which grow to more than 4cm and turn purple when ripe.



14 Broadleaf Cockspurthorn

(*Crataegus x prunifolia*) Origin uncertain. Height: 8m.

Of uncertain origins but probably a hybrid. This is a tough spiny bush or small tree. It is a long-lived and decorative tree, with attractive flowers, fruit and bright autumn colours. The leaves change from yellow to orange, through to copper and then dark red.

15 Common Ash

(*Fraxinus excelsior*) Native. Height: 40m.

The Ash is one of the last trees to come into leaf and is a very strong, pliable wood. According to folklore, it is thought to have medicinal and mystical powers, so if a sick child is passed through the cleft of the tree it would be cured. The tree was of enormous significance to the Vikings who believed that the entire world was held within the branches of a gigantic Ash.

16 Silver Maple

(*Acer saccharinum*) Introduced. Height: 30m.



In its native North America the sap can be tapped and made into syrup by boiling it. It is then sold as maple syrup or refined into sugar. It is a fast growing tree that sprouts from the base forming lots of stems if not pruned. Its bark is grey and smooth when young,

turning shaggy with age.

17 Purple-leaved Plum

(*Prunus cerasifera 'Pissardii'*) Introduced. Height: 9m.

This is a small common tree. In the spring it has pink buds which open to many white flowers. These are then followed by masses of purple leaves.

20 Single Leaf Ash

(*Fraxinus excelsior 'Diversifolia'*) Introduced / Native. Height: 27m.

A variant of the Common Ash, it too has very distinctive black buds in winter and as its name suggests, it has single leaves rather than compound leaves.

21 Maidenhair Tree

(*Ginkgo biloba*) Introduced. Height: 30m.

The oldest tree in the world, it is a living fossil that was present when the dinosaurs were alive! It is classed as an evergreen tree even though it sheds its leaves in winter.



22 Cappadocian Maple

(*Acer cappadocicum*) Introduced. Height: 24m.

Its name comes from an ancient region of Asia Minor, now the mountainous central area of present day Turkey. It has a broad, rounded shape with a short trunk and twisting branches. It is grown for ornamental reasons in large gardens, but sprouts suckers around its base, so is best grown where it is grazed or mown.

23 Wellingtonia

(*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) Introduced. Height: 50m.

The Wellingtonia is the largest tree in the world. In its native California, it can grow up to 80m tall and live for 3000 years. It belongs to a group of trees known as 'redwoods' because they have a distinctive red rugged bark which is resistant to fire.

Did you know that the biggest Wellingtonia is called General Sherman and its trunk measures 31m around?

24 Scots Pine

(*Pinus sylvestris*) Native. Height: 36m.

Only a few native pine forests survive in the highlands of Scotland. It has ruddy brown bark and its paired needles are usually twisted and shorter than most pines. Some people use the cones for weather forecasting! Pine cones open when the weather is dry and close up when it is wet.



Did you know that conifers were alive before broadleaved trees?

18 Silver Birch

(*Betula pendula*) Native. Height: 18m.

One of Britain's hardiest trees, birch spreads easily to form scrub woodland. It has a silvery white trunk which develops black triangles with age. In the spring its flowers show as yellow green catkins up to 5cm long.



Did you know that a mature birch tree can produce a million seeds in a year!

19 Sweet Gum

(*Liquidambar styraciflua*) Introduced. Height: 25m.

Described as 'liquid amber' from the colour and texture of the gum it produces. It was introduced from Mexico as an ornamental tree and it has bright autumn colours, from scarlet to deep red, lemon and purple. Its round spiky fruit hang from a long stalk turning from green to brown when ripe.



25 Foxglove Tree

(*Paulownia tomentosa*) Introduced. Height: 12m.

The tree is named after its purple flowers, shaped like those of the foxglove. It grows naturally in China but is also grown in plantations, where the wood is used for the sound boards of stringed instruments.

Did you know that it is thought to have magical powers to preserve people's beauty and health?

26 Common Oak

(*Quercus robur*) Native. Height: 36m.

The Druids of Celtic Britain held this tree as sacred. Known as 'Father of the Forest', the tree has many symbolic meanings including strength and fertility. It is a long-lived tree, said to spend 300 years growing, 300 years resting and 300 years gracefully declining.



Did you know that an old Oak can provide a habitat for more than 240 types of insect?