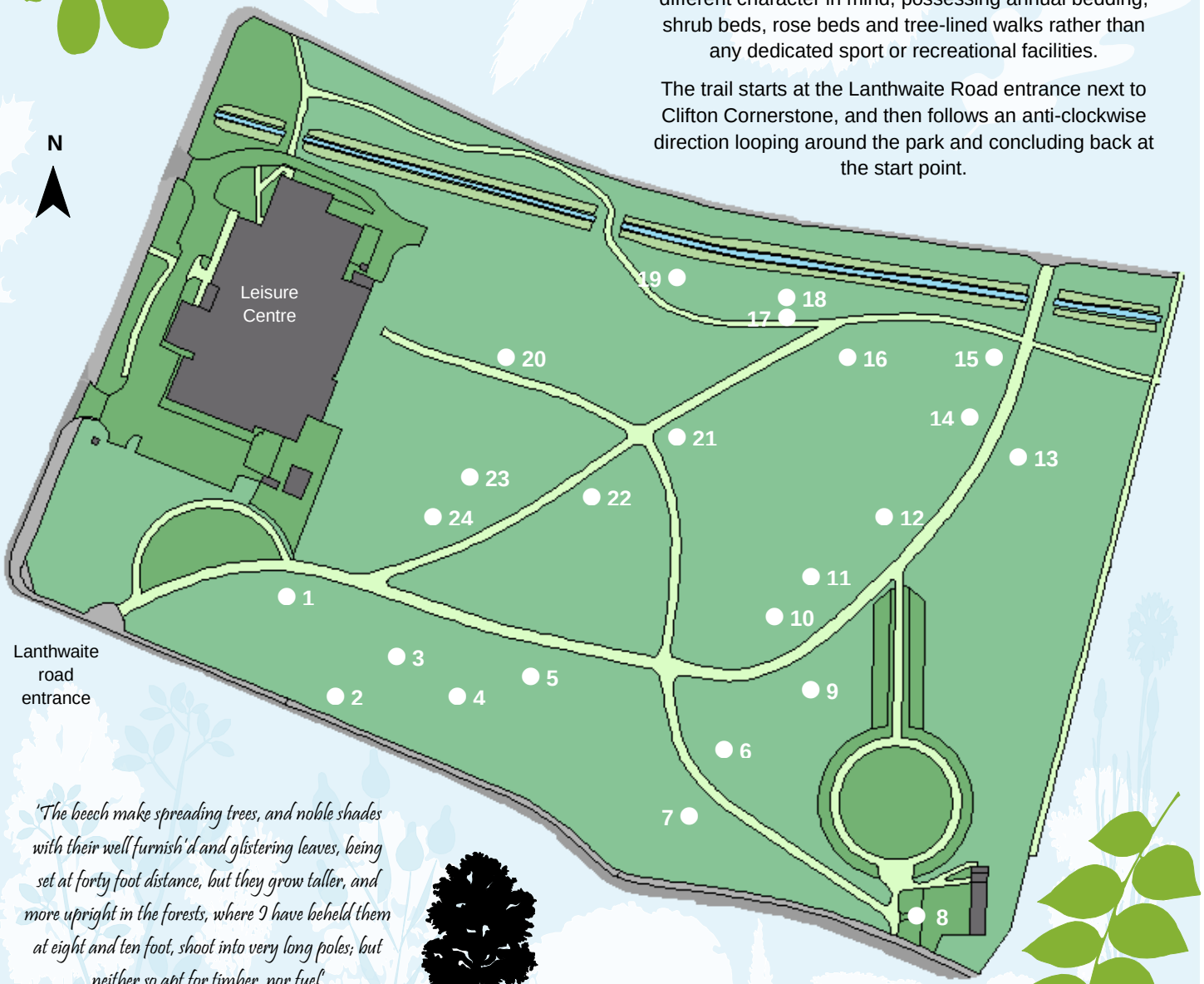
For more information on this and other tree trails, please contact Nottingham City Council's Parks and Open Spaces Service on;
0115 915 2733 or email;
parksandopenspaces@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Clifton Central Park was opened in 1967 and covers 20 acres. It forms a direct link from the centre of Clifton through to Clifton Playing Fields creating a valuable wildlife corridor.

Known locally as 'Flower Park', it was laid out with a very different character in mind, possessing annual bedding, shrub beds, rose beds and tree-lined walks rather than any dedicated sport or recreational facilities.

The trail starts at the Lanthwaite Road entrance next to Clifton Cornerstone, and then follows an anti-clockwise direction looping around the park and concluding back at the start point.



'The beech make spreading trees, and noble shades with their well furnish'd and glistering leaves, being set at forty foot distance, but they grow taller, and more upright in the forests, where I have beheld them at eight and ten foot, shoot into very long poles; but neither so apt for timber, nor fuel'
– John Evelyn (1664).

Tree Trail

Clifton Central 'Flower' Park



There are approximately 500 trees on Clifton Central Park.

This trail introduces a selection of some fascinating specimens to discover and enjoy.

Nottingham City Council Park Rangers

Nottingham
A city we're all proud of

1. Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*)
This is one of our most attractive native trees when in flower with masses of white blossom followed by edible fruits in mid-summer. The progenitor of many modern, cultivated cherry varieties, it can grow to 12m and typically live for around 80 years. Natural regeneration is abundant from fallen and bird-dispersed seed as well as from root suckers. The red-brown wood is the preferred timber for cabinet makers.

2. English Oak (*Quercus robur*)
The dominant big tree across much of Britain with heavy, spreading, twisting branches which make a broad crown. It has sessile leaves and stalked (pedunculate) acorns which distinguishes it from the Sessile Oak which has stalked leaves and stalkless (sessile) acorns. Plantings here to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 included three more young specimens. Red Oaks (*Quercus rubra*) are plentiful here too.

3. Persian Ironwood (*Parrotia persica*) *
This species was introduced to Kew Gardens in 1840 from Iran. It has London Plane-like bark and displays good autumn colours. It also flowers in the winter. Known as Ironwood for its wood is extremely hard and is heavier than water. It is notable in that it is an uncommon tree to find in an urban park, yet several old specimens are present here.

4. Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*)
Introduced to Britain in 1831, this spruce has a fast growing nature and can grow to a height of 50m. It is responsible for 70% of all timber grown within the UK and is used heavily in forestry for pallets, packing boxes, board manufacture and paper making. The tree has a distinctive bark which can be seen to peel off in round flakes as it ages.

5. Black Pine (*Pinus nigra*)
Several forms of this pine from various central and southern regions of Europe were introduced in the 18th and 19th centuries and are grown for both ornamental purposes (Austrian Pine) and for timber in forestry plantations (Corsican Pine). They have long, paired needles and produce abundant cones. Scots Pines are also dominant here on the park.

6. Common Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)
It is native to southern England and can grow to 40m. Beech nuts are called mast and are contained within a 4-lobed prickly case. Folklore depicts the Beech as the 'Mother of the Woods' because of its protective and nurturing nature. The Diamond Jubilee plantings also included three Beech trees of the purple variety (*Fagus sylvatica* forma *purpurea*).

7. Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*) *
Introduced from China in 1901, this tree has attractive trifoliate leaves that turn orange and red in autumn. The tree is eye-catching all year round for its mahogany-coloured, peeling bark. It is slow-growing and therefore uncommon in parks. This specimen is notable as being one of the largest in the city and was almost certainly an original planting.

8. Common Walnut (*Juglans regia*)
Also misleadingly called the English Walnut, this species was introduced from southern Europe by the Romans. It is renowned for its hard, heavy and durable timber. Aromatic young foliage is followed by a crop of delicious nuts, but they require a long, hot summer to mature, so seldom do so fully in this country.

9. Broad-leaved Cockspur Thorn (*Crataegus persimilis* 'Prunifolia')
A long-cultivated, hybrid variety of species native to North America, which bears impressively large, curved thorns. The leaves are oval and glossy and turn from green to yellow then orange and crimson in autumn, when the berries ripen dark red, giving an outstanding ornamental effect. This specimen shows sucker growth around the base from the rootstock of Common Hawthorn (*C. monogyna*).

10. Pendent Silver Lime (*Tilia tomentosa* 'Petiolaris') *
Introduced in the early 1840s and presumed to be of south-eastern Europe origin, this tree is fast-growing and aphid resistant. It is notable as it is graceful and weeping due to its leaf stalks which are more than half as long as the leaf blades. A fountain of dense two-tone foliage provides a rich yellow autumn colour. Also present here on the park is a cluster of Crimean Limes (*Tilia* x *euchlora*), which have glossy, dark green leaves.

11. Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*)
Also known as the Giant Fir, this species was introduced from Vancouver and California in 1832. It is the most vigorous silver fir in the UK and the tallest tree in many areas, growing up to 62m. It is especially noted for its distinct orange/grapefruit smell if its foliage is crushed. The wood is of little use except for pulp for paper-making.

12. Deodar (*Cedrus deodara*)
Introduced to Britain from the western Himalayas in 1831 and widely planted in parks and gardens where it can form a stately tree. Different from all other cedars due to its trailing leader, this broad, conical evergreen has a gently pendulous habit and soft, blue/green foliage. It produces pleasantly fragrant, timber.

13. Golden Elm (*Ulmus* x *hollandica* 'Dampieri Aurea') *
This variety dating from the 19th century has a narrow pyramidal habit with upright branches adorned by bright yellow leaves. It can grow to 16m and is widely planted. It shows some resistance to Dutch Elm Disease.

14. Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra* 'Italica')
Introduced to Britain in 1758, this male cultivar of the Black Poplar has a narrow columnar shape and is fast-growing. It arose and was propagated from cuttings taken in Lombardy in the early 1700s. It has deeply furrowed bark and diamond-shaped leaves. Often planted as a screen, it is also an extremely popular choice for lining roads in France. The female counterpart is called 'Foemina' which is broader in stature.

15. Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)
The last native tree to come into leaf in spring and one of the first to lose its leaves in autumn, the ash tree can grow to 30m. It makes excellent firewood, green or seasoned, and is the best wood for various tools and sports items that require flexibility and strength. The characteristic winged seeds, called 'keys', are usually abundant on female trees. It is known as the 'Venus of the Woods' due to its beauty and grace.

16. Common Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)
Native to the south of the UK, this tree is distinctive at any time of year by its smooth, ripple-furrowed bark. Leaves turn golden yellow/orange during the autumn. The name hornbeam derives from the hardness of its timber which is finely grained and is good for making drumsticks, piano hammers and butchers' chopping blocks.

17. London Plane (*Platanus* x *hispanica*)
This hybrid of south-eastern Europe's Oriental Plane and the American Buttonwood most likely originated in Spain around 1650. It is now a very familiar urban tree because of its tolerance of air pollution and it has become one of the tallest broadleaved trees in the British Isles. The tallest specimen has been recorded at being over 48m.

18. Golden Weeping Willow (*Salix* x *sepulcralis var. chrysocoma*)
Introduced here from Berlin around 1888, this is a hybrid of the Chinese Weeping Willow and the Golden Willow. Growing up to 24m, it is in leaf from March right through to December with its broad head of twisting limbs adorned by long, hanging shoots which are green, then (in sun) greyish gold for many years. Further along this path by the stream is a Corkscrew Willow (*Salix babylonica* var. *pekinensis* 'Tortuosa').

19. Common Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)
Our native alder, generally frequent near water, where its roots provide aeration of soil and nitrogen-fixation. As well as the dark brown, persistent cones, the oval, indented leaf shape aids recognition. The timber is remarkably water-resistant and has had a wide range of uses, from clogs to the finest charcoal for gunpowder.

20. Field Maple (*Acer campestre*)
A widespread and common native tree that typically occurs in woods and hedgerows. The timber is white, hard and strong. It is relatively slow growing though and its more popular use is one for fun as this particular maple produces the most aerodynamic winged seeds which children can use to play 'Helicopters'. Other maples here include the Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) and the Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*).

21. Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)
A well-known tree, introduced from the Balkans in the 1600s. It is a much loved tree in the UK for its chestnuts, commonly called 'conkers'. Sadly the tree has become susceptible to the present scourge of the Horse Chestnut Leaf-mining Moth which causes early leaf degeneration.

22. Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)
One of the most recognisable native trees in Britain. The striking white bark peels readily and has historically been used as a writing material. In early spring the sap can be collected to make Birch Sap Wine. It is known as the 'Lady of the Woods' because it sways gracefully in the wind.

23. Blue Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* Glauca Group)
From the Atlas Mountains of North Africa, the species was introduced to Britain around 1840. This more commonly grown natural variant with bluish colouration is especially tough and tolerates poor conditions. As a result, trees eventually grow very tall and broad.

24. Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*)
Native to mountain areas of central and northern Europe and long grown in the UK, this is best known as Europe's Christmas tree. It can grow to 60m and has a symmetrical shape, dark-green foliage, and a distinctive pine fragrance. It is valued for its straight, strong timber which is often the timber of choice for violin makers due to its lightness and flexibility.

* indicates particularly noteworthy specimens

Acknowledgements: Graham Piearce.