Lenton Recreation Ground was Nottingham's first ever purposely laid-out recreation ground and was opened in 1887.

Described in 1926 by the author Mellors as 'the nearest approach to a village green we have', it has an impressive tree collection comprising many different native, naturalised and introduced species.



The trail starts at the pavilion and follows a clockwise direction finishing next to the bowling greens.

'There is no tree whatsoever (like the Plane) which so well defends us from the heat of the sun in Summer, nor that admits it more kindly in Winter.
– John Evelyn (1664).

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

Tree Trail

Lenton Recreation Ground



There are approximately 350 trees on Lenton Recreation Ground.

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. False Acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
Also known as the Black Locust, this species was brought to Britain from Eastern USA around 1630 and can grow to 28m. Gaunt, ghostly appearance and late to flower with white scented cascades. Reddish-brown pods follow with black kidney-shaped seeds in autumn.

2. Saucer Magnolia (*Magnolia* x *soulangeana*)
A hybrid of two other Chinese Magnolias, the Yulan Magnolia and the Lily-flowered Magnolia, it first appeared in Europe in the 1820s and is essentially a very large shrub that becomes tree-like if left to its own devices. The flowers that can appear anytime from late winter to mid-spring are spectacular in their vase-like appearance and are coloured white with pink and purple undertones.

3. Common Fig (*Ficus carica*)
Originating in the East Mediterranean and Western Asia this tree comes from a family of tropical trees that includes 2000 other types of Fig. It has a typically leaning appearance with branches that point upwards sporting leathery, hairy leaves that have a sour minty aroma. It is able to establish itself easily often from discarded pips.

4. Downy Japanese Maple (*Acer japonicum*)
Also known as the Full Moon Maple and brought here from Japan in 1864. Of all the Japanese maples, this one is less regularly seen. It is notable in its colours of purple flowers which adorn the usually bushy shape of the tree and its varying shades of red that occur in the leaves in autumn.

5. Golden Weeping Willow (*Salix* x *sepulcralis* 'Chrysocoma')
Introduced here from Berlin around 1888, it grows up to 24m. As is typical of willows it is in leaf from March right through to December with its broad head of twisting limbs adorned by long hanging shoots. Unusually, its catkins are both male and female.

6. Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)
Widespread in Europe, introduced here by 1683. It reaches a maximum height of 30m and numerous ornamental varieties exist. Flowers are a good source of food for emerging bees in early spring.

7. Highclere Holly (*Ilex* x *altaclerensis* 'Hodginsii')
A descendant of the Common Holly and the Madeira Holly, this male variant is very tolerant of pollution and grows vigorously up to 22m. It had appeared in the British landscape by 1836 and has broad glossy leaves, purple shoots and irregular spines.

8. Pillar Apple (*Malus tschonoskii*)
Also known as Chonosuki's Crab, it was introduced here from Japan in 1897 and is quite often planted in small gardens for its columnar shape. A spring blossom of tiny white flowers gives way to small round apples that are yellow-green with a purple cheek and are firm but quite acidic.

9. Winter Cherry (*Prunus* x *subhirtella* 'Autumnalis') *
This flowering cherry was introduced from Japan around 1900 and has a wide-spreading crown. Flowers appear pink from the crimson stamens but are in fact off-white. One of the earliest flowering cherries, it starts to bloom in October and continues intermittently right through to spring.

10. Common Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
Also known as the Mountain Ash, native to Britain and grows to 25m. Flowers form in creamy white heads in late spring giving way to tender leaves that pass through striking colour changes in autumn. Small red berries hang from the tree long after leaf fall providing good winter food for birds.

11. Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)
One of the most recognisable native trees in Britain, it is fast growing and can reach 30m but is short-lived. The striking white bark peels readily and becomes corky at the base in older specimens.

12. Purple-leaved Plum (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Pissardii')
Often referred to as the Myrobalan Plum, this variant is known as Pissard's Plum and was introduced to Britain from Iran around 1880. It exhibits pale white-pink flowers nestled among dark purple foliage early in spring.

13. Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) *
This uncommon tree was introduced in 1700 from Central North America. It reaches up to 27m and is very late into leaf. The bark is armed with clumps of spines sometimes measuring up to 20cm. Flowers are insignificant and it seldom sets fruit in the UK.

14. 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, it can grow to 30m. Makes excellent firewood, green or dry, and is the best wood for various tools and sports items that require flexibility and strength.

15. Common Yew (*Taxus baccata*)
The Yew tree is ancient and native to Britain and some specimens in old churchyards are known to be over 2000 years old. Growing up to 25m, it exhibits fleshy berry-like fruits. Its toxicity factor is quite high and leaves if crushed are poisonous as are the seeds of the fruit. Consequently Yew trees are not generally planted near livestock.

16. Japanese Flowering Cherry (*Prunus* 'Kanzan')
Japanese cherries were bred in Japan and China over many centuries and this variety arrived here around 1913. Flowers profusely in spring with dusky pink petals that are fleetingly eye-catching. This particular specimen is thought to be over 100 years old making it quite long-lived by normal standards.

* indicates particularly noteworthy specimens

Acknowledgements: Graham Piearce.

17. Hybrid Larch (*Larix* species)
This particular tree, a deciduous conifer, has characteristics of both the European Larch, best known as a plantation timber species, and the more ornamental Japanese Larch. A wide range of hybrids exist between the two species.

18. Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus* 'Watereri')
A species native to northern Britain, this variant was introduced in 1914 and grows to 25m. It has an untidy appearance with long white flower stalks appearing in late spring that can measure up to 25cm. Bitter black cherries appear later when the tree comes into leaf.

19. London Plane (*Platanus* x *hispanica*)
Thought to have originated in Spain or France around 1650 and stand-out specimens have been recorded at 44m and 320+ years old. It is a commonly planted street tree due to its tolerance of pollution and exhibits variegated bark which readily flakes. This particular tree has a girth of 3.73m which affords it a Capital Asset Value of £191,000.

20. Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*)
Often known as Gean or Mazzard and native to Britain. Old trees can grow to 30m and display ivory white single flowers in spring. Cherries developing later are small and can be sweet or sour. The timber is often used in turnery and if used as firewood it emits a sweet smell.

21. Austrian Pine (*Pinus nigra* ssp. *nigra*)
Also known as the Black Pine, introduced here in 1835, growing up to 43m. The trunk typically grows in a non-vertical fashion and the dull grey-brown cones can grow to 8cm. Frequently found in old parks and the species is often grown for timber in forestry plantations.

22. Common Lime (*Tilia* x *europaea*)
Frequent along streets and in parks, this is the largest native broadleaved tree in this country, reaching 46m. It is a hybrid between our native Small-leaved Lime and Large-leaved Lime.

23. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

A dominant woodland species native to southern Europe now fully naturalised in Britain. Much maligned as a weed tree, but has a useful timber and has become important for wildlife.

24. Red Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata* 'Punicea') *
A rare variety of our native Midland Hawthorn that has single flowers, five crimson petals surrounding a white centre, which originated in Scotland in the 1820s. The other red hawthorns here are the common variant 'Paul's Scarlet' which has double flowers and was found in England in the 1850s.