Queen's Walk Recreation Ground was created as a result of the 1845 Enclosure Act, which guaranteed a number of green spaces in Nottingham would always remain as green spaces for the benefit of the general public.

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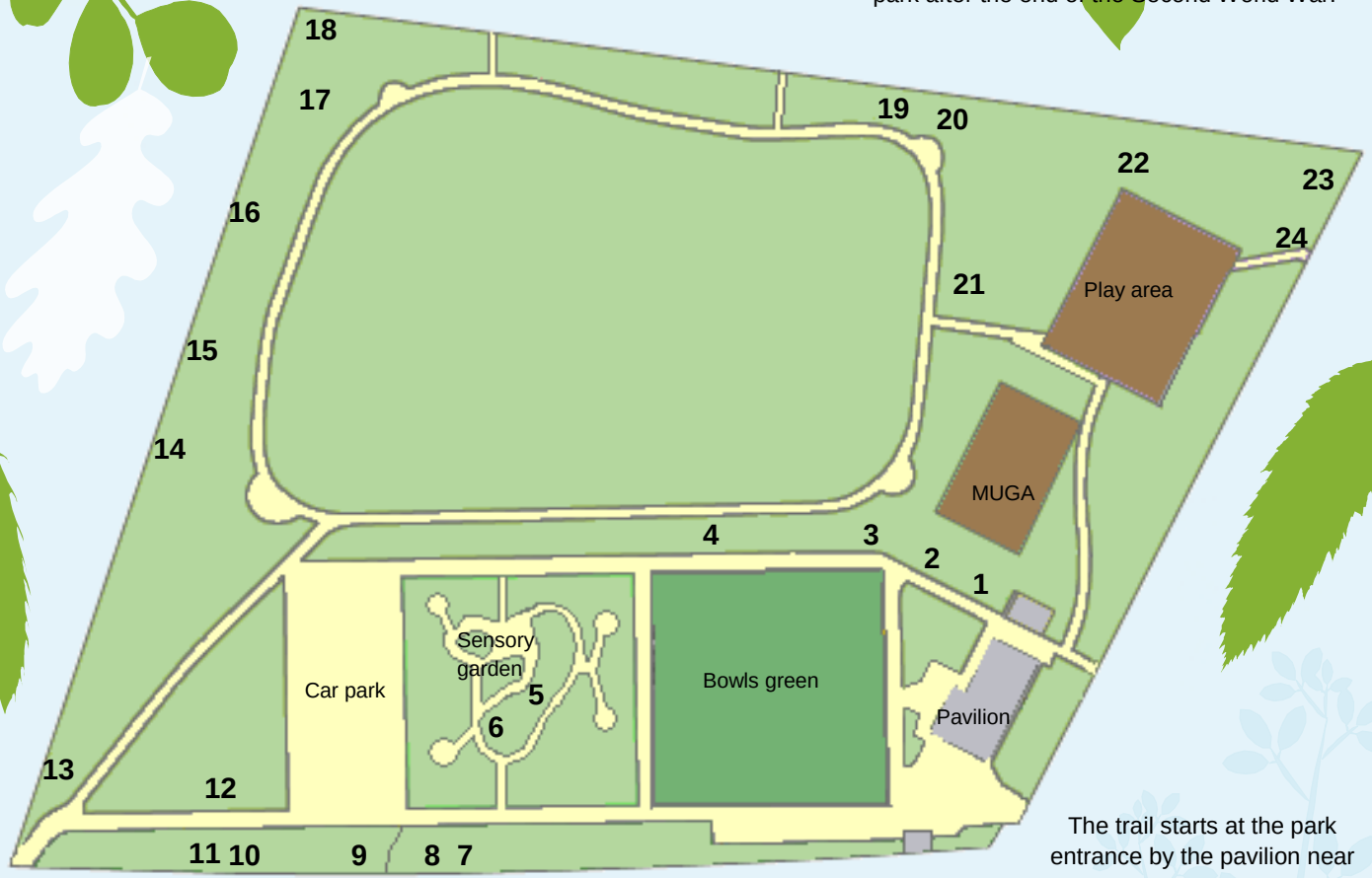
In 1865 this six-acre plot of land was first known as the 'Meadow's Cricket Ground', but then around 1915 its name was changed to 'Queens Walk Cricket Ground', and then in 1927 changed again to 'Queens Drive Cricket Ground' when the adjacent Queen's Walk became a through road. It ceased to be a cricket ground and became a park after the end of the Second World War.



The trail starts at the park entrance by the pavilion near the tram stop and works its way around the park in a clockwise direction.

This leads the trail to a natural end behind the play area.

'But above all, notable for these extravagant damaskings and characters, is the maple; and 'tis notorious, that this tree is very full of branches from the root to its very summit, by reason that it produces no considerable fruit'

– 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

Queens Walk Recreation Ground



There are over 100 trees on Queen's Walk 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. Purple-leaved Plum (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Nigra')
This variant of the green-leaved Cherry Plum or Myrobalan Plum was bred in America in 1916. It is the first tree to flower here, from late February, with pretty pink blossom soon followed by the dark foliage.

2. Snowy Mespil (*Amelanchier lamarckii)* *
Introduced from North America in the 19th century and noted for its masses of small, star-like white flowers in early spring and rich autumn colours. It can grow to be 13 metres high and the fruits are like miniature medlars. It is named after Jean Baptiste Antoine Monet de Lamarck, an 18th century French natural historian who is noted for his early research on the theory of evolution.

3. Double White Cherry (*Prunus avium* 'Plena')
Grown in England since the early 18th century, this double-flowered version of our native Wild Cherry flowers a fortnight later and rarely produces fruits. There are also some of the single-flowered native species further on the trail near the school gate. The ripe fruits taste either pleasantly sweet or rather bitter.

4. Japanese Flowering Cherry (*Prunus* 'Kanzan')
Just one of very many popular spring-blossoming trees bred in China and Japan over several centuries. It was introduced around 1913. In spring it has masses of double, dusky pink flowers. Further flowering cherries have been planted along this row including *Prunus* x *yedoensis* and *Prunus* 'Pink Perfection'.

5. Oriental Thuja (*Platycladus orientalis*) *
Typically reaching 15 metres in height, this conifer's distinguishing characteristics are that the foliage is the same colour on both sides and is more or less scentless and the cones have prominently hooked horn-like projections. Commonly used in Chinese herbalism, both the leaves and the seeds contain an essential oil.

6. Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)
Our native pine, with rather short, bluish needles in pairs and with distinctively orange bark towards the crown. One of the stronger soft woods, it is used to construct joists, window frames, chipboard, railway sleepers and telegraph poles. Its natural occurrence is now confined to the remnants of the once large Caledonian forest in central and eastern Scotland.

7. Brilliant Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Brilliantissimum')
A cultivar of the common Sycamore, this is a small dense tree that gives striking pink leaves that change through spring to red and orange to yellow then white and finally dull green in summer. It originated in a nursery here in Britain in 1905 and was bred to be a miniature ornamental tree, typically growing to 4 metres.

8. Swedish Whitebeam (*Sorbus intermedia*)
A long-introduced species from north-western Europe. It is interesting in that it has twice the usual number of chromosomes and produces viable seeds without the need for fertilisation. It is commonly used as the rootstock for a range of *Sorbus* cultivars, both of our native Mountain Ash or Rowan and Whitebeam types.

9. Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*)
Once a dominant species throughout southern England, this is one parent, with the Large-leaved Lime (*T. platyphyllos*), of the widely planted hybrid Common Lime (*T.* x *europaea*). The leaves are heart-shaped, grey-bluish below with tufts of orange-brown hairs.

10. Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
Introduced to Europe from south-eastern USA in 1681 and sometimes mistaken for a maple. It has exceptionally varied and long-lasting autumn colours and the upright habit makes it a popular tree for street planting. In the furniture trade the timber, used as veneer, is known as Satinwood or Satin Walnut.

11. Purple Crab Apple (*Malus* x *moerlandsii* 'Profusion')
Introduced from Holland in 1938, this hybrid crab apple can typically grow to 10 metres and displays striking crimson flowers amidst purplish leaves in spring. Gradually the leaves mature to a shiny reddish-green colour and bright red fruits appear in autumn.

12. Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*)
This is the more frequent native species in Britain even though it is less often planted than the Silver Birch. It is distinguished from the Silver Birch by having non-weeping branches, less rugged bark, more rounded and simply toothed leaves and hairs on the young shoots and leaf stalks. Adjacent to these two Downy Birch is another variety known as Himalayan Birch *(Betula utilis)*.

13. Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)
Known as the 'Lady of the Woods' as it sways gracefully in the wind. This is one of the most recognisable native trees in Britain. It is fast growing but short-lived and the striking white bark peels readily and becomes corky at the base in older specimens.

14. Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides* 'Crimson King')
A variant of the Norway maple, of which there are several varieties. This version is of a moderate size growing up to 15 metres. Leaves are purplish-red in spring and summer and then become duller, sometimes after a dry summer. Flowers are a useful source of food for emerging bees in spring.

15. Common Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)
Known as the 'Mother of the Woods' due to its protective nature with its canopy cover and its fruit, which is edible in a raw state. Native to southern England and can grow up to 40 metres with some trees being estimated to be up to 300 years old. Beech nuts are called "mast" and are contained within a 4-lobed prickly case.

16. Common Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* forma *purpurea*)
A variation of the Common Beech, this tree typically grows up to 12 metres high. It was first discovered in the village of Buchs in Switzerland and subsequently introduced to Britain in 1726. Also known as the copper beech, it is in fact a quirk of nature because only 1 in 1000 common beech seeds results in a purple seedling.

* indicates stand-out specimen or champion trees

Acknowledgements: Graham Piearce.

17. Common Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*)
Native to central and southern Europe and so called due to the leaves being white on the underside when they first open. It can grow to a height of 25 metres and produces edible red fruit. It has historically been referred to as the weather tree, for when the white underside of the leaves became visible, rain was believed to be on the way.

18. Common Lime (*Tilia* x *europaea*)
Frequent along streets and in parks, this is the largest native broadleaved tree in this country, reaching up to 46 metres. It is a hybrid between our native Small-leaved Lime and Large-leaved Lime. It is often called sacred wood as it was used for carving religious statues and musical instruments, most notably the piano. Another specimen used to exist near the pavilion but has now been carved into an owl.

19. Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
Introduced in 1725 from eastern North America, this is the fastest growing American maple, with deeply divided leaves. It is valuable for the decorative timber known as bird's-eye maple. In autumn, the silver undersides of the yellow and red leaves add to the mosaic effect when they carpet the ground.

20. Corkscrew Willow (*Salix babylonica* var. *pekinensis* 'Tortuosa')
Introduced from Peking, China around 1920, this willow can grow up to 10 metres high. Distinctive in the curling not just of the leaves, but also of the branches and indeed the whole tree trunk as it grows. Sadly short-lived, this variety tolerates drought, unlike most willows that are found near bodies of water.

21. Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)
Introduced to Britain in 1724 from eastern North America, it is a fast-growing species used as both a timber and an ornamental tree that is conspicuous for its very large leaves. The bark is smooth and grey, like that of the Common Beech. The autumn colour in our climate is often a disappointing coffee-brown rather than a true red.

22. Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)
Known as the 'Venus of the Woods' due to its delicate and graceful beauty. Readily recognised by the black buds and compound leaves in opposite pairs, it is the last of our wild trees to come into leaf each year. The winged seeds or 'keys' are unmistakeable on female trees. The strong, flexible timber is excellent for tool handles and sports equipment and is often considered to be the best timber for firewood.

23. Rowan *(Sorbus aucuparia)*
Also known as Mountain Ash, Witch wiggin tree or Quickbeam, this tree can grow up to a height of 20 metres. It produces an orangey-red berry, which as well as making a good autumn food for birds, has also been used to make jelly to accompany game and lamb and even into wine in parts of Wales and Scotland. It is known as the 'Lady of the Mountain' as it can grow at altitudes of 1000 metres.

24. 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 due to its columnar shape. A spring blossom of tiny white flowers gives way to small apples that are yellow-green with a purple cheek and are firm but quite acidic.