

Chorlton Park Tree Trail and Art Map

Over 600 trees can be found in Chorlton Park with an amazing 29 species with 71 varieties. The most common species is the cherry (with over 100 trees) followed by the Maple (with over 80 trees).

We are excited to show you a small selection of these trees which we have chosen and identified to the best of our knowledge.

Look out for the Art on the trees made by Unity Arts with local community groups

European Larch 1
Turn right off the central park path, then look right to see the Larch trees, the only deciduous conifer (meaning it sheds its leaves annually) native to Europe. In European folklore, the wearing and burning of larch was thought to protect against evil spirits.

English Oak 2
A few meters further along, you will note an isolated English Oak on the right-hand side. According to the Woodland Trust, it supports more life than any other native tree species in the UK even in fallen leaves support biodiversity. This is estimated to be 15 years old; Not a bad size for its age!

Horse Chestnut 3
Horse chestnuts, with their mahogany-bright conkers, are the very essence of autumn. This is known as chestnut avenue but can you pick out the walnut trees amongst the Chestnuts?

Lime 4
In Switzerland, these trees represent a symbol of liberty, and in France, it is planted to commemorate battles. These trees support lots of wildlife including caterpillars of many moths. Its wood is often used for piano keys as it doesn't warp.

London Plane 5
At the end of the Avenue, turn left and you will see London Plane trees along the perimeter fence with Mauldeth Road. We had to include these enormous trees as they are so impressive. It's the capital's most common tree, but what is a London Plane doing in Manchester?

Cherry 6
This path now becomes known as 'Cherry Tree Avenue'. Can you spot the Cherry with the sloping trunk? The Cherry Tree was introduced to the UK by Henry VIII who had tasted them in Flanders. Its rich colour makes the wood popular for furniture making. We planted 4 additional mature cherries along here in the autumn of 2020.

Apple Orchard 8
The Apple originated in the Chinese T'ien Shan Mountains but today there's over 3,900 varieties known and 86 million tonnes produced each year. Rejoice the trail and see the newly planted silver birch and amber trees by the side of the playground, planted in December 2020.

Beech 9
Turn right along the holly hedge and at the end you'll see a beautiful, majestic Beech to the left ahead. Known as the queen of British trees, the twigs resemble a zig-zag shape.

Indian Bean tree / Catalpa 10
None on the corner of the tennis courts the Indian Bean Tree known for its distinctive fruit that looks like this bean pod. The catalpa sphinx caterpillar loves this tree and can remove its leaves multiple times without killing it.

Norway Maple 11
Immediately on the right, are several maples with partly variegated leaves meaning the two sides of these trees have different coloured leaves. As with all maple trees, the sap can make you itchy.

Snow Pear 12
You will then walk past the Meadow Orchard and note the pear trees to the right. The pears on this are small and hard; will need plenty of cooking!

Copper Norway Maple 13
Towards the end just in front of the hedge you won't fall so stop this impressive tree, with its vibrant dark red colour it's also known as the Crimson King.

The trail starts at the Barlow Moor Rd Entrance, however, if you are entering from Sandy Lane, then pick up the trail at 14

In the autumn of 2020 we planted 39 mature trees around the park: how many can you find?

Japanese Cypress 17
Continue down the path past the bench to find this tree at the next bend on the right with its distinctive red bark. A commonly cultivated tree in Japan for building. Can you find the pea-like fruit? Not edible to humans, of course!

Yew 18
As you head back towards the start, you'll see an evergreen Yew to the left. The Romans believed this tree grew in hell. Celts thought it protected against evil and Christians planted it in churchyards, believing its poison protected the dead. The tree can live even longer than the Cedar up to 3,000 years and the wood is very hard-wearing and was used for bows in medieval times!

Railway Poplar 19
On the opposite side of the path just behind the perimeter fence, look up to appreciate its size. Also known as the Manchester Poplar as during the Industrial Revolution, many were planted in Manchester alongside railways as they tolerated the air pollution, but today are few and far between. Look up and to the right to spot the tall, thin Lombardy Poplar towering above the brook. This is a mutation originated in Italy, note the significance difference in size and shape to the native Poplar.

Nordman Fir 20
Chorlton Park's own Christmas Tree, this will seek out the light and may grow taller than any other tree in the park. Come and see it again at Christmas when you'll see it decorated and looking very festive.

Tick the leaves as you find them

Cherry Laurel 14
Take a detour off the main path to the right towards the park entrance to the Laurel on the left. Known locally as the Climbing Tree, this is the only tree with a nickname in the park to go on, give it a go! Wreaths of laurel leaves were used to crown the winner of athletic contests in ancient Greek and Roman times. The laurel today remains a symbol of victory.

Copper Beech 15
Turn around, retrace your steps and head towards the small copper beech you'll see at the junction, also known as the purple beech because of its deep purple distinctive colour. Only a young tree at the moment, imagine it in hundreds of years' time. It might grow to be as big as the enormous Beech opposite.

Willow 16
Turn right at the T-junction and note the sprawling willow on the left (opposite the beech) with its multiple self-seeded trunks. Traditionally, willows were used to relieve pain associated with a headache and toothache. The painkiller Aspirin is derived from salicin, a compound found in its bark which in medieval times was chewed for pain relief.

