

Cannon Hill Park is a prestigious Victorian Park and focus for civic pride through its picturesque parkland and as a centre for civic events. The Park has been awarded the coveted Green Flag Award for excellent environmental and management standards. The park is owned and managed by Birmingham City Council. For more information contact: 0121 442 4226 or email: Cannon.Hill.Park@birmingham.gov.uk.

Birmingham Trees for Life is a partnership between The Birmingham Civic Society and Birmingham City Council, formed in July 2006.

Our objectives are:

- To plant more trees in Birmingham
- To involve the City's business community
- To involve local communities and school children
- To raise awareness of the importance of trees
- To raise money to increase tree planting

We want to spread the message that trees do matter.

For further information, please log onto our website:
www.btfl.org.uk

If you would like to contact us, please email us at:
bhamtreesforlife@gmail.com, or write to: Birmingham Trees For Life, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS

To contact the Friends of Cannon Hill Park, email:
cannonhillfriend@aol.com

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A **Tree Walk** in Cannon Hill Park



The
Birmingham
Civic Society



Cannon Hill Park contains a variety of different areas, but the tree walk concentrates on the formal part of the park. Cannon Hill Meadows Farm was gifted to the City by Louisa Ryland. She was the daughter of a wealthy Birmingham manufacturer; she donated several areas of land for the benefit of the City. The farmland was turned into a formal park by John Gibson. Born in Castle Bromwich, he became a national influence on parks design at a time when there were few public parks in the country. Cannon Hill Park was opened to the public on 1st September 1873 with 35 acres devoted to ornamental gardens, with plants and seeds donated by gardens in Kew, Glasgow and Liverpool. Some of the trees on the walk were planted when the park was first laid out, so are about 135 years old.

Trees are an important part of our natural life support system: they have a vital role to play in the sustainability of our towns and cities and we need to take good care of them, both now and in the future.

Trees and woods help to improve the quality of life for the millions of people who live and work in urban areas, and ours is among the most urbanised societies in the world.

Trees help keep us healthier by absorbing pollution and reducing stress; bring environmental benefits by helping to reduce climate change, and provide wildlife habitats and contribute to environmental regeneration by improving perceptions of the city.

Cannon Hill Park

Map



The Tree Walk starts at The Garden Tea Room and Information Point where you can find our more information about the park.

1 JUDAS TREE - *Cercis siliquastrum*

Native to the East Mediterranean region. The tree is covered in pinkish pea-like flowers in late spring. Legend has it that Judas Iscariot hanged himself from such a tree, giving it its name.

2 SILVER BIRCH - *Betula pendula*

Native to Britain, easily recognised by its silvery bark. It was believed to have sacred powers of purification. Delinquents and the insane were “birched” to expel evil spirits.

3 DEODAR CEDAR - *Cedrus deodara*

Native to the Himalayas, a sacred Indian Fir; the wood was used to build temples and produce many miles of railway sleepers. It can be identified by its downward sweeping branches.

4 WILLOW LEAF PEAR - *Pyrus salicifolia*

Native to Asia Minor, this tree has silvery leaves shaped like those of the Willow tree, and small pear shaped fruits, hence its name.

5 WEEPING BEECH - *Fagus sylvatica* ‘Pendula’

A weeping form of the native Beech tree. It can grow to a very large size, with masses of drooping branches.

6 CEDAR OF LEBANON - *Cedrus libani*

Native to the Middle East. A large, very fast growing tree with layers of level branches in older specimens. An oil distilled from the wood was used in Ancient Egypt to embalm the dead.





7

7 WELLINGTONIA - *Sequoiadendron giganteum*

Native to America. One of the oldest and tallest trees in the world. It was first planted in Britain on the Duke of Wellington's estate, hence its name.



8

8 TULIP TREE - *Liriodendron tulipifera*

Native to America. The tree gets its name from the showy tulip-like flowers. The unusually shaped leaves turn bright yellow in autumn. North American Indians used the tree to make their canoes.



9

9 ATLAS CEDAR - *Cedrus atlantica*

Native to North Africa where it is found growing on the Atlas mountains of Algeria and Morocco. In Britain it is sometimes known as the Blue Cedar. It is distinguished from other Cedars by its rising branches.



10

10 INDIAN BEAN TREE - *Catalpa bignonioides*

Native to America, the name is derived from a Red Indian tribe found in the area where the tree was discovered. It produces very large leaves and orchid like, trumpet shaped white flowers.



11

11 WHITEBEAM - *Sorbus aria*

Native to Britain, the underside of the leaves are covered with white hairs, giving it a white appearance, hence its name. It produces red berry-like fruits.



12

12 JAPANESE MAPLE - *Acer japonicum*

Native to Japan, a small tree planted as an ornamental with excellent autumn colour.



13

13 MAIDENHAIR TREE - *Ginkgo biloba*

Native to China. A remnant from the past, the Ginkgo is the only representative of a type of plant which was widespread in prehistoric times.

14 SWEET GUM - *Liquidambar styraciflua*

Native to Mexico. A tree that is grown in America for its gum which is used in adhesives, perfumes and incense. It has a Maple like leaf and is grown here for its fantastic autumn colour.



14

15 WEEPING WILLOW - *Salix x 'Tristis' chryscoma*

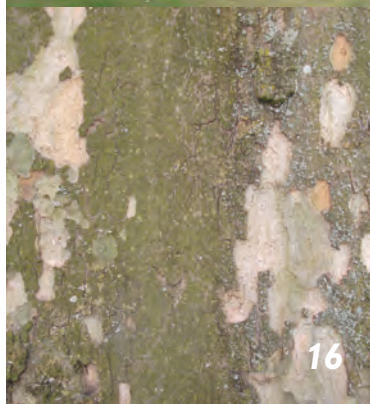
Deciduous wide spreading tree with slender shoots falling to the ground like a curtain. Yellow leaves mature to mid green. Thrives best in moist soil.



15

16 YEW - *Taxus baccata*

Native to Britain, classed as a softwood but contradicts this by having extremely hard wood. Most parts of the tree are extremely poisonous if eaten by livestock except the soft outer coating of the berry. Yew was the wood used to make the English longbow in the middle ages. It can live longer than most native trees, some living for 1,000 years or more. The Yew is steeped in folklore and many stories are recorded about its magical powers.



16

18 LIME - *Tilia x europaea*

A hybrid between the Large Leafed and the Small Leafed Lime both native to Britain. It is the tallest broad-leafed tree in Britain. The wood is very soft and used for wood carving of fine detail. Never park a car under a Lime tree in the summer; as cars can be covered in sticky honeydew secreted by the many millions of aphids that feed on its leaves.



17



18



19 NORWAY MAPLE - *Acer platanoides* 'Crimson King'

Native to Europe but not Britain. Very similar to the Sycamore but with different bark pattern and more pointed leaf. Often planted as a street tree. This variety has wonderful red leaves. All maples have winged fruit in the autumn.



19



20

20 SWAMP CYPRESS - *Taxodium distichum*

Native to South East America, a conifer that loses its leaves in winter. It is bare and twiggy until late spring when fresh green leaves appear, turning dark red brown in autumn. It grows in very wet, swampy conditions.

21 SNAKE BARK MAPLE - *Acer davidii*

Native to Japan, this tree is grown mainly for its attractive striped bark which is caused by the splitting of the bark's outer layer of cork. The leaves turn red and yellow in the autumn.



21



22

22 SCARLET OAK - *Quercus coccinea*

This oak tree is related to the English Oak but is native to North America. A vigorous Oak with large green leaves that have a reddish tinge. In Autumn, unlike the English Oak, they turn vivid shades of crimson and scarlet.

23 COPPER BEECH - *Fagus sylvatica* f. *pupurea*

The normal green leaved form is native to Southern Britain where great forests of Beech can be found around High Wycombe. The area became the centre of the British furniture industry, partly due to the abundance of Beech wood. It produces small shaped nuts known as 'mast'. The purple form of beech was very fashionable in Victorian times.



23



24 **BRILLIANT SYCAMORE** - *Acer pseudoplatanus*
'Brilliantissimum'

A truly beautiful tree with pink leaves to start with, turning to pale green. It is grafted to the stem of the common Sycamore.

25 **WEeping ROSEBUD CHERRY** - *Prunus subhirtella*
'Pendula'

This form is usually grafted onto Wild Cherry and was originally raised in Japan. When in flower, this tree is a highly ornamental, spectacular plant, crowded densely with small, single white flowers.

26 **JAPANESE RED CEDAR** - *Cryptomeria japonica*

Native to Japan, introduced to Britain in 1861 and related to the Giant Redwood. In Japan it is grown to supply timber for building work and general purposes.

27 **TURKEY OAK** - *Quercus cerris*

Native to Turkey, this tree can be distinguished from English Oak by its acorn cups which are clad in downy scales, earning it the name of 'Moss-cupped Oak'. The timber is inferior in quality compared to most Oaks, but it is grown as an ornamental tree because it is elegant and fast growing.



Sadly trees do not live forever and older trees may have to be felled because of disease. However you will see as you walk around the park, new trees that have been planted to replace older trees. These are looked after by the staff of Birmingham Parks. BTFL have worked with the Park Manager to plant new trees with the help of local school children and Friends of the park.



24 | 25

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Birmingham
Parks