

Take a leisurely stroll whilst admiring our majestic trees

Arnot Hill Park's essential beauty is characterised by its majestic trees. As well as Sycamore, Oak, Chestnut and Beech, the park has many unusual trees with their own charm.

This trail invites you to take a leisurely stroll around the park, looking at several different trees. Take time to study their size, bark, flowers, leaves and the wildlife they support.

Trees are essential to any landscape and an understanding and appreciation of them is the aim of our short guide.

Contact us



Write to: **Parks Department, Civic Centre, Arnot Hill Park, Arnold, Nottingham NG56LU**
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This leaflet was funded by Nottinghamshire County Council



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NCC-09-15/EXT7679

The tree trail at Arnot Hill Park



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Tree Trivia Facts

- Beneath the sticky buds on horse chestnut branches, there is a marked shape like a horseshoe - this is how it got its name.
- Oak trees provide a diverse habitat and support more life forms than any other native tree.
- The festive yule log was traditionally cut from the oak.
- The edible nuts of the beech were once roasted to make a coffee substitute.
- Red oaks take 20 years before they are ready to flower and a further 20 before they produce acorns.
- The wood of the holly tree is commonly used to make walking sticks.
- The Romans used the wood of the holm oak for making the wheels of carts and carriages.

Nature Detectives

Mini beast hunt

Place a large sheet of paper under a tree and gently shake a branch and see if you can identify the insects that fall out.

Find out the age of a tree

Use a ruler and string to measure around the trunk at a height of 1.5 metres, then divide this number by two to give the age of the tree.

Bark rubbings

Place some paper on the trunk of a tree and rub over it using crayons. Look at how different each species of tree is.

How to find us

Car

Arnot Hill Park is situated around three miles north of Nottingham city centre. The main route for access via car is the A60, which visitors from the Mansfield area would also use. The A614 is another major access road. For sat-nav use the postcode is NG5 6LU.

Bus

Nottingham City Transport busses 25 and 58 and the Calverton Connection all go past Arnot Hill Park regularly. Visit their websites for more information: www.nctx.co.uk, www.trentbarton.co.uk

P Parking

There are various car parks that visitors can use. Parking is free for the first two hours with a pay and display ticket, then charges apply after. Please check the signage at the car parks for terms and conditions.

Disability Information

The park has sturdy pathways which are suitable for wheelchairs and mobility scooters. Around the lake the terrain is gentle but becomes considerably steeper towards the rear of the park. There are disabled parking bays in our car parks and vehicles displaying a valid 'Invalidity Badge' can park free in any space for up to three hours. A disabled toilet can be found to the side of the refreshment kiosk and can be accessed using a radar key. The bowling green pavilion can be accessed by a lift and disabled toilet facilities are also available in the civic centre.

Tree specimens around the park

1. Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)

Renowned as being one of the fastest growing trees along the waterways and wetlands in the UK, it has gained the nickname of the 'Water Maple', although its finely divided leaves with pale undersides give the tree its true name. Reaching an ultimate height of 20-30 metres, the sap of the tree was once used by Native Americans to make sugar, medicine and also bread.

2. Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica purpurea*)

The purple leaved cousin of the more common beech, this tree is roughly 175 years old and is one the parks most elegant specimens. With its smooth grey bark and dense heavy crown, this tree has a life span of up to 300 years.

3. Red Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus x carnea*)

An unusual hybrid between the Common Horse Chestnut and the Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), this tree reaches up to 20-25 metres when mature. During summer it produces panicles of red flowers, which are followed by conkers in the autumn.

4. Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Prized for its incredible autumn colour, this tree is native of North America and is quite different to the English Oak. Its finer leaves and smoother bark are unlike those of its European cousin and the tree will reach 35 metres when mature. Interestingly, the tree will take twenty years to flower and another twenty before producing a good crop of acorns.

5. Common Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)

The Ash is the third most common broadleaf tree in Britain and has a light domed canopy when fully grown. Ash trees have delicate 'leaflets' rather than single leaves, which can move with the direction of the sunlight. The winged seeds of this tree support a variety of wildlife and its leaves are a source of food for bullfinches and many caterpillar species. The timber is widely used to manufacture snooker cues, hockey sticks and rowing oars and is also an attractive wood for furniture.

6. London Plane (*Platanus xhispanica*)

A hybrid between the American Plane (*Platanus occidentalis*) and the Oriental Plane (*Platanus orientalis*), this tree is easily recognised by its mottled trunk, large glossy palmate leaves and its flowers which appear in May. The mottling occurs as the tree sheds its bark to leave its breathing pores clear of soot and grime from the atmosphere. The seeds of this are a good food source for some finches and squirrels.

7. Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

This non-native tree is common throughout Britain, can reach upwards of 35 metres and characteristically has a dark green broad dome-shaped crown. Surprisingly, this is the only common tree that has its flowers pollinated by insects and is a vital source of nectar for bees. In autumn its flowers turn into winged seeds which, when ripe, rotate to the ground like helicopters.

8. Common Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)

Similar in shape and form to the Copper Beech, this slower growing tree reaches up to 35 metres high and produces nuts called 'mast'. When released from its bristly, spiky husk, the fruit of the Beech is eaten by mammals like squirrels and birds. Given the longevity of the tree, it is an important habitat for butterflies, a number of moths and many wood boring insects.

9. Common Oak (*Quercus robur*)

The oak is a deciduous tree, which loses its leaves later than most other trees during autumn. Its acorn nuts are a favourite snack of the park's squirrels. The oak has been important part of the British landscape for centuries and is a main feature of this park. The avenue of trees to the rear of Arnot Hill House were planted in commemoration of King George V and are now host to hundreds of species of insects and invertebrates, which are a food source for numerous birds.

10. Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*)

Originating from the Mediterranean region, this beautiful evergreen tree was brought over to Britain around 400 years ago and grows up to 20 metres. The Holm Oak is renowned for its textured black bark and yellow catkins. Unlike other oaks, its young leaves are spiny like holly with grey underneath.

11. Giant Redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)

Redwoods originate from California (Seirra Nevada) and are famous for being one of the tallest and longest-living in the world. Some redwoods live to be 2000 years old and reach heights up to 114 metres greater than Big Ben! Environmentally, Redwoods are extremely good at capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and locking away the carbon in their wood.

12. Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)

The national tree of Scotland can grow up to 35 metres high and live upwards of 700 years. Pollinated by wind, the trees' female red-purple flowers turn green and develop into cones, which are a treat for squirrels. Interestingly these cones only mature the following year, so there are cones of different ages on the tree at any one time. Similarly, the blue-green needles on younger trees are much larger than those found on older specimens.

13. Holly (*Ilex aquifolium j.c van tol*)

First introduced into Britain in 1904, this self-fertile fruiter reaches an ultimate height of over six metres. As with all holly varieties, this specimen is evergreen and has a smooth, grey leathery bark with rounded and almost spike-less alternate leaves. Mistle thrushes are notorious for guarding the scarlet red berries of the holly trees from other marauding birds interested in a feast.

14. European Larch (*Larix deciduas*)

The Larch is our only native deciduous conifer, which has small oval cones and reaches a height of 25-45 metres. It has light green 2-4cm long needles, which turn bright yellow in autumn before dropping to leave young shoots bare until spring. The wood is tough and widely used for building yachts.

15. Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)

The Sweet Chestnut is a deciduous tree native to Southern Europe and was probably introduced by the Romans. The tree has a smooth grey-purple bark, long oval-toothed leaves with a pointed tip and can grow up to 35 metres.

The flowers of both sexes are found in long yellow catkins, which appear in late June/July and become edible spiky cupules by autumn, which contain the nuts we eat from October. Interestingly, the Romans ground the chestnuts into flour and the timber has been widely used to make furniture and barrels.

16. Chusan Palm (*Trachycarpus fortuneii*)

Being one of the world's northernmost palm species, this temperate fan palm originates from Asia and produces separate male and female flowers. It is only occasionally that a female plant will produce male flowers for self-pollination to occur.

17. Common Yew (*Taxus baccata*)

The yew is one of our longest-living trees and has a dense canopy that offers both protection and nesting opportunities for birds like the Goldcrest. Whilst its red berries are poisonous to cattle, the likes of squirrels, Blackbirds, Mistle and Song Thrushes feast on these fruits. The timber was once used to make long bows.

18. Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*)

A hardy evergreen, this variety of Cedar is native to North Africa. It reaches an ultimate height of 25 metres when mature and is noted for its beautiful blue-green foliage and graceful form. It produces flowers in September and seeds which ripen from October to December. The timber is prized for joinery, veneer and is also used in construction.

19. Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)

Reaching an ultimate height of between 24-30 metres, this native tree is very similar in appearance to Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) with its mid-green leaves. From late spring until autumn the tree produces green catkins, which then turn to clusters of papery green winged fruit known as samara. The name Hornbeam in Old English comes from the hardness of its timber, 'horn' meaning 'hard'.

20. False Acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)

Being one of the first North American trees to have reached Britain in the 1630s, the first Robinia tree was planted in the garden of Jean Robin, Herbalist to the King of France. The trees' light green foliage, sharp spines and white vanilla-scented flowers that appear in May/June are its main features. It will reach a maximum height of 25 metres.

