

Trail

Using the trail

Refer to the map with trail markings inside this leaflet. An orange plaque at each of the 8 trees along the trail will tell you the tree's trail number, common name and Latin or botanical name. Stop at each tree and have a go at some of the activities.

The other trails

There are two other trails in the Park. The *Heritage Tree Walk* explores some of the more unusual and significant trees in the East Park, it can be split into two short walks or one long perimeter walk. The *Trees of the World* trail in the West Park highlights the variation of trees from around the world and their many uses throughout history. Pick up your leaflets for all the trails at the *Pavilion Cafe* in the West Park or *The Hub* in the East Park.



Children's Tree Walk



Heritage Tree Walk



Trees of the World



Pupils from a local primary school were the first to walk the trail. They learned about the trees and how to measure the height of a tree. Some of their favourite facts are included on the trail map.



Trees for Cities



www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/victoriapark
www.treesforcities.org, Registered Charity no. 1032154

Children's Tree Walk

Victoria Park



Welcome

This is one of three tree trails created by *Trees for Cities* in partnership with *Tower Hamlets* and the support of *Victoria Park Friends Group*. *Victoria Park* is a great showcase for the diverse range of trees that can grow within our cities; there are over 4500 trees in the park. The trails were developed to incorporate the facts people find most interesting about trees and feature logos, photographs and information created and chosen by local children and adults.

Victoria Park was commissioned by *Queen Victoria* in 1840 in response to public demand for a park in the East End; it was opened to the public in 1845 and is now the largest and most popular park in East London offering a great day out for all.

Trees for Cities (treesforcities.org) is an independent charity that works with communities, residents and schools to transform the urban environment and plant trees in cities where they are most needed. *Trees for Cities* have joined forces with *Tower Hamlets* and *Victoria Park* to celebrate the park's trees and help people find out more about them.

Some of the information in this trail was chosen by children from a local primary school, who learned about the trees and chose their favourite facts. We hope you enjoy your time on the trail and discover something new along the way.

With 8 trees in total in a compact area around the Hub and playing areas, the walk will take 25–35 minutes to complete.

Tree info

1 Horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*

Horse chestnut trees can live for over 300 years and were introduced to Britain in the 1600s.

Activity

If you are here in Autumn, can you find any conkers on the ground? Be careful of their spiky green case.

2 Silver birch *Betula pendula*

A fantastic tree for wildlife with an interesting bark. Over 300 different insects can use the tree as a habitat.

Activity

Can you climb the hill and find the tree? Rub your hand along its smooth bark.

Be careful!

Take care on the grassy slope and use the steps to the side as an alternative in wet conditions.

3 Maple *Acer pseudoplatanus spaethii*

This tree can grow up to 20m, the height of three double-decker buses.

Activity

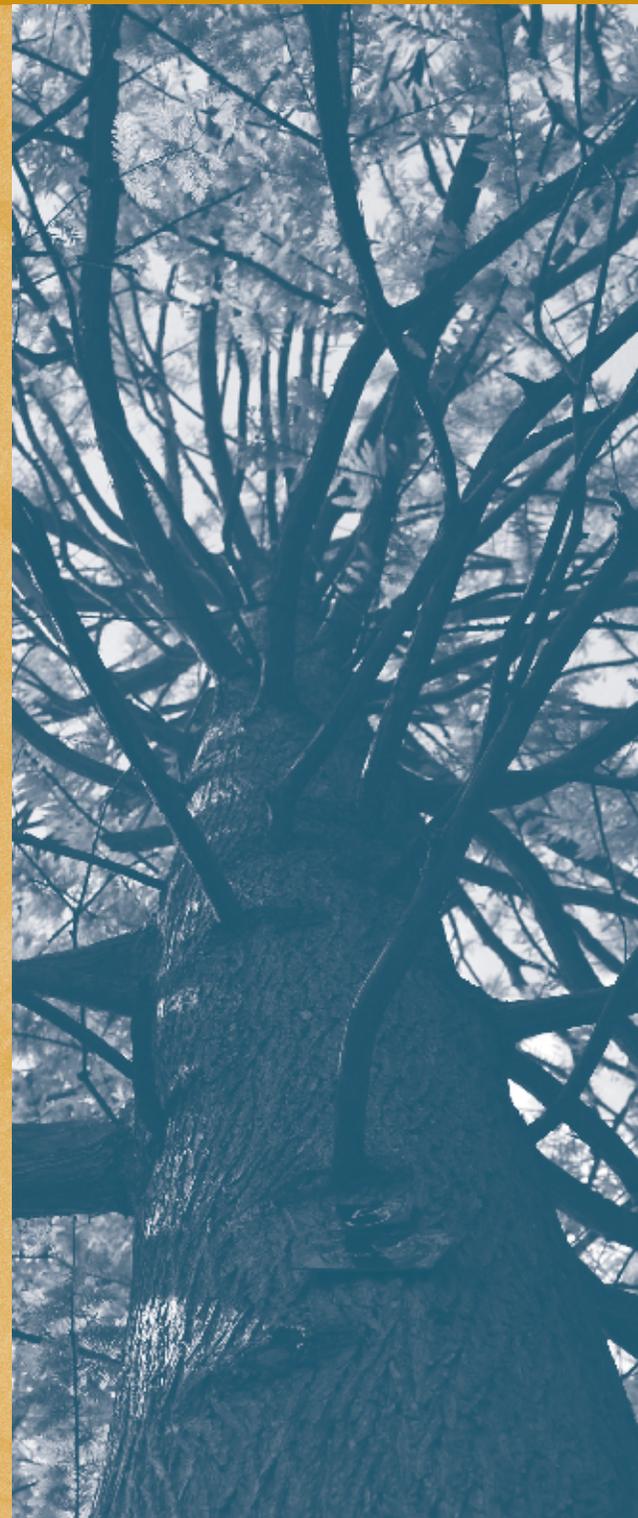
Stand underneath it and look up, what colour are the leaves underneath?

4 Turkish hazel *Corylus colurna*

This tree is good at dealing with the tough growing conditions in cities. The tree creates a lot of shade, take a break underneath its canopy and rub your hands over its interesting bark.

Activity

How tall is this tree? Walk away from the tree but at regular intervals bend forward and look through your legs back to the tree. Stop when you are at a point where you can just



see the top of the tree. The height of the tree is equivalent to the distance that you are from it. Look out for clusters of hazel nuts from July through to October.

5 Tree of heaven *Ailanthus altissima*

The leaves and bark are used in traditional Chinese medicine but it has a very bad smell. Look how the roots have stretched out down the hill and the trunk is crinkled at the bottom.

Activity

Breathe in through your nose very slowly and see if you can smell it while you stand underneath the tree.

6 Fig *Ficus carica*

The fig was farmed by humans in 9000 BC, the Romans ate them too. There is only one type of wasp that can pollinate the trees and make fruit.

Activity

If you are here in October, pick off one of the green, purple or brown fruits, rinse it under water and bite into the sweet fruit for a tasty snack.

7 Caucasian elm *Zelkova carpinifolia*

The wood of this tree is often used for making rock-hard strong bars for building. This tree has a huge bundle of trunks spreading out.

Activity

How many steps does it take to walk around the base of the trunk?

8 Swamp cypress *Taxodium distichum*

These trees need to live near water. Some of the leaves on the lower tree are missing because the light has been blocked by the other plants growing along the edge of the lake.

Activity

Walk back to the play area and look back at the tree to see how tall and straight it has grown to find some light.

Children's Tree Walk

Victoria Park

| | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| Disabled Toilets | Toilets |
|  |  |
| Picnic Area | Café |
|  |  |
| Garden | Children's Playground |
|  | |
| Trail | |



Skip this tree if you want to save a few minutes.

