



# The Walks Tree Trail, *King's Lynn*



# Welcome to The Walks Tree Trail!

Follow the plan on the centrefold spread, as you stroll around the park visiting each numbered tree.

When you're finished see how much you've learnt with our quick quiz at the rear of the booklet.

1



## Weeping Willow

*Salix babylonica*

Easily identified by its long, sweeping branches. This tree is believed to be native to China and thrives in most soil conditions.

2



## Common Alder

*Alnus glutinosa*

This native tree is a water-loving species and grows well in waterlogged environments with limited oxygen. It is a pioneer species, breaking up compacted soils to allow other plants to establish. They produce seeds inside small cones (catkins), which are blown on the wind when the catkins open.

3



## Common Horse Chestnut

*Aesculus hippocastanum*

This tree has a large billowing crown and low hanging branches, similar in form to the Beech tree. This tree is not native but, due to its suitability to our climate, has become naturalised. It has compound leaves, where a number of leaflets grow from a single bud. They produce distinctive seeds in the form of conkers. It has large flowers which grow vertically resembling candles.

## Fruit Trees

On your way around the park, keep your eyes peeled for some young fruit trees. Kindly planted by the Friends of the Walks, examples here include apples, pears and plums, as well as a damson and a black mulberry.

Fruit trees are great for wildlife, with nectar rich blossom in the spring and fruit for hungry foragers later in the season.



## Maidenhair Tree

*Ginkgo biloba*

Of all the deciduous trees that dominated the planet 150-200 million years ago, this is the only one that remains. It was introduced into Britain from a cultivated source in China in the late 1600's. The female trees produce seeds that are edible but they give off a very unpleasant smell. The leaves have two distinct lobes (biloba) and are almost triangular in shape.



4

## Rowan

*Sorbus aucuparia*

This is a fairly small native tree, rarely growing above 20m, frequently planted for its pleasant appearance. It has a distinctive bell-shaped canopy with white blossom that turns into bright red fruit, which is a good food source for birds. The leaves are made up of leaflets growing in opposite pairs (described as pinnate), with serrated edges.



5

## Monkey puzzle

*Araucaria aruacana*

This tree originates from Chile and Argentina where it grows in large groups. It has been a favourite of parklands and private gardens since the 18th century. It has a single straight stem and produces a dense evergreen symmetrical canopy. Several branches grow out from the same level of the tree in whorls, a trait that is common to conifers. They have four or occasionally five branches growing from each whorl.



6

## Sycamore

*Acer pseudoplatanus*

A very versatile tree, adapting to almost all conditions and resistant to pollution and salt spray. The buds are arranged in opposite pairs. The bark is very smooth on young to middle aged trees, developing into craggier sections in later years.



7

8



### Common Beech

*Fagus sylvatica*

This is another large, impressive native tree which has distinctive low sweeping branches. It has a dense canopy of thick, dark green leaves which are almost round in shape with smooth edges. They block out sunlight and often prevent anything growing under its canopy. It produces Beech nuts, traditionally used as animal feed for pigs and deer.

9



### Common Lime

*Tilia x europaea*

This is a hybrid between the Small-Leaved Lime and the Large-Leaved Lime and has occurred naturally right across Europe for a long time. Characteristically they will produce shoots around the base of the main stem, known as epicormic shoots. It is often planted in avenues or, as is the case in this park, double avenues.

10



### Small-leaved Lime

*Tilia cordata*

This is a native tree and considered part of English rural culture. It can be an indicator of ancient woodland. This tree has a very distinctive bell shaped canopy. The leaves of this tree are much smaller than the Common Lime, as their name would suggest, but the seeds and flowers are similar in size. The leaves are generally symmetrical, whereas the Common Lime leaves are asymmetrical. The small Leaved Lime has small tufts of reddish hairs on the underside of the leaves, whereas the hairs on the Common Lime are paler.

11



### Copper Beech

*Fagus sylvatica Pupurea*

A natural variant of the Common Beech; around one in 1000 Common Beech seeds will experience a mutation, resulting in purple/brown leaves. The bark of the Copper Beech is smooth, with the same characteristics of the Common Beech, but this variety is grown for its colour.

## Indian Bean Tree

*Catalpa bignonioides*

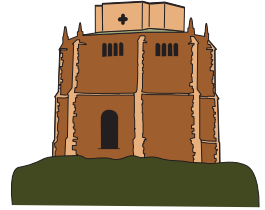
This tree originates from the southern area of the USA. Its seed pods are about 40cm long and hang down in clusters, resembling bean pods. They are popular in inner city areas for their ability to absorb dust and pollution.



12

## Red Mount Chapel

To your left is the 'Red Mount Chapel'. Dating back to the late 15th Century, the chapel served as a wayside chapel for pilgrims en route to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.



## Giant Redwood

*Sequoiadendron giganteum*

By volume, these trees are the largest trees in the world, although the example here is a future giant! They originate from the west of the USA. They have a dense dark blue-green spire with lateral branches growing up and forming additional stems. 'General Sherman', the largest of all the Giant Redwoods, stands at a mighty 83.8m tall with a circumference of 31.3m at its base.



13

## Turkey oak

*Quercus cerris*

This tree was introduced into Britain, becoming popular in Victorian parkland settings period due to its formidable size and fast growth rate. Its bark is much darker in colour, almost black, and its leaves remain on the tree until well into the winter. The acorns are on short stalks, covered in short strands and grow over two years, being visible throughout winter on bare trees.



14



15



### Pendunculate Oak

*Quercus Robur*

This tree is also known as the English Oak or Common Oak and is one of two native oak species in this country. It has leaves on short stalks and acorns in cups on long stalks. It is common in woodlands and wooded banks, but is also frequently found in parkland settings. When open grown they often become gnarled trees, with many branches in a broad rounded crown. These trees are very long-lived, surviving up to 800 years.

16



### Southern Beech

*Nothofagus oblique*

This tree is native to Chile. The leaves are heart shaped and smaller than those of the Common Beech.

17



### Dove Tree

*Davidia involucrata*

This tree also goes by the name of Handkerchief Tree or Ghost Tree. All three names refer to the large white flowers that develop in late spring. The tree itself is small in size with a compact dome shaped canopy.

18



### Persian Ironwood, *Parrotia persica*

This tree originates from around the Caspian Sea. It has a short main stem, with patchy bark, and a dense central crown with a wide domed shape canopy. It has an interesting autumn colour than develops early.

19



### Lucombe Oak

*Quercus x hispanica Lucombeana*


This tree is a hybrid between the Turkey Oak and Cork Oak, first discovered in Exeter in 1765. It has the semi-evergreen tendencies of the Turkey Oak (14) with the bark characteristics of the Cork Oak, being much thicker and less dense.

## King's Lynn Community Allotment

Keep an eye out for the King's Lynn Community Allotment, a volunteer project for all walks of life to grow organic fruit, vegetables and flowers together.

 @KLynnAllotment

 kingslynnca@gmail.com

 [www.facebook.com/KingsLynnCommunityAllotment](http://www.facebook.com/KingsLynnCommunityAllotment)



## Weeping Ash

*Fraxinus excelsior 'Pendula'*

This has the same bark, leaves and buds as the Common Ash, but it has a narrow bell-shaped canopy with the branches hanging down to the ground.



20

## London Plane

*Platanus x acerifolia*

This tree has traditionally been planted along streets or, as in this park, next to streets. It can withstand pollution because it is able to shed its bark, giving it a patchwork appearance. The seeds are actually thousands of little seeds on long stalks, packed tightly together to form a ball shape. It responds well to pruning and is often managed as a pollard tree.



21

## Oriental Plane

*Platanus orientalis*

This tree has the same bark as the London Plane, but with a slightly wider crown and twisted branches. Its leaves are different from the London Plane too, as they have more slender finger-like lobes.



22

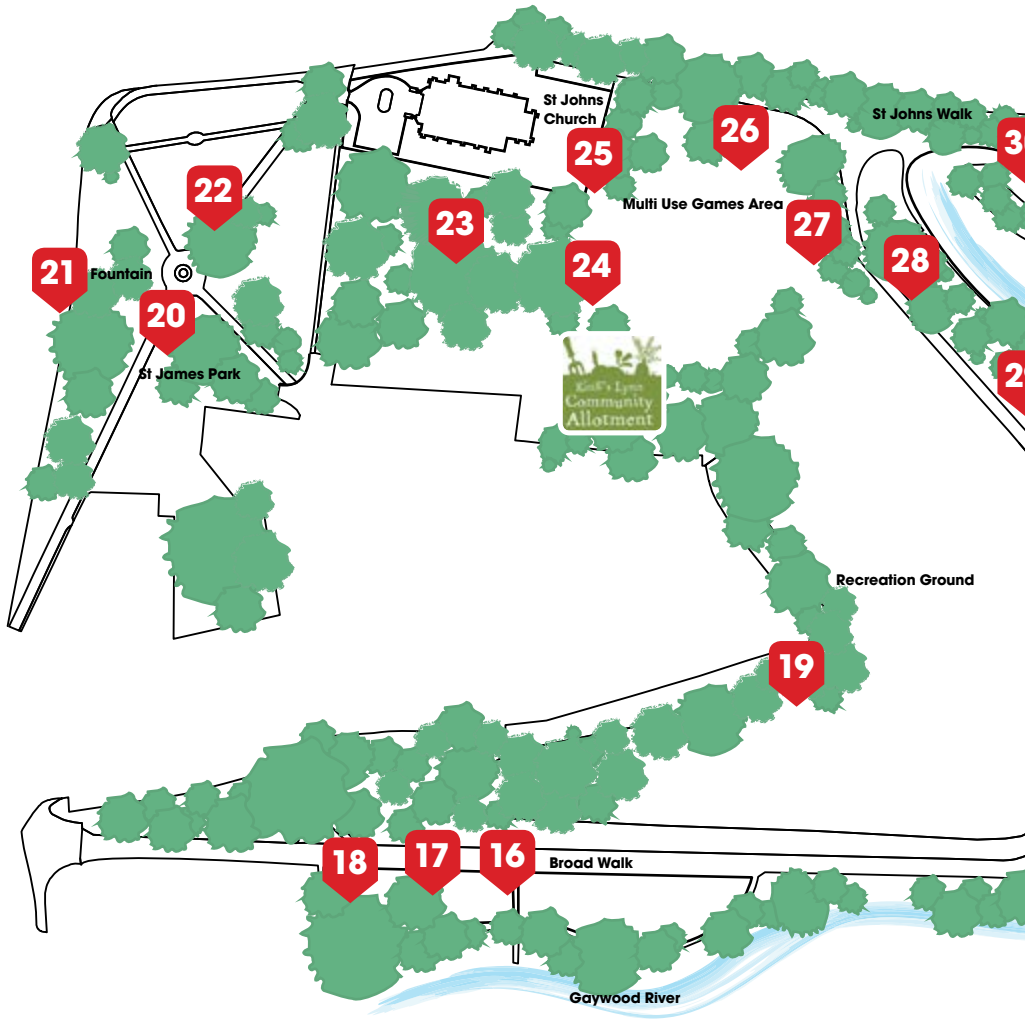
## Red Oak

*Quercus rubra*

This is one of a group of American Oaks. It has a smooth, silvery bark and its leaves have pointed lobes. It has fantastic autumn colour of reddish orange, which is where its name comes from.

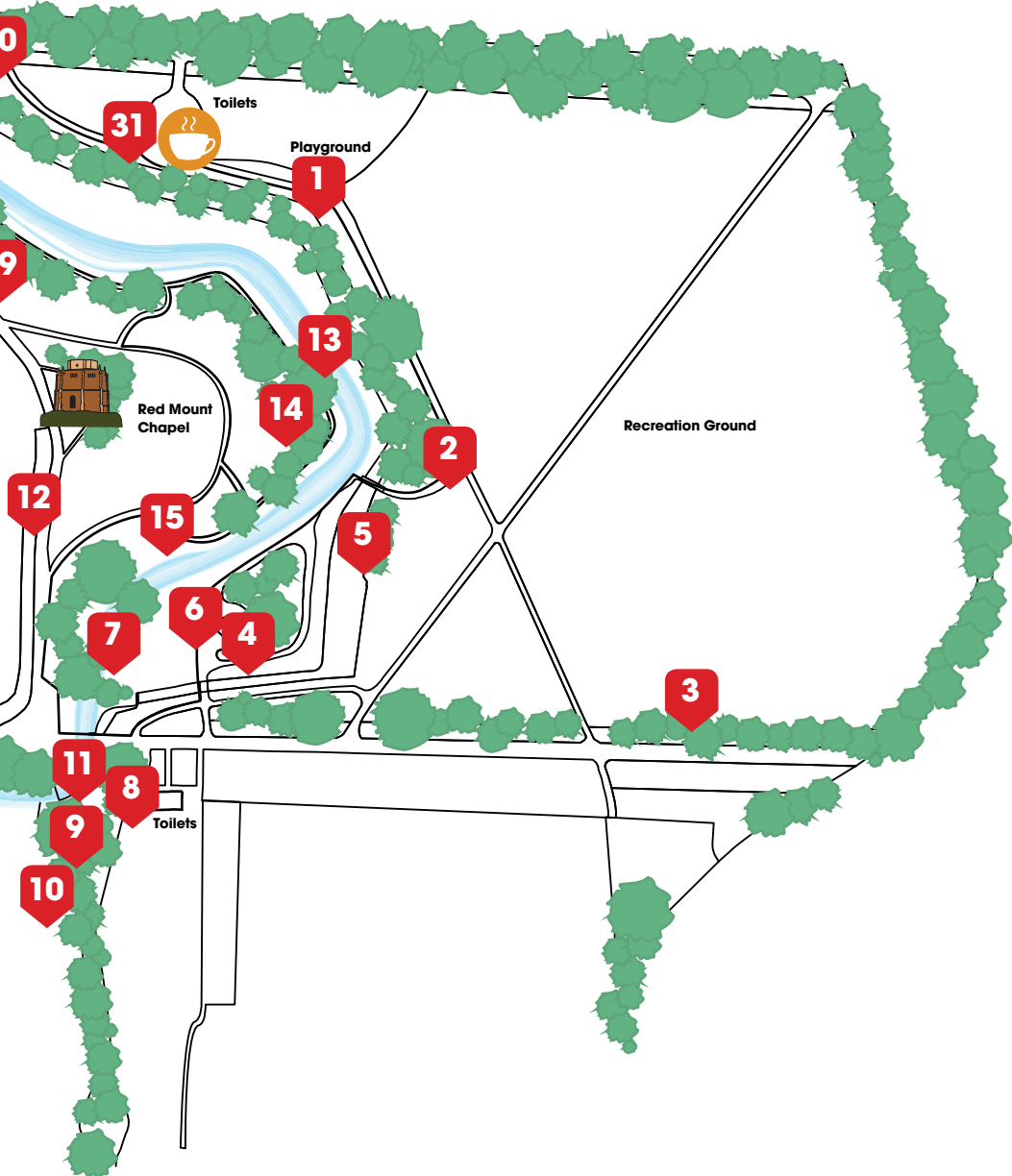


23





# The Walks Tree Trail Map



24



### Swedish Whitebeam

*Sorbus intermedia*

This tree has a compact domed canopy, with extensive blossom in the spring and prolific red berries similar to the Rowan (5). The leaves have thousands of tiny hairs on their undersides, giving them a pale colouration, which provides the tree with its name. It is a very hardy tree and can survive extreme temperatures.

25



### Tulip Tree

*Liriodendron tulipifera*

This tree originates in the USA where it can reach heights of 60m. It has leaves that are the same shape as Tulips but its name comes from its flowers which are also Tulip-like.

26



### Norway Maple

*Acer platanoides*

As its name would suggest, this tree originates from Scandinavia. It has become very popular in parks and formal gardens, partly due to its autumnal colour when the leaves turn yellow/orange. The buds of the Norway Maple are reddish brown. The thirteen examples here were ceremonially planted by former civic leaders, marking completion of a £4.3million restoration of The Walks in 2009. The resulting glade is named 'Mayors Grove'.

27



### Silver Maple

*Acer saccharinum*

These trees have graceful arching branches, with light foliage allowing sunlight to reach the ground below. The leaves are on long stalks allowing them to flutter in the wind making the underside visible. The underside of the leaves is a pale silver colour giving the tree its name. This tree also has an impressive autumnal colour as the tops turn yellow.

## Yew

*Taxus baccata*

This is another tree native to this country and the longest lived of all our native species; some surviving specimens are believed to be thousands of years old. It is widely planted in churchyards. The needles are horizontal and the underside is much paler.



28

## Holm Oak

*Quercus Ilex*

This tree is much smaller than many of the other oaks. They are evergreen, with glossy leaves to prevent water loss; young leaves have serrated edges similar to Holly leaves. It is one of very few Oaks to retain its leaves all year round.



29

## Common Ash

*Fraxinus excelsior*

This tree is native to this country and can be seen in woodland and hedgerows across the country. Although it appears as though it has many independent leaves, each leaf is made up of between seven and thirteen leaflets, originating from the same single bud. The buds are a distinctive black colour and are in pairs on opposite sides of the twigs.



30

## Golden Willow

*Salix x sepulcralis*

This is a hybrid of two other Weeping Willows and gets its name from its golden stems. It has long drooping branches reaching down to the ground and prefers waterside locations.



31

## Café: Time for a coffee!

Serving a range of snacks and hot and cold drinks, weather permitting, The Walks Café opens April - September, Saturdays and Sundays and daily during the school holidays. Otherwise, open Saturdays.



Opening Hours 10:00 - 16:00

## Quiz Questions

1



Describe the form of the Weeping Willow Branches

2



How does the Common Alder spread its seeds?

3



What do you call the seeds from the Horse Chestnut?

7



Describe the texture of the Sycamore bark

10



How do the seeds and flowers of the Small-Leaved Lime compare with the Common Lime?

15



How do the acorns of the Pendunculate (English) Oak compare with the Turkey Oak?

16



How do the leaves of the Southern Beech compare to the Common Beech and Copper Beech?

19



How does the bark of the Lucombe Oak compare to the bark of the other oaks?

21



The London Plane appears to produce seeds in solid round balls, what are these made of?

22



How do the leaves of the Oriental Plane differ from the London Plane?

23



How do the bark and leaves of the Red Oak differ from the UK oaks?

29



What is different about the Holm Oak, compared with the other oak trees?

30



The Common Ash is easily identifiable in winter because of its distinctive bud colour. What colour are they?

31



Where does the Golden Willow get its name?



## Answer Page

1

*Long, thin, pendulous branches*

2

*They produce seeds which are dispersed on the wind when they open*

3

*Conkers!*

7

*The bark is very smooth on the young to middle aged trees, but develops into craggier sections in later years*

10

*The leaves of the Small-Leaved Lime are much smaller than the Common Lime; however, the seeds and flowers are similar in size. The Small-Leaved Lime leaves are generally symmetrical, whereas leaves of the Common Lime are asymmetrical. The Small-Leaved Lime have small tufts of reddish hairs on the underside of the leaves, whereas the hairs on the Common Lime are paler.*

15

*The Turkey Oak acorns are on much shorter stalks covered in short strands. The Pedunculate Oak acorns are on long stalks in cups.*

16

*The leaves of the Southern Beech are heart shaped and smaller than those of the Common Beech. The same goes for the Cooper Beech, although the leaves of the Copper Beech are a purple colour.*

19

*The Lucombe Oak has a much thicker and less dense bark, similar to Cork Oak.*

21

*The seeds are actually thousands of little seeds on long stalks that are packed tightly together to form a ball shape.*

**22**

*The leaves of the Oriental Plane have more slender finger-like lobes.*

**23**

*The bark is smooth and silver compared to the craggy brown nature of the UK oaks. The Red Oak leaves have pointed lobes.*

**29**

*It is an evergreen tree*

**30**

*The buds are black in colour*

**31**

*Its name comes from its Golden Stems*

