

# Elmore Park Tree Trail



# Map of the park



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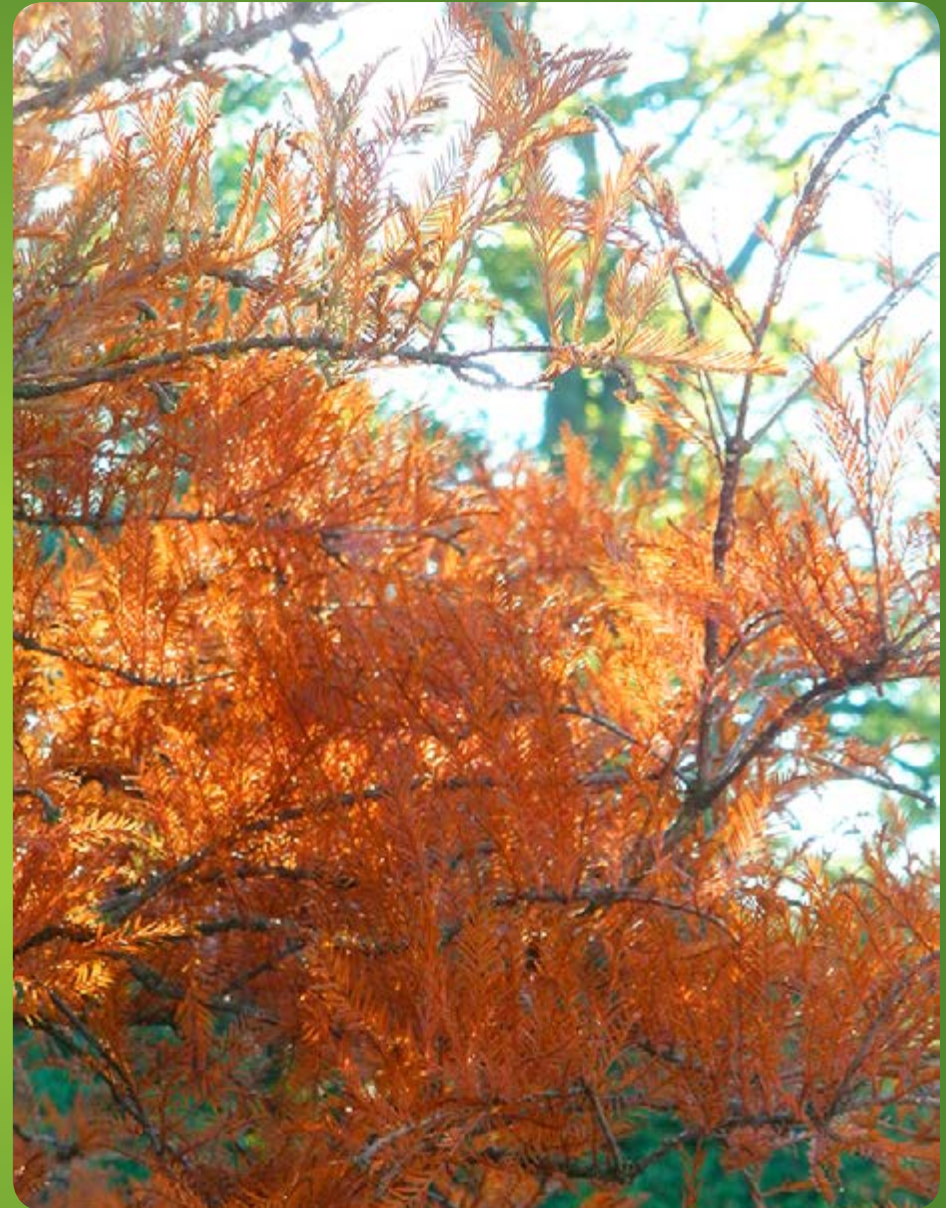
## **1** Monkey Puzzle tree - *Araucaria araucana*

Large evergreen conifer native in Chile. The foliage is large thick dark green and prickly leaf-like scales. The main trunk of the tree is grey in colour and marked with rings formed from old branch scars. Later in life the base of the trunk has a similar look to the feet of elephants. The name comes from the English explorer who brought the tree back and thought it would be a puzzle for monkeys to climb!



## 2 Dawn Redwood - *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

This is a large deciduous conifer tree, originally from China. The tree was recently rediscovered in 1941. Before then the only records of it were from fossils. The tree does lose its leaves in the winter months so the leaves will turn a beautiful reddish colour before falling. The main stem also has cracked and peeling bark.



### **3 Common Yew - *Taxus baccata***

This is a medium evergreen tree native to the British Isles. The leaves of the tree are very small and run along the branch in regimented lines. The berries are bright red but poisonous. They are often planted in churchyards and in gardens as ornamental trees. These are some of our oldest living trees and can grow for more than a thousand years.



#### **4** False Acacia - *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Deciduous broad leaved tree from the United States. The tree has white flowers with a sweet fragrance which open in June. The bark of the tree is dark brown with deeply furrowed and crossing ridges.



**5 Red or Green Ash -  
*Fraxinus pennsylvanica***

Medium sized broad leaved deciduous tree from North America. The tree has seven to nine leaflets which make up the leaves and is very similar to the Common Ash. However the main difference is that the buds on this tree are brown instead of black and slightly furry. The bark in older trees can also have a red tinge in the ridges.



## 6 Maidenhair Tree - *Ginkgo biloba*

Large deciduous tree originally from China. The tree is thought to be the oldest species still in existence. Fossils of the same leaf have been found from 200 million years ago during the Jurassic period. The leaf is fan shaped in two lobes. It is thought that this could be the first tree to cross between the older conifer species and the newly emerging broadleaf species.





## 7 Sweet Gum - *Liquidamber styraciflua*

Large deciduous tree from the United States. The tree produces both male and female flowers and will then produce small seeds with soft spikes. The leaves have five to seven lobes with a long stem. In autumn the leaves will turn a deep red to purple and orange in colour.



## 8 Alder - *Alnus cordata*

Deciduous large tree originally from Italy. The tree has both male and female catkins and these can easily be seen in the winter months, with the female catkins being more rounded in shape.



## 9 Indian Bean tree - *Catalpa bignonioides*

A very large deciduous broad leaved tree from eastern United States. The tree produces large and in some cases slightly heart shaped leaves. The flowers are in groups and white in colour. The seeds are in very long seed pods and can be up to 40cm in length.



## 10 Common Oak - *Quercus robur*

A large deciduous tree. The Oak is one of the oldest trees in Britain and has an iconic leaf shape. The nuts or 'acorns' produced every year are a great source of food for many animals. As the tree grows for such a long time maybe up to 800 years or more, the wood can be used for boat or house building due to its strength. The Oak trees in this park are very young in comparison and could last for another 600 to 700 years!



## 11 Lime - *Tilia cordata*

Large deciduous broad leaved tree native to Britain. This tree was planted enmass by the Victorians and is seen in many parks. The bark is smooth in youth and over time will develop ridges. The seeds will turn golden yellow and stand out against the green leaves.



## **12** Common Mulberry - *Morus Nigra*

Medium sized deciduous broad leaved tree. The fruit is edible but usually used to make jams and wine. The leaves have serrated edges and are always heart shaped.



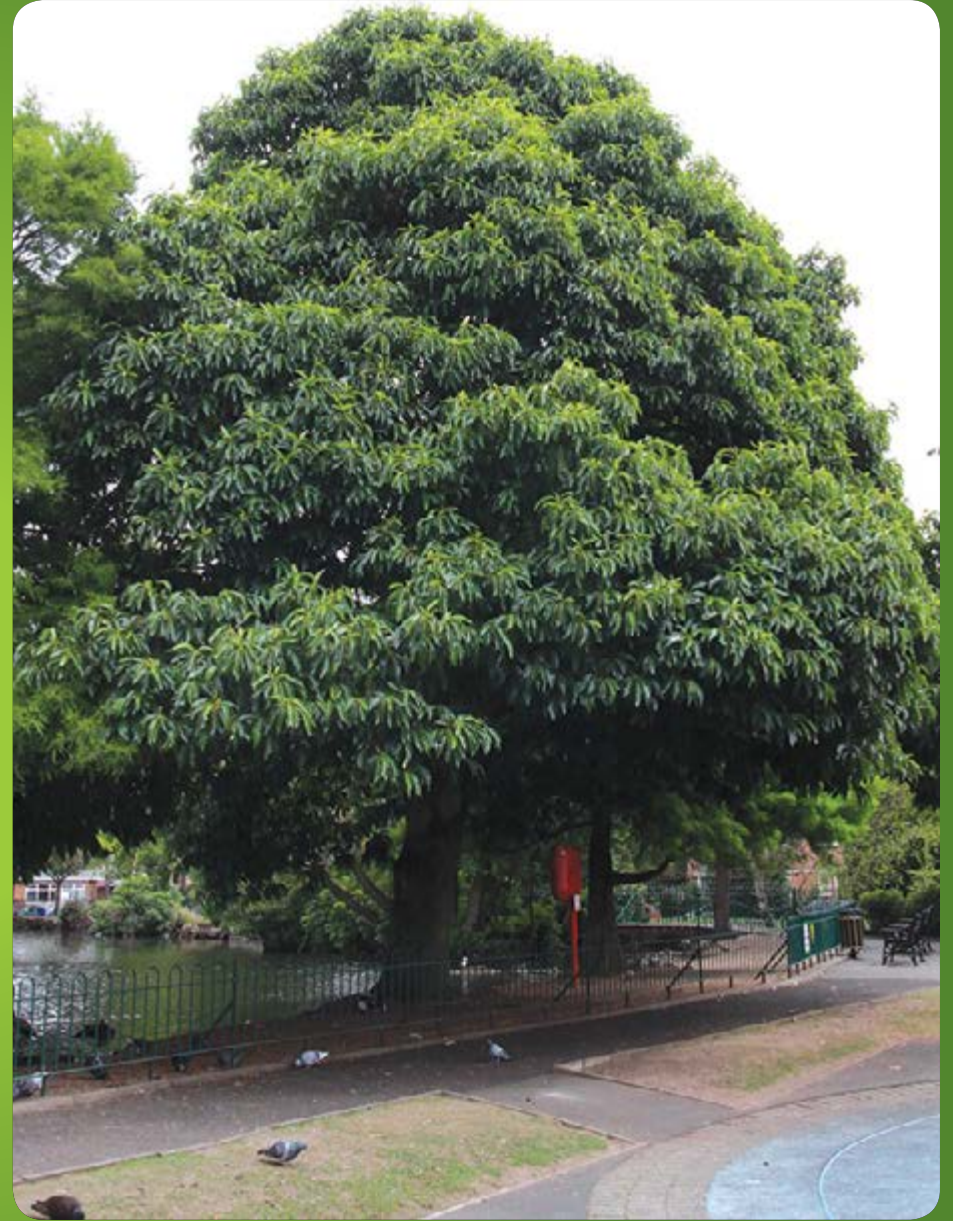
### **13** Swamp Cypress - ***Taxodium distichum***

A very large tree native to the swamps of southern United States. The tree sheds its needles in winter after turning a dull orange colour. The bark is reddish with ridged or peeling fibres. Due to its habitat of living in or near swamps the tree has adapted and produces knees along the roots. These will pop up above the natural waterline to help the tree breath.



## 14 Sweet Chestnut - *Castanea sativa*

Large deciduous broad leaved tree. Leaves are long and narrow with a serrated edge. The bark of the tree has ridges which spiral up and down the tree. It produces nuts in a spiky case which, when open, have an edible seed.





## 15 Deodar Cedar - *Cedrus deodara*

Very large evergreen conifer tree native to the Himalaya. This can in some instances grow to around 75m tall! The leaves are needle-like, and the branches often hang down. The tree when mature has a dominating grand aspect.





## 16 Red Oak - *Quercus rubra*

Medium deciduous tree from east America. The tree also produces acorns but these take two years to mature and fall. The leaves are up to 22cm in length and turn bright yellow in the first three weeks of opening. The leaves will then turn deep red in autumn.



**17** Horse Chestnut -  
***Aesculus hippocastanum***

Large deciduous tree. The foliage is in leaflets of seven, but sometimes of five. These are grouped together to create the main leaf with a long stalk. The seeds of the tree are in a strong prickly shell to protect them. You`ll know the seeds well - they`re so hard that they are used by children to play conkers.



## 18 Service Tree - *Sorbus domestica*

Medium deciduous broad-leaved tree. The fruit is edible but very sour. It`s best if left to become over-ripe or frosted. It is also used in the production of beer. The bark is dark brown and orange.



## History of the park



Elmore Park was originally part of the Hagley Hall Estate and dates back to the 14th century. Land in Rugeley was passed to the de Thomenhorn family who were granted the office of the keeper for the Royal Forest of Cannock. The office became associated with the sub-manor of Hagley. Thomas de Thomenhorn built the original Hagley Hall in 1392. The hall

comprised of a chapel, kitchen, two barns, a brewery, stable, ox stall gatehouse and a drawbridge - as the hall was located on the island in the middle of Elmore Park. In 1636 a new Hagley Hall was built by Sir Richard Watson. In the 18th Century, Hagley Hall was refurbished, remodelled and extended further. In the 1930s the hall was demolished.

Green flag achieved in 2010

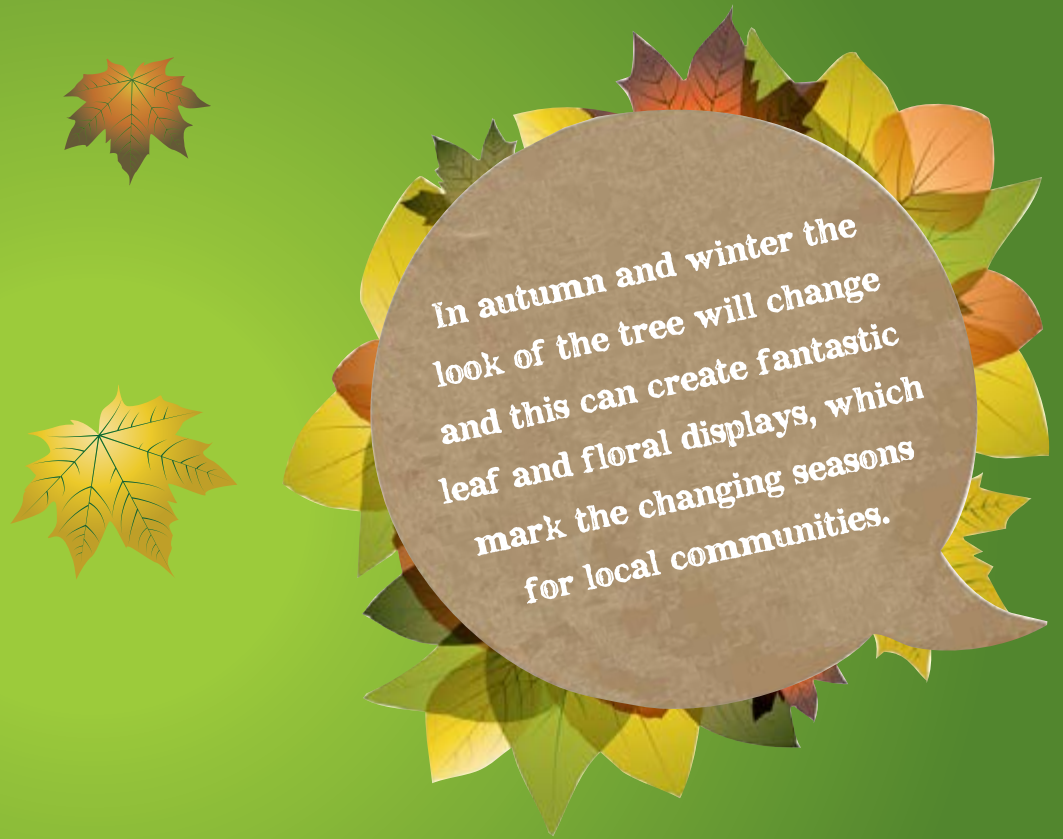


Children's play area



## Benefits of trees

Trees in any location help to benefit the local community. Trees are such an important part of our everyday life and some of the main benefits are to our health and well being. Trees are the main filters to change carbon dioxide into oxygen and they help to reduce stress and illness levels. Trees also help in climate change by absorbing some harmful gases, they reduce extreme temperatures and create community focal points providing amenity and aesthetic value to the local area. Trees can even help to increase property values and change the aesthetic look of an area. They also help to provide habitats and homes for much of our wildlife.



*In autumn and winter the look of the tree will change and this can create fantastic leaf and floral displays, which mark the changing seasons for local communities.*



Enjoy feeding the waterfowl at the lake, but please help us control and look after the waterfowl by remembering:

- If possible feed uncooked seeds or grain (but not rice) as these have the most nutritional value for waterfowl and importantly will not foul the water.
- The other most suitable foods are: mixed corn and wheat (not bread) and purpose manufactured duck pellets.
- Only feed as much food as the birds can eat at any one time. Uneaten food encourages rats and mice.
- Dispose of all bags used to bring food to the park in the litterbins provided or take them home with you.
- Waterfowl are wildlife, they are not domesticated and they do not depend on us to feed them.
- Duck pellets and food can be bought from most local pet shops in Rugeley and elsewhere.

For your own safety no swimming or fishing is allowed in the lake.



### Why not visit other parks and open spaces in Cannock Chase District

- Brereton and Ravenhill Park, Rugeley
- Cannock Town Park
- Hednesford Town Park
- Cannock Chase - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Chase Heritage Trail - 10 mile trail across the District
- Castle Ring, Cannock Wood - Historical Stone Age site Local Nature Reserves at
- Mill Green & Hawks Green, Cannock Hednesford Hills, Hednesford Hazelslade, Rawnsley



## Pets Corner



Parks & Open Spaces, Environmental Services, Civic Centre,  
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