

## 9. Maidenhair Tree

### *Ginkgo biloba*

Ginkgos are found as fossils from the Jurassic Period. Now extinct in the wild, the oldest known trees are possibly 2,000 years old and are in China. The ginkgo is revered for its medicinal properties. The name refers to the leaves, resembling those of the maidenhair fern. Look closely at the shape of the leaves of this fine pair of trees, as they are formed of two lobes.

## 10. Tulip Tree

### *Liriodendron tulipifera*

As the tallest deciduous tree from North America it can get to nearly 200ft tall and 20ft around and is one of only two species world-wide. It is very long-lived and its size, straight trunks of first timber made it a tree prized by the Native Americans for canoe building. The flowers are 50mms across, are mostly green, so can be difficult to spot, but look like Tulips.

## Accessibility

The tree trail follows the wheelchair friendly path around the grassed area of the formal gardens in Westgate Parks.

## Toilets

At Toddler's Cove and Tower Way

# Canterbury's Westgate Gardens



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# Westgate Gardens Tree Trail



A partnership project with  
Simon Langton Girls' Grammar

**You can see the beautiful trees from the lawn of the formal gardens and take a closer look from along the path. A leisurely stroll takes around 20 minutes.**

## 1. Oriental Plane

### *Platanus orientalis*

All the specimens of this tree in Canterbury have the distinctive enlarged trunks; the one you see here is the largest. The Oriental Plane is one of the parent species of the more common London Plane. They are all noted for shedding plates of bark, giving the trunk their mottled pattern. This helps it to fend off pollution, by shedding its dirty blocked pores to expose clean bark almost every year.

## 2. Dawn Redwood

### *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

Known as the Dawn Redwood, this tree was only known to exist as a fossil until living trees were discovered in China in 1941. This tree was introduced to Canterbury in 1947. The Dawn Redwood is related to the Coast Redwoods and the Giant Sequoia. This is a fast-growing tree but requires space for the buttress roots above the ground.

## 3. Common Ash

### *Fraxinus excelsior*

Ash is found across Europe from the Arctic Circle to Turkey. They can live up to 400 years. In Viking mythology the ash was referred to as the 'Tree of Life'. In Britain it is regarded as a healing tree. Ash wood is one of the toughest hardwoods and absorbs shocks without splintering, so is used for sports handles, tools and oars.

## 4. Scots Pine

### *Pinus sylvestris*

This common native evergreen tree can reach 35 metres and can live up to 700 years; this variety has survived since the last Ice Age. The resin forms amber as it hardens and is used as rosin for violin bows and printing plates. It has many uses; as well as being one of the strongest softwoods, the resin is tapped for turpentine, the inner bark for rope-making, as well as for its pine fragrance.

## 5. Common Walnut

### *Juglans regia*

Walnut is one of the most valuable timber trees. Its dark brown/black timber fetches high prices in cabinet making and the root buttresses are valued for gun handles. The wood is known for its shock-absorbing properties and the leaves, bark, the green husks and the oil from the nut kernels have high value in medicinal properties.

## 6. Brewers Spruce

### *Picea breweriana*

This ornamental tree is restricted in its natural habitat to eight or nine locations on high mountain ridges in Northern California and South Oregon. It has declined in numbers there due to climate change and fires. Its drooping twigs are an adaptation to growing high up where the snowfalls are heavy and frequent. Up to six metres of snow falls in a season, but the drooping twigs shed the snow quickly and effectively.

## 7. Common Beech

### *Fagus sylvatica*

This magnificent deciduous tree can grow up to 40m tall and live to 400 years. The silver-grey bark has a smooth texture. When the leaves first unfurl they are a delicate lime green, providing a dappled shade beneath them, and in autumn they turn to glowing yellow, then orange then a russet brown that rustles in the breeze. In the 19th century beech oil was used for cooking and oil lamps. Beech wood is used in furniture-making, and the pulp is used for manufacturing a textile fibre known as Modal.

## 8. Persian Ironwood

### *Parrotia persica*

This deciduous tree is native to the Alborz mountain range in Northern Iran. It is closely related to Witch-hazel and *Liquidambar* and has stunning crimson autumn colour. The strength of the timber is such that it is difficult to work. The name is derived from the Russian naturalist F.W. Parrot.



# Canterbury's Westgate Gardens Tree Trail



**1 Oriental Plane**  
*Platanus orientalis*



**10 Tulip Tree**  
*Liriodendron tulipifera*



**9 Maidenhair Tree**  
*Ginkgo biloba*



**2 Dawn Redwood**  
*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*



**3 Common Ash**  
*Fraxinus excelsior*



**4 Scots Pine**  
*Pinus sylvestris*



**5 Common Walnut**  
*Juglans regia*



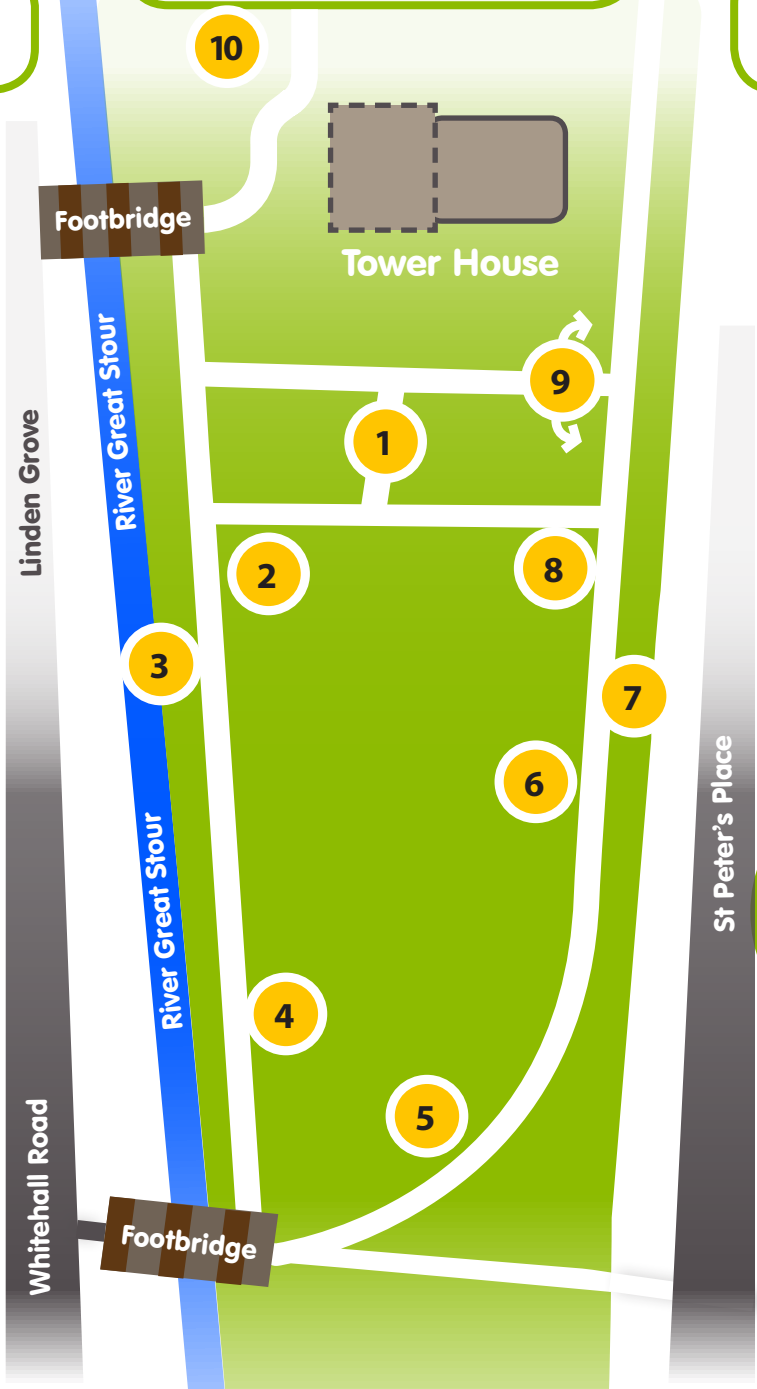
**6 Brewer's Spruce**  
*Picea breweriana*



**8 Persian Ironwood**  
*Parrotia persica*



**7 Common Beech**  
*Fagus sylvatica*



This tree trail was produced with the Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School as part of their 'Talking Trees' enrichment work led by Fay Blair and devised with LAPWING project artist Sue Toft, on behalf of AgeUK Canterbury

[www.ageuk.org.uk/canterbury](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/canterbury)

