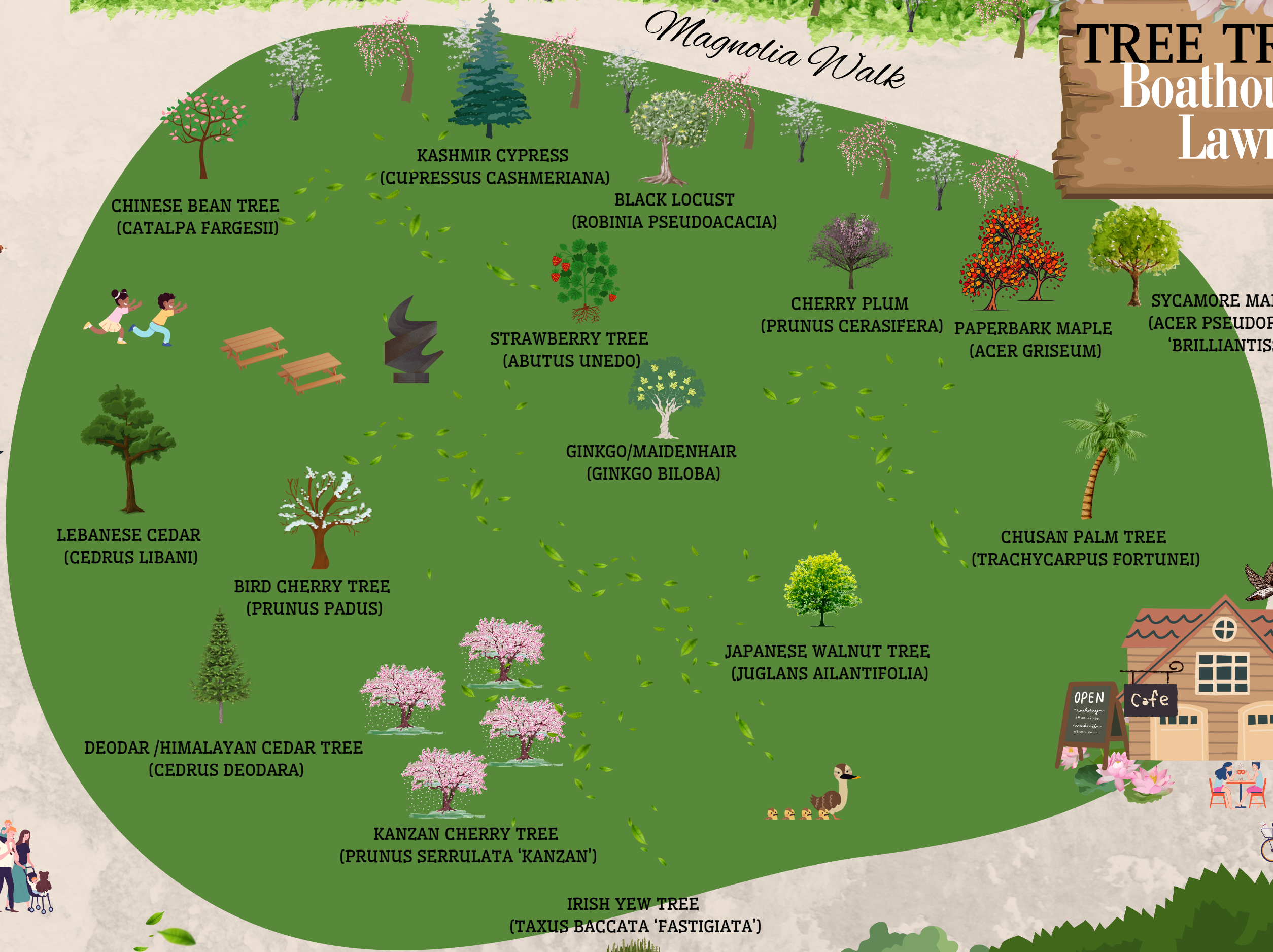


TREE TRAIL
Boathouse
Lawn



Conservatory

INFORMATION
OVERLEAF

Magnolia Walk (*Various*). The magnolia walk was designed by Miranda Guinness and features a variety of magnolia trees, blooming large pink and white flowers in April. Magnolias bloom much earlier than most other flowering trees. They have been around since the time of the dinosaurs and are among the world’s oldest tree species. They are so ancient that they evolved before bees even existed, and had to rely on beetles for pollination. Magnolias do not produce nectar, the beetles are attracted by their sweet smelling flowers and feed off the pollen. To improve its means of successful pollination, the inner tepals of the flower remain tightly shut for days allowing visiting beetles to feed safely. The first Magnolia came to the British Isles in 1688 from the USA and was named after the 17th century French, botanist, Pierre Magnol. The magnolia was made the state flower of Mississippi in 1900. The magnolia symbolizes stability in the United States, in China; beauty and gentleness.

Chinese Bean Tree (*Catalpa Fargesii*). Rare flowering tree, which was first found by westerners growing in the Wudang region of Hubei, China in the early 20th century. The tree is named after French botanist, Pere Farges, who collected seeds while stationed in China from 1867-1912. Keep an eye out for the clusters of pink bell-shaped flowers in spring and bean-like fruit in autumn.

Kashmir Cypress (*Cupressus Cashmeriana*). An evergreen conifer, native to Bhutan. This tree can grow to 150 feet in height in its native range. It has graceful weeping branches with green to blue green foliage. It was introduced to an English nursery from ‘Tibet’ in about 1862.

Black Locust (*Robinia Pseudoacacia*). Native to North America. The tree was identified in 1607 at Jamestown by British colonists, who used the timber to build houses. As it is a fast growing, extremely hard, rot resistant wood, it is prized in furniture making and shipbuilding. Pairs of leaves sit on either side of the branch with a flat smooth pea like pod. The leaflets fold together at night and during wet weather.

Cherry Plum (*Prunus Cerasifera*). Native to Western Asia and the Caucasus. Cherry plum is a broadleaf deciduous tree and one of the first Prunus species to flower in spring. It can grow up to 8m. Its bark is dark grey and develops fissures with age. The twigs are green and covered in a fine down when young. By the 16th century it was found in the British Isles.

Paperbark Maple (*Acer Griseum*). This small deciduous tree is native to China. Yellow spring flowers turn into paired samaras (*dried fruit*), typical of acers and the foliage offers decorative shades in autumn. The bark is smooth, shiny, cinnamon in colour, with peeling papery layers providing interest all year round. It was introduced to Europe by Ernest ‘Chinese’ Wilson in 1901.

Sycamore Maple Tree (*Acer Pseudoplatanus ‘Brilliantissimum’*). Native to Central Europe and Western Asia but had spread to the British Isles by the 1500s. This small, rounded sycamore has salmon pink leaves, turning yellow and green in the summer. The flowers are greenish yellow and hang in dangling flowerheads called panicles. The winged red fruit are borne in pairs and twirl to the ground when ripe.

Strawberry Tree (*Abutus Unedo*). Native to the south-west of Ireland, Iberia and Brittany. The Latin word ‘unedo’ means ‘only eat one’, referring to the fruit the tree produces, which is strawberry-like with a bitter taste. Urn shaped flowers appear in autumn and are wind pollinated that can take a year to develop into fruit, meaning it can flower and fruit simultaneously.

Ginkgo/Maidenhair (*Ginkgo Biloba*). Native to China, the ginkgo is one of the oldest living tree species and the sole survivor of an ancient group of trees that date back to before dinosaurs roamed the Earth. The Ginkgo exhibits fan shaped leaves and an unpleasant smelling seed. Ginkgo is the misspelling of the words ‘gin’ and ‘kyo’ meaning ‘silver apricot’. Biloba comes from the Latin ‘bis’, meaning twice and ‘loba’, meaning ‘lobed’, a reference to the leaf shape. The extract from ginkgo leaves is promoted as a dietary supplement for many health conditions. In 1762, it was one of the first trees to be planted in Kew Garden.

Chusan Palm Tree (*Trachycarpus Fortunei*). An evergreen hairy trunked palm, native to China. It produces yellow flowers and a brown fruit and thrives in cool temperatures. The word ‘Trachys’ translates from Greek as ‘rough’, referring to the trunk. The word ‘Karpos’ means fruit. Robert Fortune, Scottish Horticulturist is whom the tree is named after.

Japanese Walnut Tree (*Juglans Ailantifolia*). This deciduous tree is native to Japan and Sakhalin and can grow up to 20m high. The leaves are pinnate ash-like leaves and the fruit is a nut, which is produced in autumn. The edible nuts have an oily texture. The husks are also used to make a yellowish dye.

Irish Yew Tree (*Taxus Baccata ‘Fastigiata’*). Native evergreen with upward pointing branches. All Irish yews are descended from cuttings of a specimen found in Florence Court, County Fermanagh in the 1700s. They are often planted in churchyards as ornamental trees. Yew hedges in particular are incredibly dense, offering protection and nesting opportunities for many birds. The fruit is eaten by birds and small mammals but are poisonous to humans.

Kanzan Cherry Tree (*Prunus Serrulata ‘Kanzan’*). Native to Japan, this cherry tree is laden with large double flowering, pink blossoms in spring, which carpet the ground in pink after falling. Leaves emerge bronze before turning green, then orange in autumn. It was introduced to Britain and Ireland in the early 1900s.

Deodar /Himalayan Cedar Tree (*Cedrus Deodara*). Native to the Himalayas. Both its common name and scientific name are derived from the Sanskrit term ‘devadaru’, which means ‘wood of the gods’. It can grow in high altitudes and reach heights of 50m. The Hon. William Leslie Melville, an employee of the East India Company, introduced the tree to Britain in 1831.

Bird Cherry Tree (*Prunus Padus*). Bird cherry is native to northern Europe and northern Asia. Tough and adaptable, it can grow in harsh environments. Clusters of almond scented flowers provide an early source of nectar ad pollen. In autumn it produces small black, bitter fruits and colourful foliage. The strong-smelling bark of the tree was believed to have magical properties that could ward off the plague.

Lebanese Cedar (*Cedrus Libani*). This evergreen conifer is native to the mountains of the eastern Mediterranean basin. They have grey green foliage and attractive grey pink upright cones in summer. It is found on the Lebanese flag as it is held in such high regard. The Cedar of Lebanon was introduced to Britain by Edward Pocock in the late 1630s and first planted in Ireland in the 1640s. One of the earliest specimens brought to Ireland is the Cedar of Lebanon that was planted in the grounds of the present-day Adare Manor Hotel, Co. Limerick in 1645 and which still stands there today.