This is the second of a series of graded walks around Victoria Park, is 500 metres long and starts and finishes at the tearoom. This is the **yellow walk** and the theme is **trees and plants**.

To the right of the first avenue, before you reach the tree lined section, you will pass the Sundial garden, which is planted with a variety of both evergreen and deciduous shrubs such as Portuguese laurel, dogwoods with their brightly coloured stems and Berberis with dramatic deep crimson frosted foliage and profusions of berries that are such a magnet for birds.

The two long avenues that take you away from, and then back towards the tea room, are lined with a variety of deciduous tree species, the first avenue is lined with Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) and the second a mix of Sycamore, Lime (Tilia x europea) and London Plane (Platanus x hispanica) further set back is a large turkey oak (Quercus cerris) there is also beautiful Acacia at the end of this avenue. As you bear left here to return to the tea room, you will pass large Mahonia, which have fragrant yellow winter flowers and large architectural leaves and blue/black berries, and if you look closely there are also several Helebores which have beautiful winter flowers hence their common name, Winter Rose.

This mix of trees provides diverse habitats for invertebrates and birdlife as well as shade and colour for humans. We know that being in nature is beneficial to health and well being and can reduce stress and anxiety, but it seems there is something even more special about trees. As well as producing oxygen and sequestering carbon dioxide, therefore mitigating climate change, research shows that the benefits of being in thriving nature (reduced stress and anxiety, improved mood, energy levels and cognitive function) are more pronounced when we are around trees. So enjoy the structural majesty of these trees in winter and the green canopy and cool, clean air they provide in summer!

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WALKING ROUTES

YELLOW ROUTE



