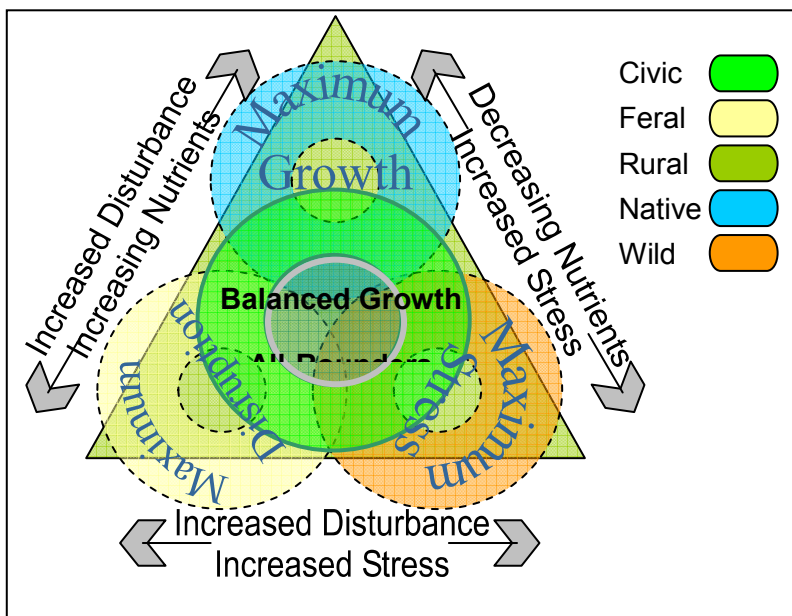


Whalley Range Tree Conservation Group:

Ecological Factors:

The different growth patterns of trees both influences, and is in turn influenced by numerous positive and negative environmental or ecological factors. Conservationists in the field have classified the patterns of tree growth into 3 Groups, with several intermediate categories depending largely on climate, location and inherent properties of soil. Major locations are identified as Civic, Rural, Feral, Native and Wild. In any of these locations trees would encounter 3 types of growth stimuli.

Ecological Growth Patterns



1. Stress: -

In this area we might find small to medium-sized slow-growing trees or shrubs, clinging onto the landscape such as juniper, yew, buckthorn and hawthorn. There may also be dogwoods, heathers, grasses and ferns. At the extreme sites in this ecosystem we might even encounter bogs, marshes, exposed wasteland and rocky outcrops.

2. Disruption: -

In this area we might find large to medium-sized, easily seeding trees such as ash, sycamore, beech, or the fast-growing, but short-lived aspen, birch, black poplar, goat willow, and holly.

3. Growth/Nurture: -

Here we might find gigantic, or large to medium-sized, rather vigorous trees such as ash, birch, black poplar, willow and rowan. At extreme or more favourable sites we might find Wild Pear, Bird Cherry, Crab Apple, Field Maple, Whitebeam, and the Wild Service Tree.

In the **Intermediate Area** of the ecological growth pattern we will find another group of trees, typical examples of these are the Lime, Maple, Elder, Holly, Beech, Ash, Oak, and Horse Chestnut.

Another interesting group of trees will tend to congregate in the **Central Core** of a woodland ecosystem and these may be subject to fluctuating influences from positive or negative factors related to stress, disruption or nurture. Typical examples of these all-rounders will be the evergreens, such as Yew, Holly, Cedar, Pine, Spruce and Fir, as well as other deciduous species such as Larch.

Whalley Range Conservation Area

Whalley Range has gained a reputation for its extensive established trees both in its parks and roadways so this reputation should be sustained and preserved for future generations. The trees we select to replace those intended for felling should reflect the resident's vision of sustainability and preserve the neighbourhood's reputation as a green environment. Although many of the trees employed in the past such as the broad-leaved lime clearly produce certain problems for modern residents. It is highly unlikely that the newly planted trees would reach the same height as those in the past that were planted in fresh, virgin soils. Therefore some consideration should be made for this eventuality. As current stake-holders or guardians of this legacy we should have a vision of the urban landscape that we should be proud to pass on to future generations.

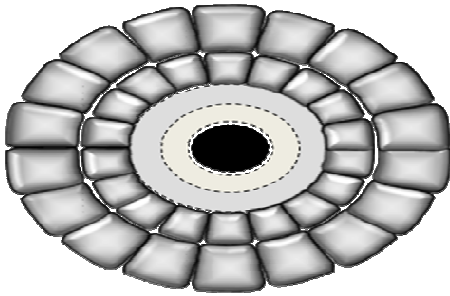
The Language of Trees

Ever since the advent of the landscape architect "Capability Brown" in the Victorian era trees have been chosen or favoured largely because of their appearance and general growth tendencies or because they have some symbolic significance to the area. The Black Poplar for example was planted in the Whalley Range area because Manchester was known as "Cottonopolis" and this tree was known as the cottonwood tree in America. On a more pragmatic level it also soaked up industrial pollution. Some trees have what might be called landmark properties for example the Monkey Puzzle tree, largely because of its unmistakable and distinctive shape has often been used as a landmark site for example to mark a boundary, junction or site of specific interest.

Trees in the Urban Landscape

A great number of interesting trees have been ear-marked by modern landscape architects because they are easy to grow and are especially interesting, either because of their bio-diversity, folklore associations or their hardiness in urban landscapes. There is a marked absence of evergreen trees in the Council's current list which is odd since they do not shed as much leaf in autumn and therefore would not contribute to blockage of drains. Evergreens such as spruce or pine are excellent landmark trees and are favoured near conservation areas, road junctions, parks and sites of specific urban interest. Planes are favoured because of their broad shade in summer and are often seen in central parks or where people gather to meet. Silver or paper Birches are ideal for banks, woodlands and streetscapes although they are short-lived compared to other trees. Sweet chestnuts, horse chestnuts, oaks and walnuts as well as other fruiting trees provide foods for jays and squirrels. Trees with some peculiar interest both in shape, leaf and flowering habit include Cockspur Thorn, Turkish Hazel, Dove or Handkerchief Tree, Snakebark Maples, Japanese evergreen oaks and other evergreens such as spruce (which is fast-growing and attains a reasonable height), the evergreen Holm oak, and might be interesting inclusions for the area. Aside from its natural biodiversity Whalley Range has always had a great number of imported trees both in the parks, streets and local gardens.

Road and Pavement Landscapes



Trees are easier to manage as they grow when planted and surrounded by stone sets in a manner that as they grow the sets can be removed to accommodate their enlarged trunks. Tarmacing right up to the trunks or simply cutting square areas out of existing pavements does seem an incongruous practice since the majority of trees have round trunks. A tree should merge naturally from its vertical location to the horizontal, its general shape, its branches and growth habit should form an aesthetic dynamic in relation to its local environment. In other words it should not look as if it has been plonked there!

Pavement Planters:

These should be made of natural materials and customised in terms of shape and style to meet the aesthetic requirements of any particular location. The plastic tubs located in urban areas such as Withington Road are unsightly eyesores and should be removed and replaced by more sensitive and complementary designs. Low planting can be interesting and pleasing but these municipal tubs have no intrinsic value, often being used as litter bins and do not complement the area in any way.

Trees suitable for Industrial Areas:

Apple, False Acacia, Ash, Birch, Elm, Eucalyptus, Field Maple, Tree of Heaven, Honey Locust, Laburnum, Plane, Black, White and Grey Poplar, Pear, Gingko, English Oak, Willow, Horse Chestnut & Sweet Chestnut, and Sycamore.

Trees suitable for Coastal Regions

Ash, Plane, Hawthorn, Holly, Black, White and Grey Poplar, Mountain Ash (Rowan), Sycamore

Trees suitable for Badly drained soil:

Alder, Birch, Hawthorn, Maple, English Oak, Poplar, Pear, & Willows.

Trees suitable for poor nutrient soils:

Apple, Pear, Mountain Ash (Rowan) & Whitebeam, False Acacia, Gingko, Goat Willow, Laburnum,

Trees suitable for Chalky soils:

False Acacia, Almond, Apple, Beeches, Blackthorn, Pear, Plum, Linden, Mountain Ash (Rowan) & Whitebeam, Mulberry, Oak, False Poplar, Walnut, & Willow.

Trees suitable for Agricultural hedges:

Beeches, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Holly, Cockspur Thorn, Privet, Yew,

Trees suitable for gardens, parks and estates:

Cockspur Thorn, Gingko, Witch Hazel, Asian pear, Fig, Castor Oil Tree