



UCD Woodland Walks Map and Guide

UCD Woodland Walks

Since the 1930s, when University College Dublin's Belfield campus was formed through the purchase of some of Dublin's finest period houses and estates, the campus has provided an important amenity to students, staff and the local community. Today UCD is known for its parkland setting and mature landscaping. Now over 8km of woodland paths have been created and a series of walks developed to open up the beautiful 133 hectare campus to a wider community.

Each walk has its own unique characteristics. Along the meandering paths, walkers will pass many mature trees dating from the 18th and early 19th centuries, which complement areas of new woodland planted as part of UCD's programme to maintain and enhance the ecological diversity of the campus for the benefit of all.



Purple Loosestrife photographed near Woodview wetlands



Part of the Oak Walk developed as a Millennium project



Horse Chestnut in spring



UCD Campus Woodland Facts

- 25,000 trees in 1996
- 50,000+ trees in 2011
- 75 different species
- 15,000+ mature/semi-mature trees
- 9ha of campus woodland coverage
- 8km of woodland paths

Planting for the Future

New areas of woodland have been planted on campus each year since 1998. Where appropriate, the species of trees planted in each location reflect those originally planted at the time when the land was in private estates. Approximately 25,000 trees have been planted increasing the overall woodland coverage on campus from 5.6 hectares to almost 9 hectares. The intention is to continue to expand campus woodland over the coming years with these trees living for the next 100 to 200 years.

On your Walk

- Keep to the path in wooded areas
- You can get a cup of coffee in many locations on campus
- Take time to visit new and interesting parts of the campus and watch out for artwork and sculptures along the way
- Learn more about the Programme for Preservation of Period Houses at UCD (www.ucd.ie/campusdevelopment)
- In an emergency call UCD First Response Room on 01 7167999
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times and clean up after it

Notable Trees on Campus

There are many notable trees on campus known for their beauty, in particular in Belfield Wood (located adjacent to Belfield House), Foster's Avenue Wood (located between Merville House and along Foster's Avenue), and the Oak Walk (which runs from the rear of the UCD Veterinary Sciences Centre to the rear of the UCD Conway Institute). A number of these trees have been highlighted on the map.

In addition to these trees, many other rare and exotic trees are located in areas close to the gardens and grounds of the former estate houses such as Belfield House, and along the Rosemount Walk between the UCD Oakmount Crèche and the Arboretum.

Contributors

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For more visit:
www.ucd.ie/campusdevelopment/woodlandwalks



Five walks to choose from

●●● Millennium Walk – 3.2km, duration 35-40 minutes

Following a meandering double line of oak trees, this path stretches from the UCD Bowl to the back of the UCD Veterinary Sciences Centre, and incorporates the UCD Newstead Precinct and the lakes and wild meadow at Woodview. The walk includes many features of ecological importance such as a pond and filter beds, a pine copse and wildflower meadow. This area has become a valuable habitat for wildlife and has a broad range of biodiversity. A Golden Ash Walk, Plane Walk and Cherry Grove are visited along this path.

★ ★ ★ Rosemount Walk – 1.8km, duration 20-25 minutes

The walk begins and ends at the UCD Sports Centre. It links the UCD Water Tower, Rosemount (UCD Environmental Research Station), UCD Oakmount Crèche, the Arboretum, and the O’Kane Centre for Film Studies situated at the Magnetic Observatory. The Arboretum is a living museum containing many rare and unusual trees dating back to the original Rosemount estate. The university continues to add specimen trees and has developed a woodland meadow in this area. A Birch Walk runs down the side of the Magnetic Observatory.

◆ ◆ ◆ Belfield Walk – 2.4km, duration 30-35 minutes

Encompassing the academic core of the campus, the walk begins and ends at the entrance to the UCD James Joyce Library and forms a green link between the heart of the campus and the woodland periphery of the former estates. This walk passes O’Reilly Hall and the lake which is home to a number of wildlife species including swans, ducks, fish and a range of other aquatic based wildlife. The Elm Walk and Walnut Grove also feature along the path.

Trees and Woodland

The campus is formed from a series of suburban estates and retains many trees and woodlands from the 18th and early 19th century. Estate woodland is most noticeable on Foster’s Avenue, by the Glenomena residences, around the UCD Crèche and along the Stillorgan Road. Remnants of residential ornamental tree planting can be seen at Merville House, Belfield House, Roebuck Castle and Richview.

In the late 18th century, ornamental conifers were in fashion and a representative collection, including Western Red Cedar, Giant Redwood, Sawara Cypress and Monterey Cypress remain by Ardmore House. Tall mature Lime trees, originally part of an estate boundary, line the road from the N11 entrance to the Daedalus Building. More fine Lime trees stand in front of the UCD Quinn School and recently-planted trees run along the side of the building.

Tree-planting accompanied the development of the university in the 1960s and 1970s and placed more emphasis on the year-round use of the campus. Pink-flowering Cherries, yellow-flowering Laburnum and white-flowering Horse Chestnuts are conspicuous in April and May. Purple-leaved trees such as Norway Maple, Copper Beech and Purple Plum are striking in summer and can be seen by O’Reilly Hall and the path to the N11 entrance.



Long-tailed Tit photographed on campus

Grey-foliaged Weeping Pears, with dome-shaped appearance, are evident by O’Reilly Hall and feature in many conferring photographs. Weeping Willow, Beech and Japanese Maples by the Lake offer striking colours of gold and orange in autumn. In winter, white-stemmed Birch and Paper Bark Maple are particularly noticeable by Merville House.

The large area of London Plane trees planted in front of the Restaurant and the Oak Walk, which formed a Millennium project, are relatively young and will grace the campus for many generations to come.

In recent years, large parts of the boundary woodland have been augmented with native woodland trees such as Birch, Alder, Oak and

▼▼▼ Glenomena Walk – 1.9km, duration 20-25 minutes

This walk joins 3.6 hectares of established woodland on campus including Belfield Wood which runs alongside Belfield House, Merville Wood which is located alongside Merville House (NovaUCD) and Foster's Avenue Wood. The path includes the tree lined avenue to Merville House (a Georgian style, two storey 'country villa') and the Lime Walk.

— — — Boundary Woodland Walk – 6.2km, duration 60-70 Minutes

Bringing the walks together, the 6.2km Boundary Woodland Walk extends around the perimeter of the campus to form a path linking the original and recently-developed woodland areas with the wider campus landscape. Starting at the N11 entrance, the walk reveals some of the hidden treasures of the campus, such as the wildflower meadow and lakes at Woodview, the Arboretum, UCD's growing collection of sculpture, a diverse array of wildlife and many of the original period houses.



Green Veined White Butterfly captured feeding on campus

Willow. Similar planting is also seen between the Glenomena and Merville residences and by the UCD Crèche.

Whether it be the woodland by Foster's Avenue, the venerable Horse Chestnut with its large branches leaning ground-wards near Woodview House or the lone Pine tree by the Daedulus Building, trees are an integral part of UCD's Belfield Campus.

Birds and Insects

The woodlands, wetlands, wildflower meadows and mown grass areas around the campus provide a variety of habitats for birds, mammals, insects and other wildlife. Most of the common woodland birds breed on campus.

The woodland walks provide views of some birds that are difficult to see in gardens, such as Sparrowhawk, Stock Dove, Long-tailed Tit, Goldcrest, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Treecreeper and Bullfinch, with Waxwing, Siskin, and Brambling as possible winter visitors. Holly Blue, Orangetip, Speckled Wood, Tortoiseshell and Peacock butterflies avail of the variety of plants found in the woodlands and wildflower meadows of the campus, as do many wild bees. Some of these insects have quite specific food plant requirements. The wildflower meadows also provide food for Woodpigeons and Finches, such as Goldfinches, Greenfinches and Linnets.

A great variety of wildlife is present on the various lakes and areas of wetlands on campus. Common waterfowl such as Mute Swan, Mallard and Tufted Duck and also Moorhen, Black-headed Gull and Pied Wagtail can be seen on open water. Birds such as Grey Heron, Teal, Kingfisher and Water Rail may be present, especially in winter. The Common Chaser Dragonfly is also evident and occasionally the large and impressive Moorland Hawker Dragonfly breeds on campus.

In winter, the playing pitches can attract coastal wading birds, such as Curlew and Oystercatcher to feed. Fieldfares and Redwings can also be seen. In spring these birds are replaced by breeding Blackbirds, Song Thrushs and Mistle Thrushs, collecting worms to feed their chicks.

Sparrowhawk photographed on campus





Roebuck Road

Roebuck Castle Gate

Roebuck Road Entrance

Boundary Woodland Walk

Owenstown Entrance

Foster's Avenue

Foster's Avenue Entrance

Clonskeagh Entrance

Clonskeagh Road

Richyview Entrance

Richyview

Plane Walk

Water Tower

Belfield Walk

Glenomena Walk

Millennium Walk

Rosemount Walk

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N11

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	Millennium Walk	3.2km	duration 35-40 minutes
	Rosemount Walk	1.8km	duration 20-25 minutes
	Belfield Walk	2.4km	duration 30-35 minutes
	Glenomena Walk	1.9km	duration 20-25 minutes
	Boundary Woodland Walk	6.2km	duration 60-70 Minutes

Notable tree cover Suggested starting points

Notable UCD Trees

Key	Common Name	Scientific Name	Brief Description
1	Nootka Cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i>	A particularly fine specimen tree. Notice the graceful pendulous branches that sweep upwards at the end.
2	Giant Sequoia, Wellingtonia	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>	The Giant Sequoia is known to be the world's largest trees with some specimens living for hundreds of years. UCD's specimen is still relatively young.
3	Turkey Oak	<i>Quercus cerris</i>	A large Oak that is known for its attractive leaf and large acorns.
4	Loblolly Pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	The Loblolly Pine is the state tree of Arkansas and this specimen was planted by President Bill Clinton when he visited the UCD Clinton Institute for American Studies on 30th September 2010.
5	<i>Ilex altaclerensis</i> 'Hodginsii'	<i>Ilex altaclerensis</i> 'Hodginsii'	A form of Holly raised by the Hodgins Nursery, Dunganstown, Co. Wicklow in the late 18th Century.
6	Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Located in Belfield Wood, this is the finest of a small number of mature Scots Pine on campus. As you approach, take time to look to the top and see its wonderful orange bark.
7	Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	A species known for its unusually small leaf. This group of trees form particularly big specimens.
8	Foxglove Tree	<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>	Also called Empress or Princess Trees, these unusual trees to the rear of Merville House are known for their attractive mauve flowers.
9	Oriental Plane	<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	A large deciduous tree famous for its longevity and spreading crown. This tree is estimated to be over 200 years old and is one of UCD's most spectacular specimens.
10	Common Lime	<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	Estimated to be in the region of 200 years old, this is wonderful specimen Lime tree.
11	Holm Oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Also known as Holly Oak, this Oak is one of many wonderful specimen rare and exotic trees located in the Arboretum. A native of the Mediterranean region.
12	Deodar Cedar	<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	A majestic specimen, in great condition.
13	Weeping Monterey Cypress	<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> 'Pendula'	Known locally as the 'Weeping Mac', this rare tree is one of the only few of its kind known in Ireland.
14	Variiegated Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i> 'Variegata'	Estimated to be between 150 – 200 years old, this is a very rare tree.
15	Deodar Cedar	<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	This magnificent mature tree shapes the courtyard of the Newstead Building.
16	Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	A large native Irish Oak which marks the start of the entrance to the Oak Walk.
17	Weeping Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> 'Pendula'	This treasure is located beside the idyllic 'hidden lakes' at Woodview House.
18	Small Leaved Lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Located adjacent to the managed ecological wildflower meadow, this impressive Lime is part of the original planted landscape of Woodview House.
19	Horse Chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Synonymous with the 'hidden lakes', this impressive tree is estimated to be in the region of 200 years old.
20	Copper Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> 'Purpurea'	This extraordinary specimen is one of the few large mature Beech on Campus.