

HIRVE-PARK



FROM A DENDROLOGICAL GARDEN INTO A PARK

Hirvepark, located in front of the bastion, mainly on the area of the moat and partly on the Wismari ravelin, dates back to when Tallinn was removed from the list of citadels in 1857 after the Crimean War (1854–1855). Later, the park area was rented to the Estonian Horticultural Society with the aim to build a presentable dendrological garden and an arboretum. The future park was then called the Garden of the Horticultural Society.

The work began in 1865. At first, only drier and higher places could be used for planting, mainly the side of Wismari Street, formerly known as the Wismari ravelin area. Almost a third of the entire moat was simply left unused because the area was watery and in some places, it had become a swamp. The drainage was hindered by the fact that there was nowhere to drain the groundwater to. At first, a small pond was dug in a lower area but this did not bring any significant relief, as there was no outfall. Then, the moat and lower pits were filled with 50,000 horseloads of debris and soil. The primary objective was to build an arboretum in order to experiment with finding the right planting material for replenishing the forests with suitable foreign species of trees.

In 1881–1890, the Estonian Society of Foresters rented a part of this park mainly for growing conifers under the guidance of Heinrich Kühnert. Most of the planting material was brought from Riga.

At the turn of the 19th and 20th century, Friedrich Winkler, son of a gardener and garden business owner from Heidelberg, and a former inspector of the local Horticultural Society, designed the area. One third of the garden was used to make a profit, the other two as a dendrological garden. Flowerbeds were made on the prepared soil, where around ten foreign species of conifers, as well as domestic species, mainly the spruce and pine, were sown. The latter became good planting material but the first experiments with foreign species of trees failed. Over time, however, people learned to grow foreign and exotic species of trees. The majority of planting materials that were grown and acclimated here went to Estonian manor parks; naturally, other green areas in Tallinn also received their share, but a part of the exotic exhibits from that era still grow in Hirvepark to this day. At the beginning, a large amount of perennials was also grown here.

In 1913–1914, under the guidance of the city gardener Hans Lepp, the corner on Toompea and Wismari Street was tidied up. Before this, there had been the home, greenhouse and orchard of the gardener. Today, there is a monument to admiral Johan Pitka in that park meadow.

After the First World War, at the beginning of the 1920s, a plan was made to build a botanical garden in Hirvepark but that did not work out. Instead, the area was transformed into a dendrological garden.

The expansion of Hirvepark was accomplished after 1923 when the city obtained resources to tidy up and systematise the construction of the green belt. The work was led by city gardener H. Lepp. In order to expand Hirvepark, the city bought land from a private landowner.

Hirvepark (deer park) was named after Hirveaed (deer garden) constructed in 1930 and located in the area of the park on the side of Toompea Street. The roe deer brought to Hirveaed, however, did not last very long but they did give the park its name. After the Second World War, a copy of the sculpture "Roe deer" by the sculptor Jaan Koort was brought to the park, which was later relocated to the beginning of the streets Laia and Vaksali, where it stands to this day.

In 1936, the entire park became the property of the city of Tallinn and was transformed into a public park for the townsfolk. The garden, situated on the corner of Wismari and Toompea streets, was transformed into a park with meandering walkways in the style of a landscape garden, where dense areas alternated with small park meadows. The additional area of the park with features intrinsic to the functionalist style of the park in the form of straight roads, rectangular lawn and patio spaces and squares, was built in 1935. Today, a large children's playground and many sculptures are located there. At the same time, stairways were built for exiting the park, including to the Falgi Road. Hirvepark was completed in 1937.



PARK AROUND 1907
(PRIVATE COLLECTION)

HERE BEGAN THE REGAINING OF ESTONIAN INDEPENDENCE

On 23 August 1987, the first spontaneous political demonstration of the people in occupied Estonia was held in Hirvepark, specifically on its stairways, with the aim to demand that the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, signed publicly on 23 August 1939 between Germany and the Soviet Union, and its secret protocols be made public, thus recognising the divide of Eastern Europe into spheres of influence and the liquidation of the consequences of the pact. The organisers were former political prisoners. The same kind of meeting to demand the liberation of Estonia from the Soviet rule was organised for many more years on that same day, 23 August. Finally, the processes that started in Hirvepark lead to changes in the history of the land and people of Estonia, or the regaining of independence that took place on 20 August 1991.





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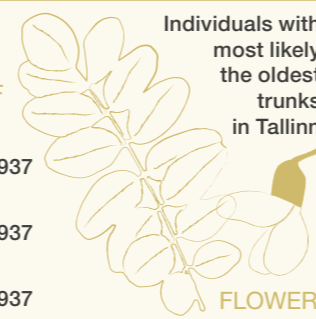
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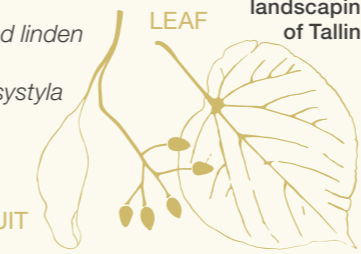
www.tallinn.ee/eng/Hirvepark-Deer-s-Park

- › One of the symbols of Estonia regaining its independence
- › With a unique woody flora

1	Norway maple with crimped leaves <i>Acer platanoides</i> 'Cucullatum' H – 28 m / D – 67 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1898	One of the largest individuals of the variety in Europe
2	Cut-leaved Norway maple <i>Acer platanoides</i> 'Dissectum' H – 9 m / D – 35 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1930	H – HEIGHT D – DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT
3	Norway maple with red leaves when sprouting <i>Acer platanoides</i> 'Schwedleri' H – 20 m / D – 89 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1898	 FRUIT
4	Sycamore with white-spotted leaves <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> 'Leopoldii' H – 15 m / D – 30 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1937	The oldest individual in Estonia
5	Cut-leaved silver maple <i>Acer saccharinum</i> 'Wieri' H – 27 m / D – 94 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1898	The largest individual in Estonia
6	Red horse-chestnut <i>Aesculus xcarnea</i> A hybrid of horse-chestnut and red buckeye <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> x <i>Aesculus pavia</i> H – 9 m / D – 53 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1937	The oldest and largest individual in Tallinn
7	Hybrid of horse-chestnut <i>Aesculus xhybrida</i> A hybrid of yellow and red buckeye <i>Aesculus octandra</i> x <i>Aesculus pavia</i> H – 13 m / D – 46 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1937	 FLOWER
8	Common hornbeam <i>Carpinus betulus</i> H – 24 m / D – 34 and 35 and 35 and 23 and 33 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1960	The tallest individual in Tallinn

9	Turkish hazel <i>Corylus colurna</i> H – 11 m / D – 34 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1937	 FRUIT
10	Common beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> H – 18 m / D – 101 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1937	One of the thickest beech trees in Tallinn
11	Common ash with weeping branches, or weeping ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> 'Pendula' H – 10 m / D – 47 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1937	One of the thickest individuals of the variety in Tallinn
12	Leaves with yellow spots red ash <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> 'Aucubifolia' H – 17 m / D – 33 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1960	Most likely the oldest individual in Estonia
13	Butternut <i>Juglans cinerea</i> H – 28 m / D – 95 cm ja 43 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1898	The tallest individual in Estonia
14	Manchurian walnut <i>Juglans mandshurica</i> H – 21 m / D – 58 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1937	The tallest individual in Tallinn
15	European larch <i>Larix decidua</i> H – 25 m / D – 75 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1898	A tree that caused confusion among dendrologists – based on physical appearance, it has been confused with the Dunkeld larch (<i>Larix xmarschlinsii</i>)  THORNS CROWN
16	Amur corktree <i>Phellodendron amurense</i> H – 15 m / D – 59 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1906	The tallest individual in Tallinn

17	Cottonwood <i>Populus</i> 'Petrowskiana' Hybrid of laurel-leaf poplar and plains cottonwood <i>Populus laurifolia</i> x <i>Populus deltoides</i> subsp. <i>monilifera</i> H – 35 m / D – 123 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1898	The thickest in Hirvepark, the tallest in the park together with the stately elm  LEAF
18	Douglas fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> H – 32 m / D – 55 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1898	 CONE SEEDS
19	Blue Douglas fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> var. <i>glauca</i> H – 28 m / D – 55 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1898	 CONE
20	Caucasian Wingnut <i>Pterocarya fraxinifolia</i> H – 6 m / D – 12 cm TIME OF PLANTING – 2008	Dendrological rarity, planted in 2008 to replace the tree that perished in the park in the 1960s
21	Common pear <i>Pyrus communis</i> H – 13 m / D – 34 ja 36 cm D – 39 cm; 19 ja 26 ja 17 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1910	Relict of the home garden before the expansion of Hirvepark
22	Black locust <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> 3 trees in a group H – 20 m / D – 45 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1937 H – 20 m / D – 40 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1937 H – 20 m / D – 30 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1937	Individuals with most likely the oldest trunks in Tallinn  LEAF FLOWER
23	Swedish whitebeam <i>Sorbus intermedia</i> H – 20 m / D – 97 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1882	The thickest Swedish whitebeam in Estonia and the tallest Swedish whitebeam in the Estonian mainland

24	Japanese tree lilac or amur lilac <i>Syringa reticulata</i> H – 7 m / D – 19, 21, 25, 19, 21 ja 16 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1906	The individual with the thickest branches in Tallinn
25	American basswood <i>Tilia americana</i> H – 9 m / D – 11 cm TIME OF PLANTING – 2008	At the moment, it is the only tree in the public space of Tallinn
26	Crimean linden <i>Tilia xeuclhora</i> A hybrid of small-leaved linden and <i>tilia dasystyla</i> <i>Tilia cordata</i> x <i>Tilia dasystyla</i> H – 13 m / D – 37 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1938	As old trees, rare species in the landscaping of Tallinn  LEAF FRUIT
27	Big-leaved linden <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> H – 23 m / D – 84 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1898	The thickest individual of its variety in Hirvepark
28	Golden-stemmed lime <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> 'Aurea' H – 26 m / D – 34 ja 36 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1937	Most likely the oldest individual of its variety in Estonia
29	Common lime (kaiser linden) <i>Tilia xeuropaea</i> = <i>Tilia xvulgaris</i> 'Pallida' H – 26 m / D – 89 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1898	The thickest individual of its variety in Hirvepark. A hybrid of small-leaved linden and big-leaved linden <i>Tilia cordata</i> x <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> .
30	Wych elm with tapered leaves <i>Ulmus glabra</i> 'Crispa' H – 15 m / D – 39 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1898	The largest individual in Estonia
31	European white elm <i>Ulmus laevis</i> H – 35 m / D – 115 cm TIME OF PLANTING – approx. 1882	One of the thickest individuals in Tallinn. The tallest in the park together with cottonwood

UNIQUE WOODY FLORA

Hirvepark with its woody flora is unique when compared to the parks in Tallinn and Estonia, as it has a large proportion of species with special growth or leaf shapes, as well as colours. These park trees are noteworthy because of their age, dimensions, and the degree of rarity. It is at least partially due to the characteristics of the habitat.

In 1906, the park had 208 different ligneous plants, 40 of which were conifers, over 100 broad-leaved trees, and almost 140 bushes. During the First World War, the young trees were left without care and many of the plants perished. Due to age, most evergreen conifers growing in the park since the beginning have also perished. Although biodiversity has decreased over time, it is still noteworthy. In the autumn of 2016, a total of 104 different types of woody flora grew in Hirvepark, 91 of which were foreign. There were 13 conifers, 59 broad-leaved trees, and 32 bushes.

On the side of Toompea, in the dense group of trees, there is the rarest tree of Hirvepark – the Norway maple with crimped leaves (*Acer platanoides* 'Cucullatum') (1) that can be found only in select collections. This individual is one of the highest of European trees. In the same group grow various lindens (*Tilia* sp. Sp), butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) (13), amur cork tree (*Phellodendron amurense*) (16), a sycamore (*A. Pseudoplatanus*) variety with green and white coloured leaves 'Leopoldii' (4), Norway maple with red leaves 'Schwedleri' (3), one of the tallest Swedish whitebeams in Estonia (*Sorbus intermedia*) (23) and a red ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) variety with yellow-spotted leaves 'Aucubifolia' (12).

On the Wismari side grows a cut-leaved silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) of the 'Wieri' variety (5).

Along the escarp wall are situated side-by-side red horse-chestnut (*Aesculus xcarnea*) (6), horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) as well as three red buckeyes (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) (22). Over the footpath, there is a hybrid of horse-chestnut (*Aesculus x hybrida*) with light yellow blossoms (*Aesculus x hybrida*) (7).

In the middle of the park grow Turkish hazel (*Corylus colurna*) (9), a variety of common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with weeping branches 'Pendula' (11) and Manchurian walnut (*Juglans mandshurica*) (14), a variety of wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*) with curled leaves 'Crispa' (30), European white elm (*Ulmus laevis*) (31) and a Golden-stemmed lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*) variety 'Aurea' (27).

In the vicinity of the park pavilion, there is a common beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) (10) and on the side of the escarp wall, a butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) (13).

The most interesting bushes in Hirvepark are most certainly the cut-leaved common hazel (*Corylus avellana*) variety 'Heterophylla' represented by two bushes, nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*), different varieties and types of mock-orange (*Philadelphus*) and lilac (*Syringa*) varieties.

PARK PAVILION AND ART IN HIRVEPARK

In 1939, a renowned architect Herbert Johanson designed a pavilion for the park, which used to house a soda cafe before the war. The traditionalist pavilion is designed to be in harmony with its surroundings – staircase, supporting wall and terrace. In 1939, on the corner of the staircase, a sculpture called "Bear" by the sculptor Enn Roosi was placed (1), which is the first important sculpture of the author depicting an animal.

The second sculpture that should be mentioned is the one by Ernst Kirsi called "The Act" (2), which was designed for and placed in Hirvepark in 1966. The author used red granite to create the sculpture.

The third sculpture in Hirvepark is designed by Ole Ehelau called "Newborn" (3), which was placed in the park in 1977. Made from grey granite, it is a compact statue of a young elephant who seemingly has just stood on his feet.

In 1968, a monument made out of grey granite blocks and dedicated to the artist Kristjan Raud was erected in the Toompuiestee side of Hirvepark (4). The authors of the monument are sculptor Kalju Reitel and interior architect Eha Reitel. This piece is considered one of the best works of Kalju Reitel. The monument depicts scenes from the national epic "Kalevipoeg" illustrated by Kristjan Raud.

In 2011 in Hirvepark, a plaque commemorating the meeting of Hirvepark (5) was placed on the Swedish bastion's escarp wall. The plaque holds the following text: "On 23 August 1987, in Hirvepark, a gathering of people took place, which represented the beginning of regaining our independence".

At first, the monument to Johan Pitka (6) was placed on the corner of Kaarli avenue and Toompea Street, from where it was taken down the same year in 2002, as the construction of the Museum of Occupations was launched in the area. The author of the sculpture is Tõnu Maarand. In 2005, the construction of the monument began and then a statue much grander and more meaningful was erected the following year on the side of Toompea Street in the corner of Hirvepark. In addition to sculptor Maarand, architect Mart Kadarik also joined the creation of the monument.



THE ARBOTUM-ERA HIRVEPARK, APPROX. 1903 (PRIVATE COLLECTION)