

2.

TREES IN THE PARK

TYPICAL TREE SPECIES IN WITTMANN PARK

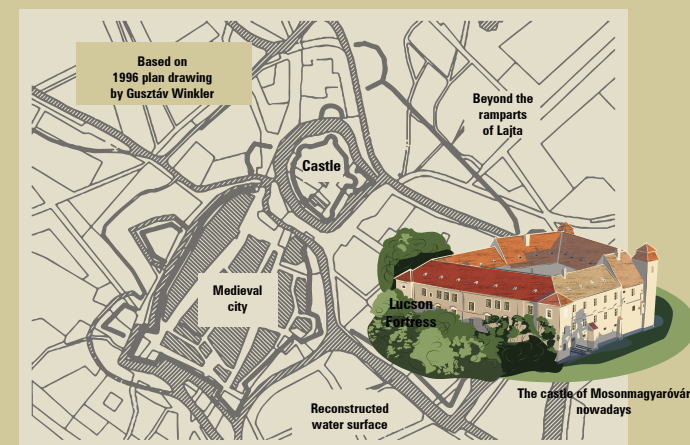


The installed park is still largely “forest” in nature. There are several protected species of particular botanical value in this area. It is interwoven with a complex network of paths, and there are also paved promenades along its main routes. The area is home to plant species and plant communities typical to Szigetköz.

As part of the AgriNatur project, the park was the site of a habitat improvement project for bird conservation, and detailed dendrometric (wood survey) studies were carried out on its 8.8-hectare area. The height and trunk diameter of trees above 50 cm in diameter were determined.

THE MAGYARÓVÁR FORTRESS SYSTEM

It is less known that the remains of the former fortress system of Magyaróvár, reconstructed by experts on the basis of contemporary maps and field surveys, can be found in the current area of Wittmann Park. Although to the modern observer the traces of this are only visible in the surface irregularities of the areas near the Lajta, it is worth looking for them in the park.



The town played an important role as a fortress-stronghold in the second half of the 17th century. The fortifications built around Magyaróvár have been known for a long time and some of them can still be found today. The maps of the period show the nature and location of the fortifications around the town. In the area of today's Palánk Street (formerly known as Palánk), even in the 1950s, sledging was still possible in the ditches of the former fortress system. Most areas have now been filled in and built on. Remains of the fortification system, traces of ramparts, and fortresses bordering the castle to the east can also be found in the park.

Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)



A mountain and hill species, probably native to Szigetköz. Its spacious canopy has a broad and irregular shape. The bark is smooth and greyish-brown for a long time, cracking in old age. It produces a double samara, where two one-seeded wings are joined together. The tallest specimen in the park is 33 m tall, the maximum diameter is 126 cm.

Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)



A tree species from the Balkan Peninsula. It is very tall, growing up to 30-35 metres. It has a spacious canopy. Its palmate leaves consist of 5-9 leaflets. Its fruit is the non-edible 'conker'. A popular ornamental tree, also famous for its medical benefits.

European Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)



It is typically an upland species, found only in the Szigetköz in the lowlands. This indigenous species is one of the most common trees in the park. It can grow up to 20-40 metres. Its bark is initially greenish-grey and smooth, but gradually turns dark grey. It sheds its leaves green.

Box Elder (*Acer negundo*)



Originates from North America. It was first planted in Europe by beekeepers in Poland, who made special honey from its flowers. An irregularly shaped tree, growing to 12-15 metres tall. The bark is smooth and green when young, darker, and cracked when older. If injured, it will sprout again. Invasive species.

Platanus (*Platanus x hybrida*)



One of the most popular ornamental trees. It is characterized by shedding, greyish-brown plates of bark. Its fruit is round, drooping. During the survey of the park's trees, the largest diameter specimens were found among the Sycamore Maple, with the thickest being 182 cm in diameter.

Common Oak (*Quercus robur*)



A European tree species that is more widespread in the lowland areas of Hungary. It grows 30-40 metres tall. It grows a huge hemispherical canopy. Its bark is greyish when young, and dark brown and hard when older. The leaves are varied in shape, with 4-6 lobes on each side. The fruit is an acorn in a knobly cup hanging on a long stalk. The age of the specimens in the park is close to 200 years.

European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)



Upland tree species. It grows up to 40 metres tall. The bark is light, smooth, with a greyish shade. It has a high, arched canopy. Its seeds develop in a spiny shell called a cup. The beech population in the park is planted. The tallest (37 m) and thickest (120 cm) beech is probably more than 200 years old.

Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)



It came from China as an ornamental tree. It is not susceptible to diseases and pests. Its germination inhibitors released into the soil make it difficult for other plants to grow. A spectacular plant, its foliage is composed of wing-like compound leaves. Injuries cause it to produce shoots, which help it to spread. Invasive species.

LIVING FOSSIL IN THE PARK...

Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)

One of the interesting features of the park stands next to the main promenade. A deciduous tree with brownish grey to dark brown bark, growing to a height of 30-40 metres. Gymnosperm. An ancient plant species, a so-called “living fossil”. Its close relatives evolved around 270 million years ago. The only pine species whose needles grew flat. Its leaves are used for medicinal purposes.



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