Myrtle Tree Trail BLUE 1, 8 - 10



MYRTLE

This is a Myrtle tree. It's a small evergreen tree with glossy, dark-green leaves and masses of small white flowers in late summer and early autumn. Look at the spectacular cinnamon-coloured peeling bark. Native to Spain and Ireland. Harsh winter frosts have killed many Myrtles, but those growing near the east coast survived. It's very old and very special. Did you know? ... traditionally Irish Brides cut a spray of Myrtle flowers for their wedding bouquets!



LIME

This is a Common Lime Tree. It's deciduous and its leaves are heart shaped. You can identify a Lime Tree by the abundance of new branches and leaves sprouting out from its tree trunk. Lime trees are called Linden trees in North America. They are often planted in residential areas as they are tall and narrow. Did you know?... the Lime Tree is not related to the Lime 'Fruit' tree so this tree will never grow limes!



MAPLE/SYCAMORE

This is a Sycamore Tree also called a Sycamore Maple tree. Maple trees are easy to identify because their broad leaves resemble the shape of your hand with each 'finger' called a lobe. The Sycamore tree has 5 lobes. Sycamore seeds are arranged in V-shaped pairs and have wings that fly in the air when they fall from the tree. Did you know?... Sycamore seeds are known as "helicopters" because their wings rotate like a helicopter's propellers!



BEECH

This is a Common Beech Tree. It's deciduous and its leaves are oval shaped. Beech Trees can be green or purple in colour, known as 'Copper Beech'. Beech trees can reach 80 to 100 feet in height with dense foliage. Beech trees produce nuts known as beechnuts. Many forest mammals and birds eat these beechnuts as a regular part of their diet.



Did you know?... Beech trees can survive over 400 years!

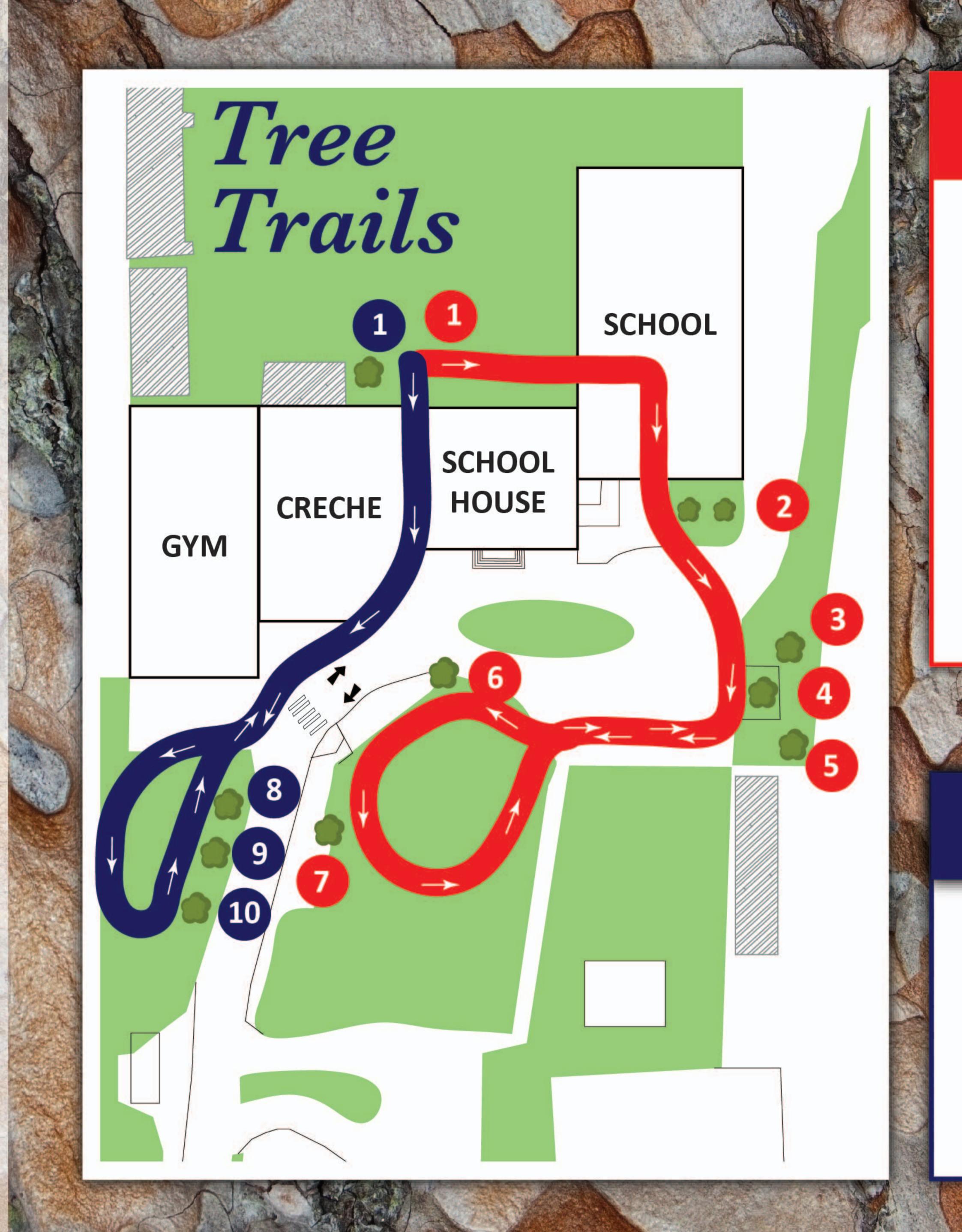


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Myrtle Tree Trail **RED 1 - 7**

- **MYRTLE**
- BIRCH
- PINE
- **ROWAN**
- **SPRUCE**
- **CYPRESS**
- OAK

Myrtle Tree Trail BLUE 1, 8 - 10

- **MYRTLE**
- LIME
- **MAPLE**
- 10 **BEECH**

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DECIDUOUS:

Deciduous trees completely lose their leaves during the winter

> Myrtle Tree Trail RED 1 - 7

EVERGREEN:

Evergreen trees have green leaves that are always visible all year



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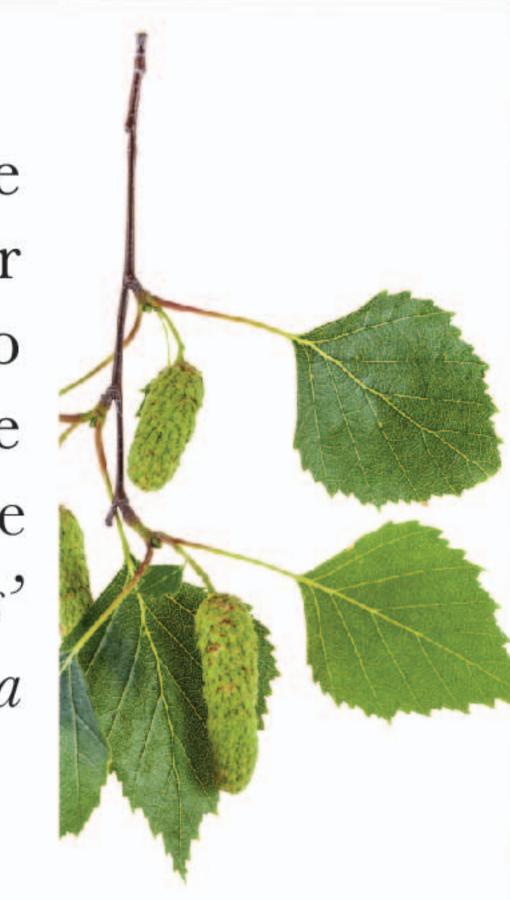
NATIVE

12,000 years ago, Ireland was covered in snow and ice (the Ice Age). As the snow and ice melted, trees began to grow. Ireland was still attached by a landbridge to Britain and Europe. Birds, animals and the wind carried the seeds of trees here. The seas rose and Ireland became an island. Therefore, our native trees are the trees that reached Ireland naturally, self seeded and grew before we were separated from the rest of Europe. Later, people brought other trees to Ireland that grow here too!



BIRCH

This is a Silver Birch tree. It's a deciduous, delicate tree with fine branches and small triangular leaves. The flowers of the Silver Birch are called Catkins and you can see them from April to May. The tree gets its name from the bright white colour of the bark on its single trunk, especially when the tree is young. Native to Ireland. Did you know? ... Birch trees are known as 'Rustling Trees' because their dainty triangular leaves blow easily in the wind to create a lovely sound!



SPRUCE

This is a Sitka Spruce. It's evergreen and also coniferous (seeds are in cones) with leaves that are stiff, hard and quite flat but spiky. Sitka Spruce produce seed cones that hang down and fall off when ripe. The Sitka Spruce is the most common forestry tree in Ireland.

Did you know?... Spruce is the standard material used in many musical instruments including guitar, piano and the harp and is referred to as 'Tonewood'.



CYPRESS

This is a Monterey Cypress. It's evergreen and also coniferous (seeds are in cones). You can identify a Cypress tree because it's leaves are scaly and lie flat in dense sprays. The Monterey Cypress got its name from Monterey Bay, California from where it originated. It produces small cones shaped like a globe. Monterey Cypresses thrive near the sea as they are highly tolerant of salt and wind. Did you know? ... The tree with the widest trunk in the island of Ireland is a Monterey Cypress, growing at Killyleigh, Co. Down, and is over 12 meters in diameter!



This is a Scots Pine tree. It's a magnificent tree that is both evergreen and coniferous (seeds are in cones). Pine trees have leaves that are split into needles. Scots Pine have 2 needles in each bundle and they produce slim pine cones. You can recognise a Scots Pine by its tall straight truck and beautiful bark. The image in the background of this booket is a close-up of the bark of a Scots Pine! The Scots Pine was the first tree to appear in Ireland after the Ice Age so is a true Native tree. Did you know?... Our protected native red squirrel prefers the seeds of this tree than any other!



This is a Holm Oak tree and is one of only a few Oak trees that are evergreen. Most oak trees are deciduous with distinctive leaves that are dark green with wavy edges. The shape of the Holm Oak leaves are different too, they look more like a smooth holly leaf, but it's still an oak tree because all Oak trees produce their seeds in 'acorns' that look like 'eggs' in 'egg cups' Did you know?... Holm Oak takes its name from 'Holm' an ancient name



the berries are soft and juicy which makes them a very good food for birds!

