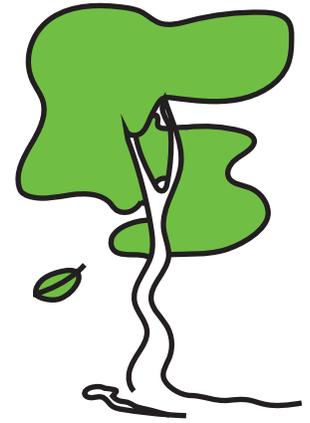


What Trees Do You See?



Written and illustrated by Delia Pelli in collaboration with the Prospect Park Alliance, facilitated by NYU Tandon.

Prospect Park is home to more than 30,000 trees! The Park's Treefinder Database catalogues every single tree in the park, the kind of tree it is, and for certain trees even more information - like the year it was planted or how far its branches reach. Try looking up a familiar tree to learn more about its history.

These 10 native trees are the most common in the whole park. They are best suited to the New York environment, and the Prospect Park Alliance works very hard to take care of them. The trees you see in the park could be as young as 10 or 15 years old, or as old as 400 years!

Learn how to spot these native trees, and try finding them along your walk

To see some of these trees closer to home, check out NYCParks Street Tree Map - many of these Park trees are also planted on streets around the city [<https://tree-map.nycgovparks.org/tree-map>]

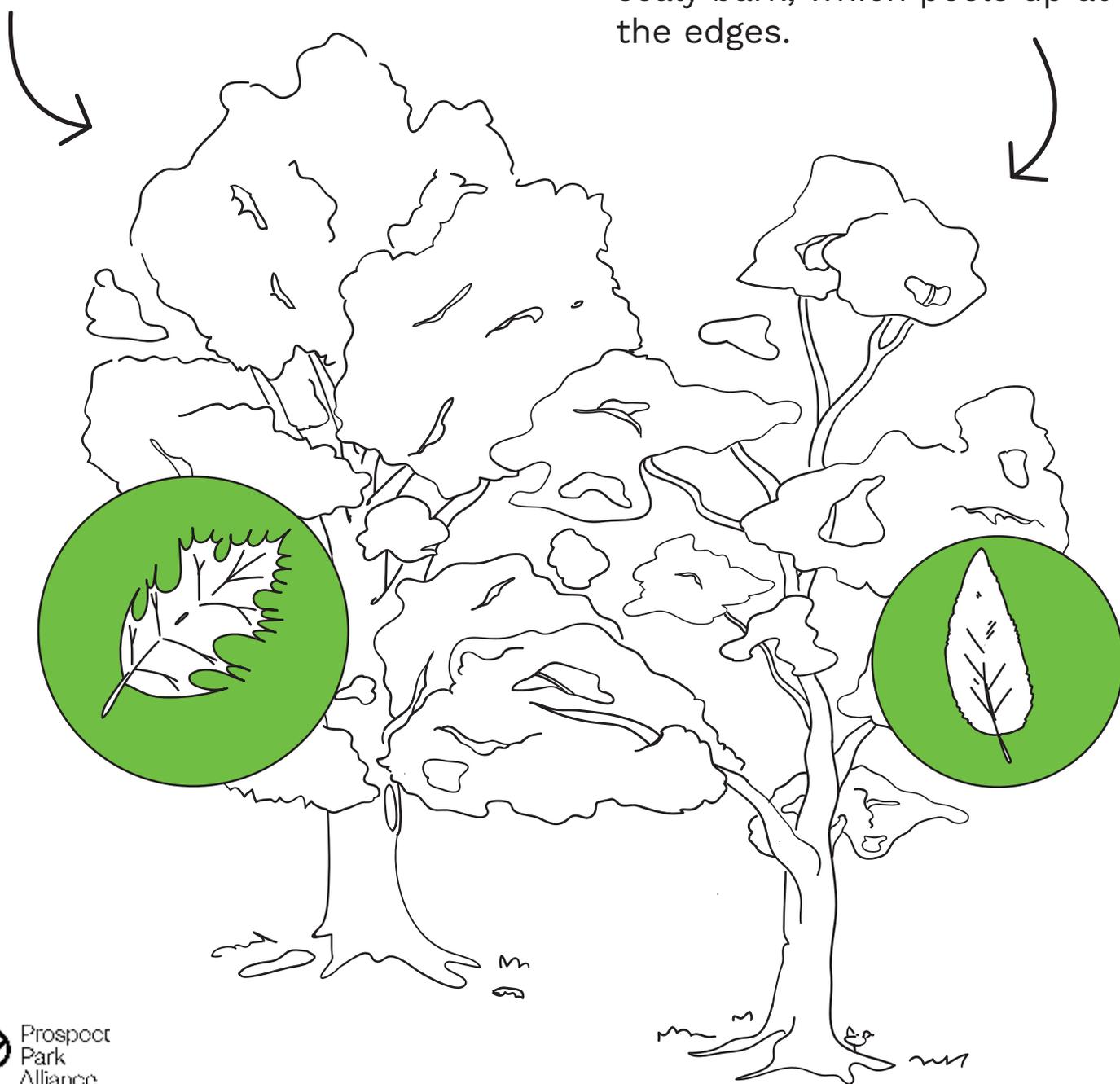


Northern Red Oak

Northern Red Oaks are the most common oaks in the Northeast, and there are 946 of them in Prospect Park! This tree is loved for its bright red fall foliage and large lobed leaves. The bark is ridged vertically and is dark brown to silver.

Black Cherry Tree

There are 2,217 Black Cherry trees in all of Prospect Park! The Black Cherry's delicate white flowers are appreciated every spring. Birds and mammals love the fruit, and the leaves are food for eastern tiger swallowtail butterflies. Older black cherries have dark scaly bark, which peels up at the edges.

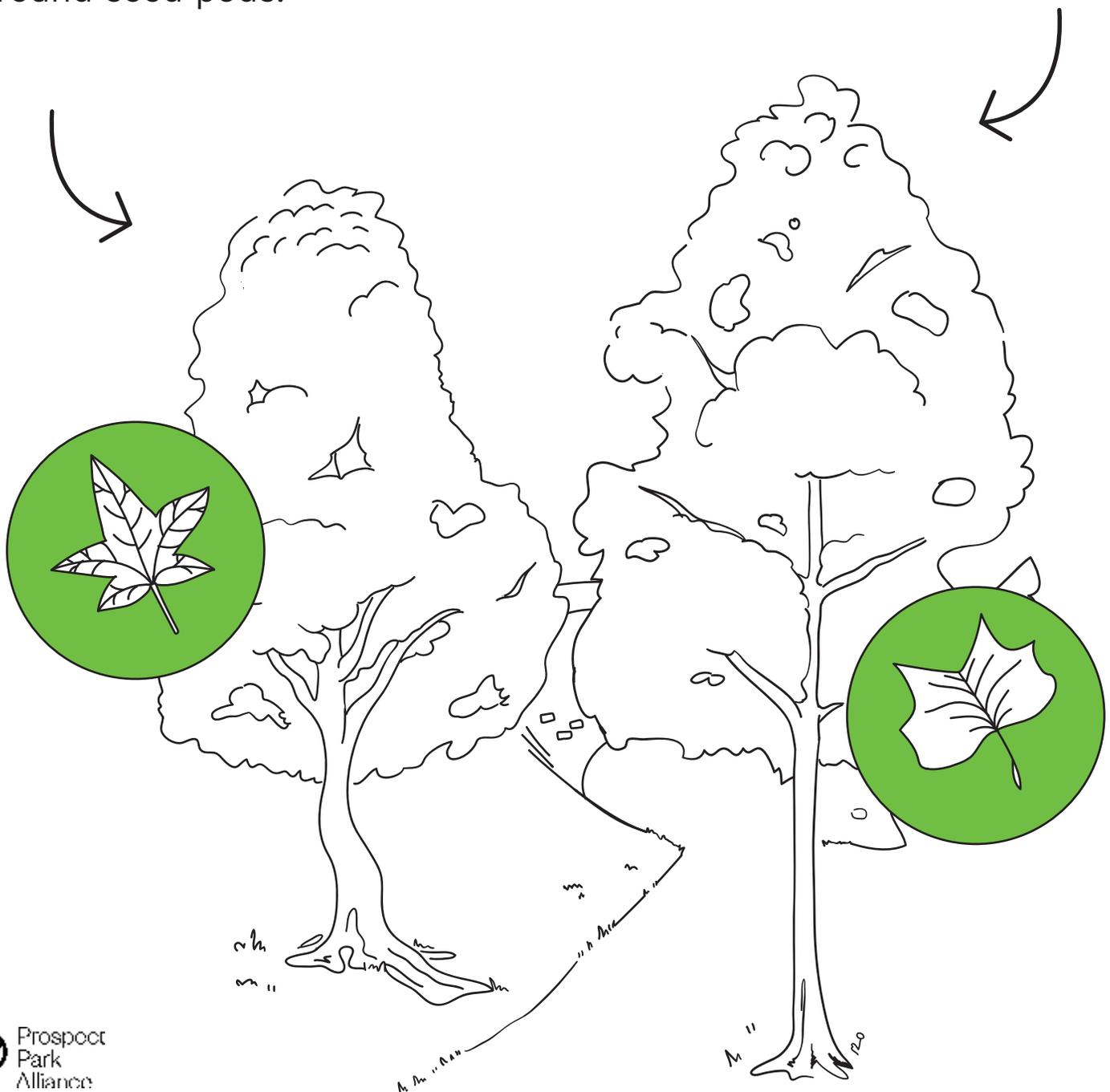


American Sweetgum

American Sweetgum is another tree with beautiful fall colors, with yellow-orange 5-pointed leaves and thick, wrinkly dark brown bark. There are 544 Sweetgum trees in Prospect Park, loved by the birds and mammals of the park for their leaves and spiky, round seed pods.

Tuliptree

The Tuliptree is named for its beautiful flowers, which bloom late spring. There are 846 tuliptrees in Prospect Park - you can spot them by their tall, straight stature, their orange-yellow flowers, and their yellow fall foliage.

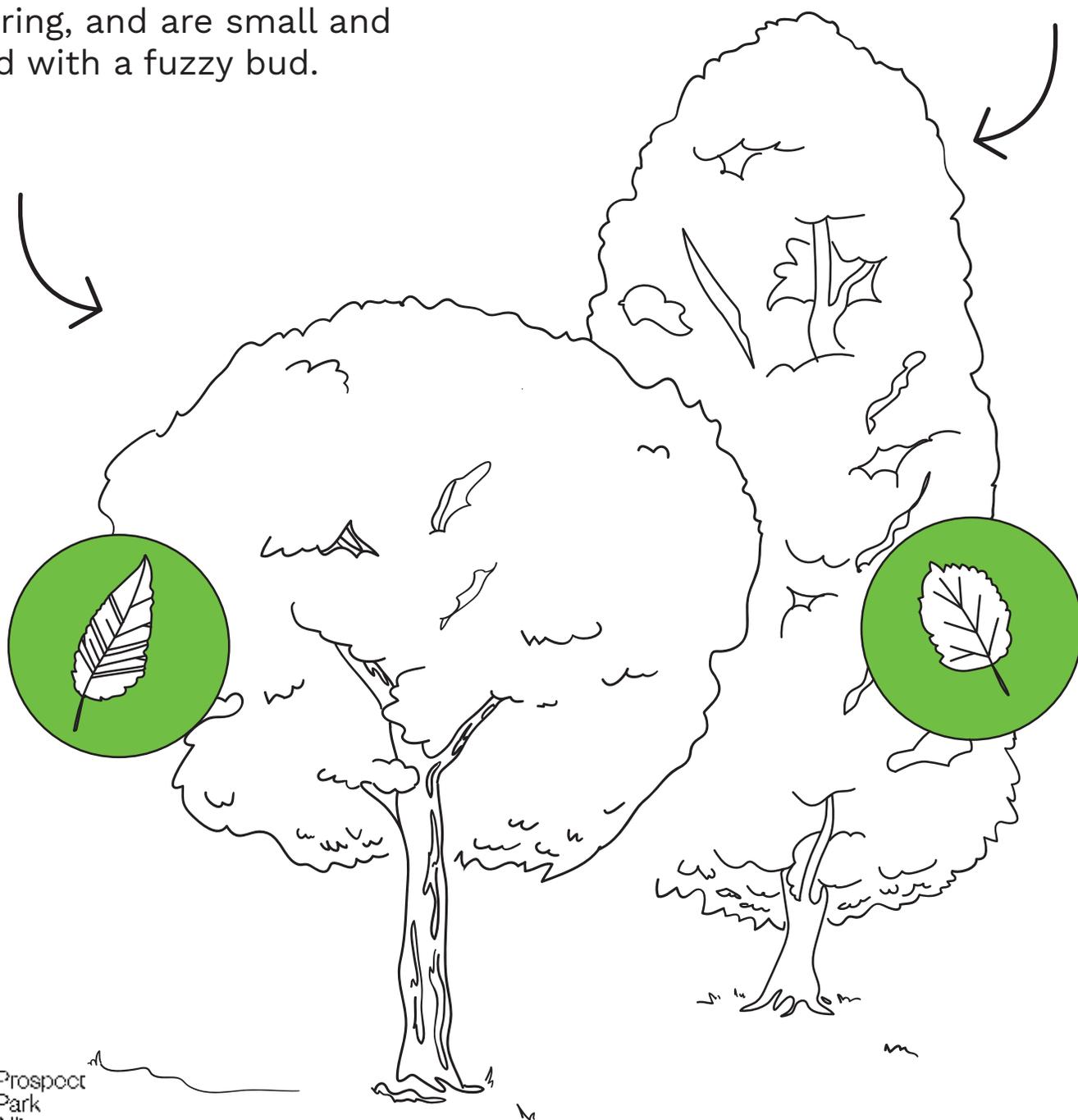


Slippery Elm

The Slippery Elm gets its name from an inner slimy sap that has a history of being used as medicine. There are 690 Slippery Elm trees in Prospect Park, they have vertically striped bark and large oblong leaves. The flowers appear in early spring, and are small and red with a fuzzy bud.

American Linden

The American Linden is the only native Linden tree, and there are 599 of them in Prospect Park. This tree blooms in late spring, and its flowers carry a slightly sweet scent. This tree is often dense, making a dark shady area beneath it, with large heart shaped leaves.

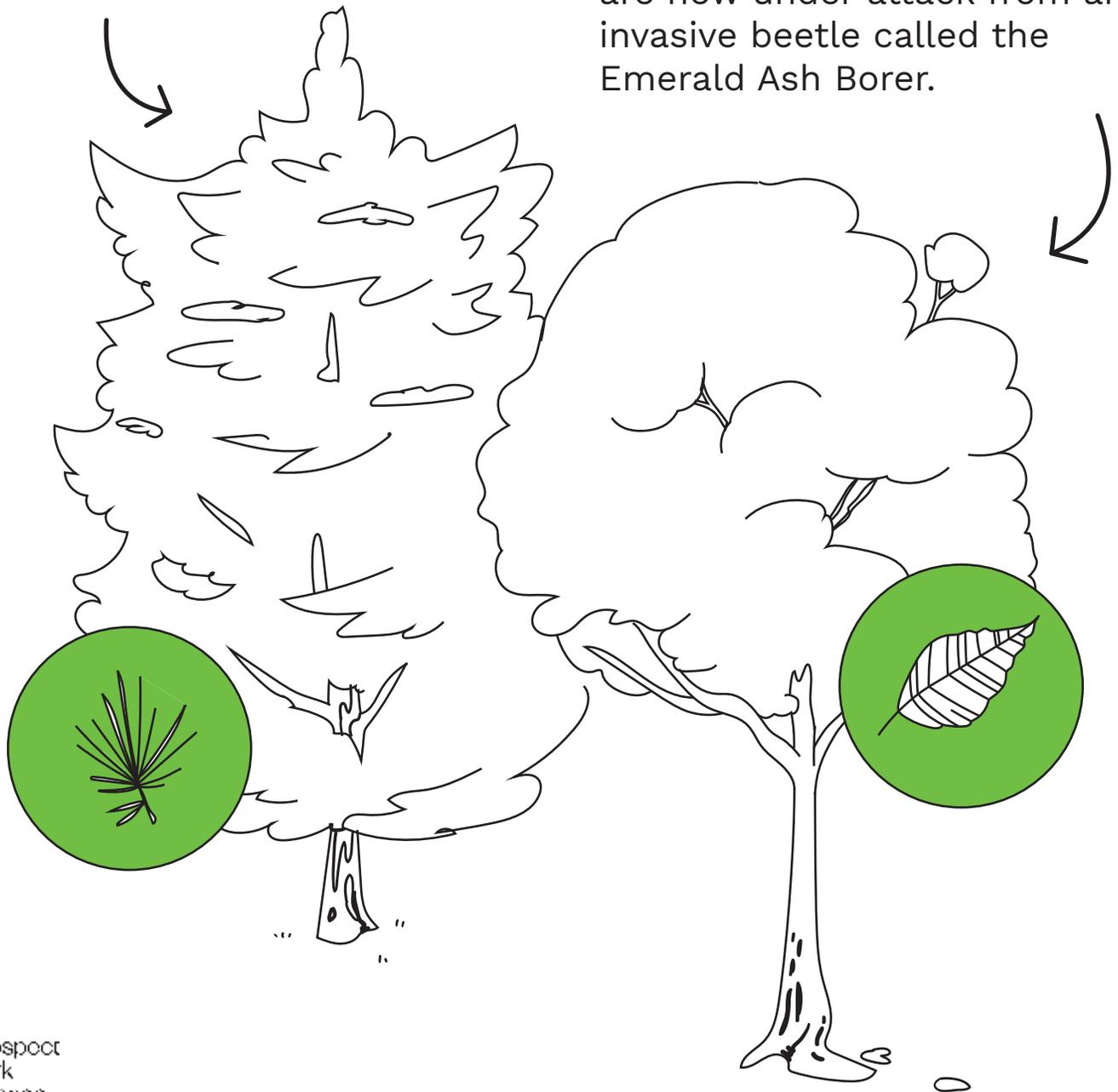


Eastern White Pine

Eastern White Pine is the only coniferous tree on this list - coniferous trees have needles and stay green all year. Their trunks grow tall and straight, and their sap and needles have been used for many different purposes for centuries. There are 377 Eastern White Pines in Prospect Park!

White Ash

There are 561 White Ash trees in Prospect Park. These native trees have been used for centuries for their hard sturdy wood to make boats, furniture, and even baseball bats! The White Ash grows tall and straight, with grey bark, long dark green oval leaves, and fuzzy white flowers which appear mid-spring. White Ash are now under attack from an invasive beetle called the Emerald Ash Borer.



Pin Oak

Pin Oaks are loved by humans for their hardiness and droopy shade-giving lower branches, and loved by squirrels for their plentiful acorn supply. There are 421 Pin Oaks in Prospect Park, you can spot them for their straight tall trunk, vertically pointed upper branches, and drooping lower branches. Pin Oak leaves have 5-7 pointed lobes and the bark is greenish-brown with deep furrows and shallow ridges.

American Elm

The American Elm is a classic American tree, with tall twisting upper branches. There are 395 American Elms in the Park, though they are threatened by a virus called Dutch Elm Disease. Prospect Park watches these trees for signs of the virus to try and treat it as soon as possible.

