

## Aspen or Quaking Aspen

There are examples in the park, this one is on the Hill End Side.

**Latin/Botanical Name:** *Populus tremula*

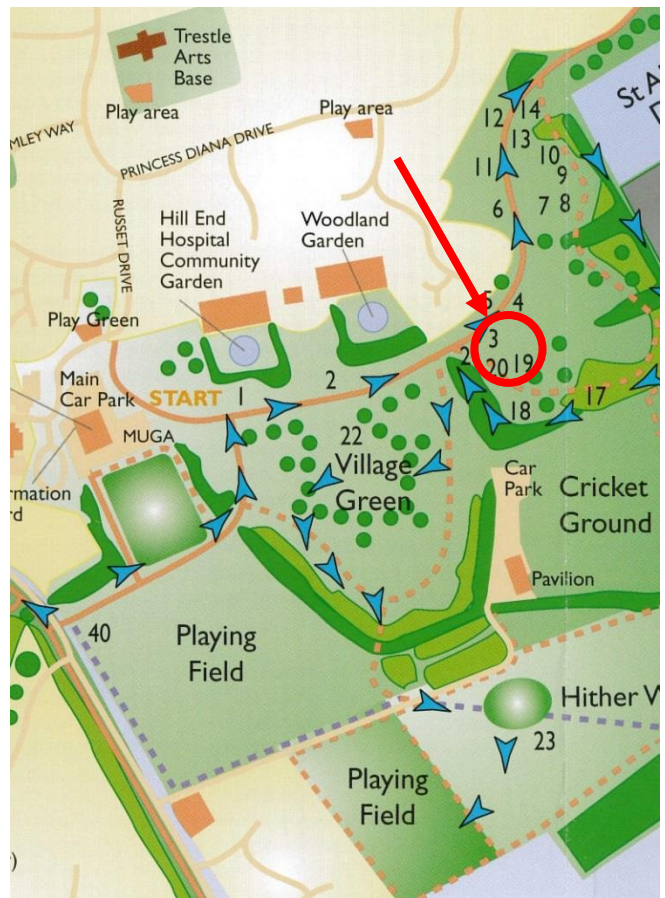
**Range:** Native to cool regions in northern hemisphere especially on heaths and damp ground.

**Height:** up to 20m usually less.

**Uses:** Aspen wood is lightweight, and was used for making oars and paddles, surgical splints and wagon bottoms. Aspis, the aspen's Greek name, means shield, which was a traditional uses of its wood.

**Description:** Often a pioneer tree it is deciduous tree, variable but mostly conical in shape. The bole often leans when mature and produces suckers, the bark is grey and pitted. Twigs are very knobbly. The leaves, 5-6cm, are almost round with uneven sinuous rounded teeth and soft bright green, the stalks are flattened. Male and female catkins are borne on different trees, they are pendulous with white hairs and are produced before the leaves. The female catkins elongate and ripen producing tiny fluffy seeds.

**Interesting Fact:** The scientific name 'tremula' means to 'tremble' and refers to the way the leaves flutter and move in the slightest breeze, they make a distinctive rustling sound.



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