

Manor parks are inherent to manor complexes where various buildings, paths and trails, ponds and plants make integral ensembles. Žagarė Manor changed its location several times. The first manor owned by Nicolaus Sirewicz was mentioned in 1490. According to the archaeological data, it was located at the settlement of Žvelgaitis Hill next to Veidė Hill. The manor was relocated as the town of Žagarė grew and the owners of the manor changed. The western part of the park that is officially called Žagarė Manor Park now was formed in the 1st half of the 19th century, after Empress Catherine II of Russia had granted the manor to her lover Platon Zubov in 1775. In 1857, the manor was acquired by the Naryshkin family that expanded the park to its current size at the turn of the 20th century.

In 1898–1900, the Naryshkins developed the park in an open field including the existing small park therein (now it is called the old park or the old part of the park). Unfortunately, the park had been altered almost since its establishment: the plants were destroyed by pasturing cattle, mowing hay, picking flowers for decoration and chopping firewood. Plants decayed and only random elements of the initial park have survived till nowadays with little to no change.

In 2013, the park reconstruction project was developed at the funds of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Most of the trails and plants were renewed in 2021 and 2022.

The initial layout of the park was developed by dendrologist Georg Friedrich Ferdinand Kuphaldt (born in 1853 at Plön, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, died in 1938, buried in Berlin, Germany). He is considered to be one of the most famous park designers of the Russian Empire before the WWI. G. F. Kuphaldt worked as the director of the parks of Riga city for 34 years. He designed the green areas of Riga that survived till nowadays. He expanded Verman Garden (Vērmanes dārzs) and the Forest Park (Latv. Mežaparks, Germ. Kaiserwald) and other parks of Riga, as well as Rumene Park near Tukums, Cirava Park near Liepāja and Jūrmala Park at Liepāja. He also participated in designing of almost all the parks of the Russian Empire of that time. His best-known works in the modern Russia include the parks of the Winter Palace and Oranienbaum (Lomonosov) in Saint Petersburg, as well as the parks of Nizhny Novgorod, Dagomys near Sochi and Tsarskoje Selo. In Estonia, he designed the parks of Kadriorg in Tallinn, Kehtna, Lohu, Olustvere, Visusti, and Polli (Oisu). He also designed the royal manor parks in Sharivka near Charkiv in Ukraine and Blücherhof in Klocksín, Germany. In Lithuania, Žagarė Manor Park is similar to Pakruojis Manor Park that has been designed by G. F. Kuphaldt too. The designs of the parks of Šeduva – Raudondvaris (Radviliškis District) and Renavas Manor (Mažeikiai District), based on some sources, are also attributed to this architect. The G.F. Kuphaldt's park closest to Žagarė is the one of the Eleja Manor the design of which failed to be implemented fully in the 19th and 20th centuries but is being implemented now. Visit it!

In Žagarė, according to the design of G.F. Kuphaldt, about 200 species of plants were planted in an over 70 ha large plain field. At that time, this was the second largest park in Lithuania in terms of the variety



*Georg Frydrich Ferdinand Kuphaldt, German landscape architect, dendrologist, who lived and worked in Riga from 1880 to 1914.*

of species and it was topped only by Birutė's Park in Palanga (designed by world-known landscape architect E. Andre).

The park was unique, because all the woody plants were planted; there were no natural ones therein. Unfortunately, few of the plants planted following the design of G. F. Kuphaldt have survived till nowadays. The composition of the species changed considerably both due to human impact and natural factors (aging, diseases and pests). European silver firs, Siberian and white firs, northern white-cedars, Rocky Mountain Douglas-firs, white birches and many other species died out. Some of the plants presently growing in the park are natural decedents of the died-out trees, others were planted disregarding the initial layout of the park during the soviet times by the efforts of the staff of the stud farm and forestry.

Because of the above factors, the initial idea of the park got corrupted for over a century; hence, a new design of the park was drawn during the development of the park management project in 2013. Although the initial documentation on the park development has not survived, when developing the new design, it was focused to make the dendrofloric assortment match the one used by G. F. Kuphaldt. You can find many beeches planted in the times of G. F. Kuphaldt that have reached an impressive size by now in the park. This tree was one of the most favoured by G. F. Kuphaldt. Maples, limes, and oaks of all sorts, as well as groves of black pines and larches have also survived. So did the Canadian poplars distinguished with an impressive thickness of their trunks.

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## LEARN ABOUT THE PLANTS OF THE ŽAGARĖ MANOR PARK!



**Interreg**  
**Latvija-Lietuva**

European Regional Development Fund



**YOU WILL FIND THE FOLLOWING TREES ALONG THE PARK TRAIL:**

- 1 Canadian poplar
- 2 European beech
- 3 Pedunculate oak
- 4 Small-leaved lime
- 5 Common ash
- 6 Douglas fir
- 7 Field maple
- 8 Amur corktree
- 9 Silver maple
- 10 Silver birch
- 11 Siberian larch
- 12 Northern red oak
- 13 Colorado blue spruce
- 14 Swiss stone pine
- 15 Black pine
- 16 White pine
- 17 Scots pine
- 18 European larch
- 19 Common dogwood
- 20 Black elder
- 21 Common lilacs
- 22 Rowan
- 23 European hazel
- 24 Siberian dogwood
- 25 Common hawthorn
- 26 European spindle
- 27 Sycamore
- 28 Common hornbeam
- 29 Golden weeping willow
- 30 Butternut

The larger circle of the trail consists of 2.8 km, and the smaller one takes 1.8 km.

**MANY PLANTS ARE WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR ORIGINS AND FEATURES. PLEASE FIND ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- What is the difference between the leaves of beeches and hornbeams?
- Why the silver maple is called "silver"?
- What wood is usually used to make keys of musical instruments?
- What wood was used for the stage of the Vienna Opera?
- Which of the species has over 2000 forms (breeds)?
- Which of the Lithuanian trees has the strongest wood?
- Which conifer of this park drops its spikes in autumn?
- Which tree's trunk is the most fit for masts of sailing ships?
- Which tree's wood is used in Europe most often?

Have you answered all the questions? – Congratulations!  
You are a true expert of the trees of Žagarė Manor Park!