



# AMERICAN CHESTNUT TREE HUNT

What is really amazing things about Blydenburgh County Park is that is home to at least 2 chestnut producing American Chestnut trees.

The American Chestnut Tree experienced its own "pandemic" a little over 100 years ago. Back then, nearly **four billion** American chestnut trees were growing in the eastern U.S. They were among the largest, tallest, and fastest-growing trees. The wood was rot-resistant, straight-grained, and suitable for furniture, fencing, and building. The nuts fed billions of wildlife, people and their livestock. It was almost a perfect tree, that is, until a blight fungus killed it more than a century ago. The chestnut blight has been called the greatest ecological disaster to strike the world's forests in all of history.



This picture, taken in the mid- to late 19th century, gives an idea of just how large and profuse the American chestnut tree was in Eastern U.S. forests. There are now only 100 or so that remain. (Courtesy photo American Chestnut Foundation)



The American chestnut tree survived all adversaries for 40 million years, then disappeared within 40.

How to identify the American Chestnut Tree [Leaves](#) and the [Chestnut Species ID](#) guide.

Your mission if you chose to accept it, is to find Blydenburgh's Chestnut trees or look for Chestnut Trees in other Parks and send us and the American Chestnut Foundation the [Tree Locator Form](#) when you locate a tree.



Bark of young sprout



Bark of an older stump sprout (rare)



Bark of a healthy tree (very rare)