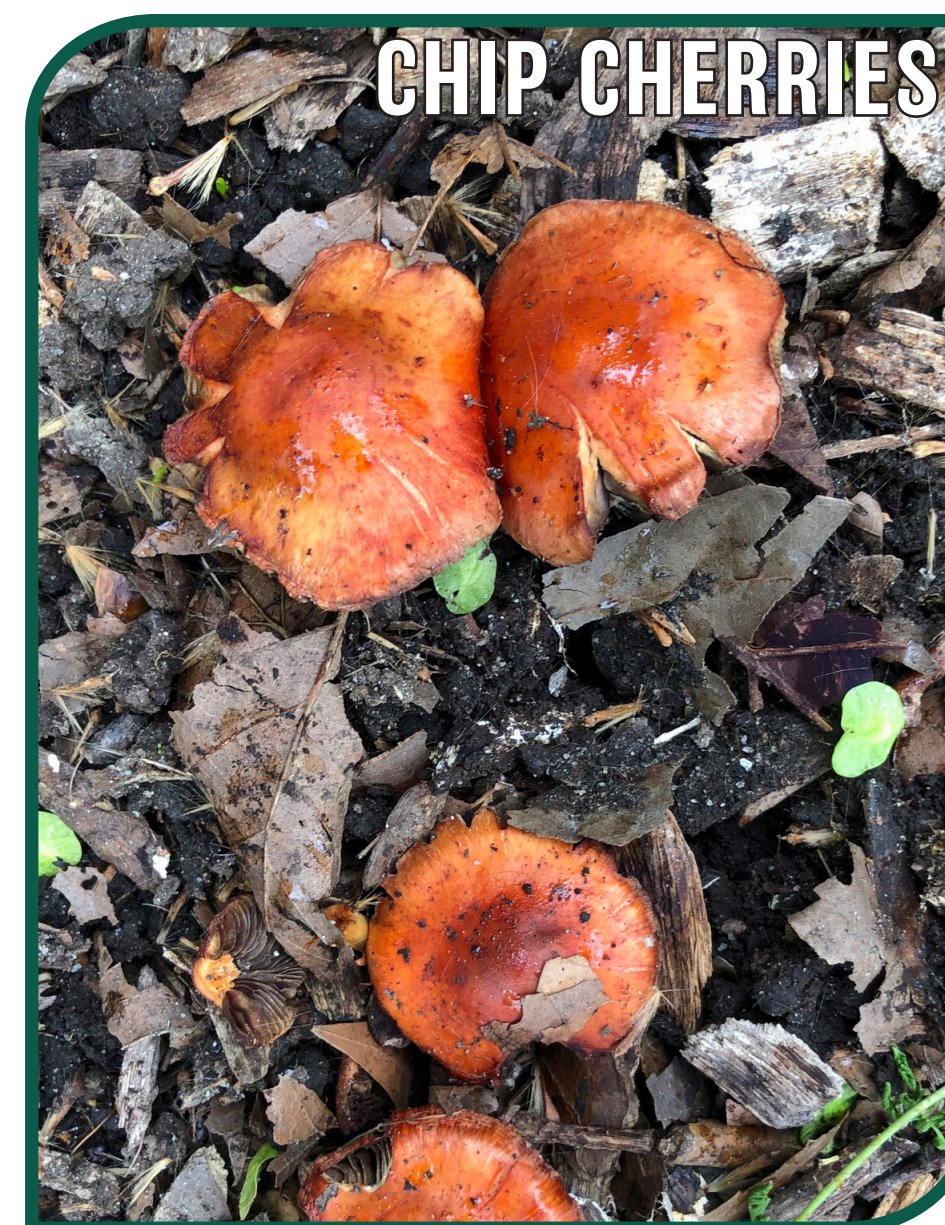




**HYPOXYLON
CANKER**



CHIP CHERRIES



**DEAD MAN'S
FINGERS**



FLUFFY DUST



GIRAFFE SPOTS



SUNFLOWER RUST



**WINE-CAP
STROPHARIA**

FUNGI & LICHENS OF CARL SCHURZ PARK

FACTS

Fungi and Lichens are essential to maintaining a robust ecosystem.

They are neither plant nor animal but belong to their own kingdom. When they are both present in the landscape, it is an indication that the air and soil around them are healthy.

Some fungi are made up of underground filaments with fruiting bodies we call mushrooms. Others are like yeasts and molds.

- Fungi are nature's recyclers, breaking down dead wood and leaves that enrich the soil.
- Fungi make nutrients in soil available for plants.
- Fungi can have a parasitic, carnivorous, or symbiotic relationship with plants.
- Fungi foster protective underground communications between plants.



Lichens, a mixture of fungi and algae, grow in many different environments, from rainforests to polar areas to deserts.

- Lichens protect trees and rocks from rain, wind, and snow.
- Lichens serve as a food source or microhabitat for many animals.
- Lichens can grow on both natural and man-made structures.
- Lichens get most of their water and nutrition from the air.



Did you know?

The largest living thing on the planet is a fungus: *Armillaria ostoyae* covers almost 2400 acres in eastern Oregon, and is thousands of years old.

Lichens have been used by humans as food, medicine, and even cloth dyes.

FOCUS

The park is home to over 68 kinds of Fungi and over six species of Lichens. The following examples are all found within the park.

LUXURY CAP FUNGUS
(Collybiopsis luxurians)

Luxury caps are mostly found growing in woodchips and decaying yard waste. As they mature, they progress from dark reddish brown and stocky to pale tan and thin stemmed.



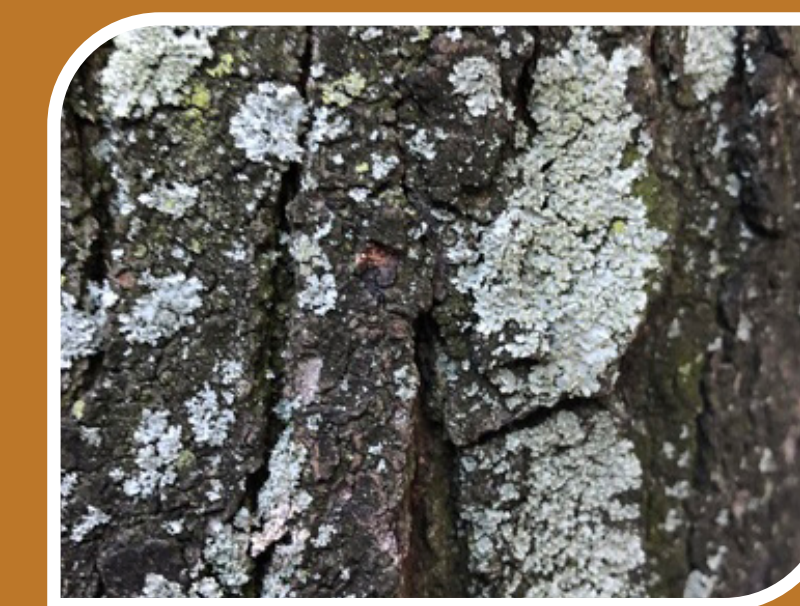
TURKEY TAIL FUNGUS
(Trametes versicolor)

Turkey Tail is a common and attractive species of fungus which is found growing out of logs and tree stumps. It has bands of different colors, reminiscent of wild turkey plumage.



CANDLEFLAME LICHEN
(Candelaria concolor)

This brightly colored yellow lichen is one of the easiest of all lichens to notice and to recognize. In New York City it is quite common on both walls and tree trunks.



ROSETTE LICHEN
(Phycia millegrana)

This greenish-grey lichen is another very common species in New York City. It is often found on tree trunks.

FUTURE

Fungi and lichens are at risk due to temperature extremes, urbanization, pollution, and loss of habitat. The algae in many common lichens can't adapt to climate change as fast as the Earth is warming.



To address this challenge the Conservancy is:

- increasing the types of habitats where fungi and lichens are most likely to thrive, such as rotting logs and twigs, rocky outcroppings, and undisturbed soil.
- maintaining healthy plants to counteract pollution.
- increasing the number of native plants to support habitat for fungi and lichens.



Steps you can take to join in the effort:

- Leave dead branches, leaves, and stumps in garden areas.
- Increase native plantings in your green spaces.
- Avoid using chemicals or abrasives on stonework.

DISCOVER MORE:

