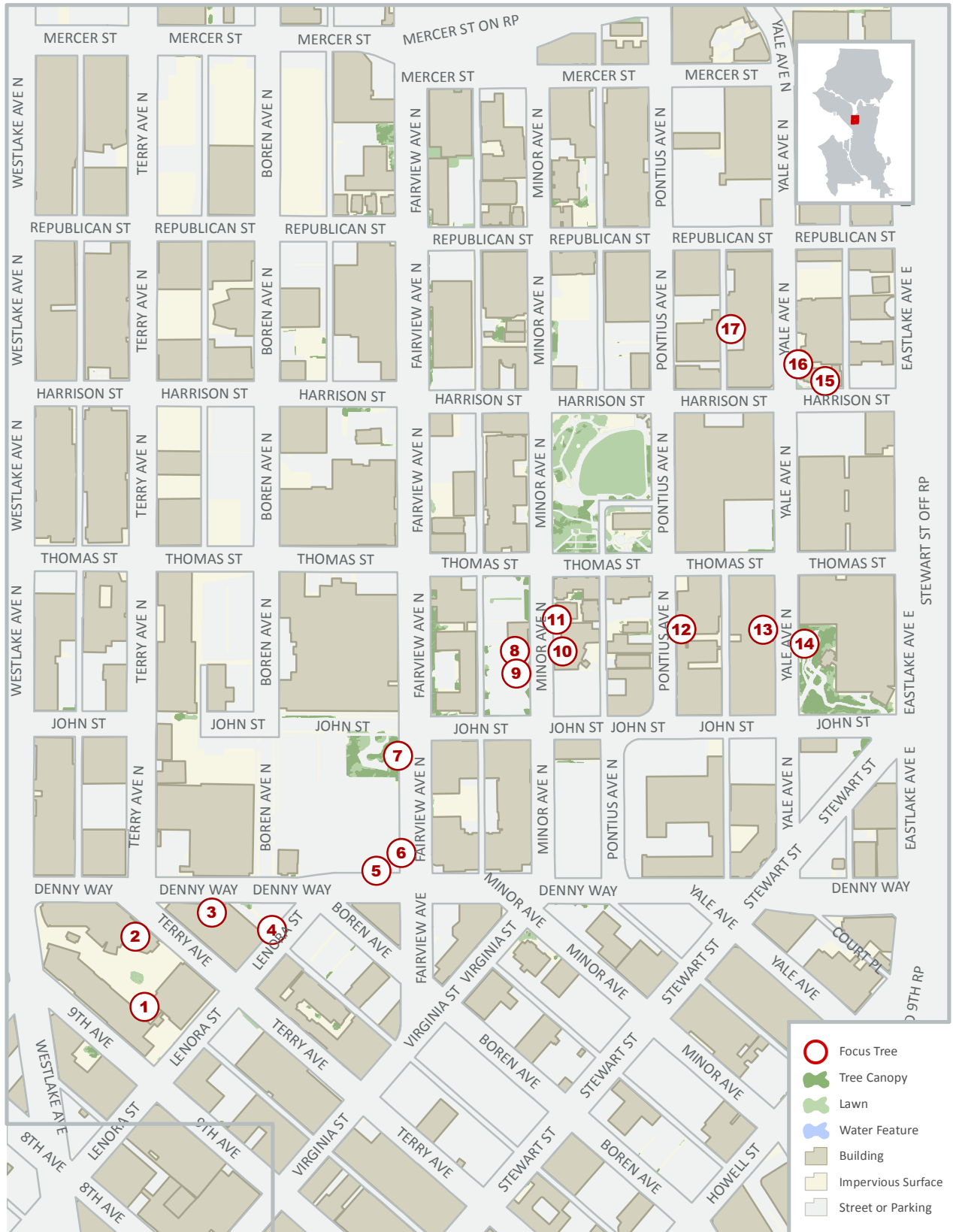


# SOUTH LAKE UNION TREE WALK



Trees for Seattle, a program of the City of Seattle, is dedicated to growing and maintaining healthy, awe-inspiring trees in Seattle. Trees build strong communities by:

- Making our streets friendlier places to walk and bike
- Soaking up rainwater to keep our streams, lakes, and Puget Sound clean
- Calming traffic, helping to avoid accidents
- Cleaning our air, making it easier to breathe
- And much more!

Seattle's urban forest depends on you! 2/3 of Seattle's trees are planted around homes and maintained by residents. Without those trees, Seattle would be a sad place. Working together, we can have an urban forest that is healthy and growing.

You can get involved in many ways:

Attend a Tree Walk: We host free monthly tours of the unique and beautiful trees in neighborhoods across Seattle. Self-guided versions are also available on our website.

Volunteer: Our volunteers lead Tree Walks with friends and neighbors and participate in fun events like Tree Stewardship work parties to help keep trees healthy and thriving. You can commit for an hour or a lifetime. Everyone is welcome.

Plant a Tree: Our Trees for Neighborhoods project supports Seattle residents in planting trees around their homes by providing support, free trees, and workshops.

For more information on our work and how you can get involved:

**Visit:** [www.Seattle.gov/trees](http://www.Seattle.gov/trees)

**Call:** 206-615-1668



**Email:** [treeambassador@seattle.gov](mailto:treeambassador@seattle.gov)

**Follow** Trees for Seattle on Facebook



# South Lake Union Tree Walk




## *The usefulness and aesthetics of urban trees*

By the stairs in between Whole Foods and Bank of America (Westlake Ave & Denny Ave W)




Tree Number & Common name <i>Botanical name</i> Address	Tree Descriptions Notes	Photos
<p><b>1. Magnolia</b> <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i></p> <p><b>2. Swedish Columar Aspen</b> <i>Populus tremula 'Erecta'</i></p> <p>Courtyard above Wholefoods (2210 Westlake Ave and 910 Lenora)</p>	<p>Trees provide touches of beauty in this courtyard where trees are not only used to help mitigate any drainage issues as well as provide respite from the urban condo setting.</p>	
<p><b>3. Japanese Maples</b> <i>Acer palmatum</i></p> <p><b>4. European Hornbeam</b> <i>Carpinus betulus</i></p> <p>Cornish College of the Arts (1000 Lenora St)</p>	<p>Cornish is one of the "premier accredited arts colleges in the NW." Trees provide a break from the intense concrete jungle feeling of this urban campus as well as focal points where students can study outdoors in nice weather.</p>	




<p><b>5. Village Green Zelkova</b> <i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Village Green'</p> <p><b>6. Summit Green Ash</b> <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> 'Summit'</p> <p><b>7. Mixture of Trees</b></p> <p>Old Seattle Times/ Now ONNI Group Towers (1120 Denny Way)</p>	<p>Trees in this setting provide an excellent example of the way in which they provide a bridge from a historical moment (Seattle Times owning and operating at this address) to the current owners (ONNI Group Towers). And importantly a very critical reminder that citizen input into the changing landscape can make a real difference. On another note, the village green zelkova is a Great Plant Pick! Ash trees are susceptible to the emerald ash borer, an insect that is wiping out ash trees on the east coast. The borer is not yet here in Seattle but, It is not recommended to plant any more of them at this time. The small park in the middle of these two towers was "saved" by a group of citizens who won their fight to keep it open and at some point, allow people to again sit under these trees. The small park contains: <b>Blue Atlas Cedar</b> (<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> Glauca Group), <b>Honey Locust</b> (<i>Gledista triacanthos</i>) and <b>Sawara Cypress</b> (<i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i>).</p>	
<p><b>8. Japanese Snowbell</b> <i>Styrax japonicus</i></p> <p><b>9. Kousa Dogwoods</b> <i>Cornus kousa</i></p> <p>Cascade Apartments (221 Minor Ave)</p>	<p>The Cascade Apartments bridge the old with new too as this area was originally called Cascade neighborhood. This set of apt is near Cascade Park, which is one of the few old school neighborhood parks near the heart of Downtown. The area is now determined to be South Lake Union, but the street trees and the park remind us of its prior history.</p>	

<p><b>10. Western Red Cedar</b> <i>Thuja plicata</i></p> <p><b>11. Norway Spruce</b> <i>Picea abies</i></p> <p>Across Cascade Apartments</p>	<p>Trees are resilient. By which I mean they can withstand difficult conditions. These Western Red Cedars and Norway Spruce have withstood major new construction of condos and apartment buildings. They form a bridge to what other trees in this neighborhood may have looked like. The Norway spruce will be one of this year’s Trees for Neighborhood tree selections!</p>	
<p><b>12. Vine Maple</b> <i>Acer circinatum</i></p> <p>Alley 21 Condo (Pontius Ave N)</p>	<p>Trees in this setting provide a unique way to liven up what otherwise may be a drab interior of a condo complex.</p>	
<p><b>13. Italian Oak</b> <i>Quercus frainetto</i></p> <p>LifeFloat (213 Yale Ave N)</p>	<p>These Italian Oak are well worth the addition to this tree walk. Beautiful trees and privately maintained. These oaks were code required tree plantings when the building was built in 2006. The Italian oak is a Great Plant Pick.</p>	



<p><b>14. REI - Backyard (Mixture of Trees)</b></p> <p>Behind REI (222 Yale Ave N)</p>	<p>Step into a tree oasis by walking into what I am calling REI's backyard. Located behind the main Seattle REI is a green area alive with various evergreens, bridges and a water fall. Simply incredible to find such a restful and beautiful spot in midst of new construction. Simply one needs to experience this little gem to believe it. Privately managed by REI corporation, it does want one to explore and hike.</p>	
<p><b>15. Deodar Cedar</b> <i>Cedrus deodara</i></p> <p><b>16. Holly Tree</b> <i>Ibex aquifolium</i></p> <p>Saint Spividon Orthodox Church (400 Yale Ave N)</p>	<p>This Deodar Cedar is taller than the roof of this historic Church. It certainly is also a symbol of the area's resilience. On a personal note, I remember when this Church was one of the taller structures on this street. You could see this tree and the roof of the church for a couple of blocks. Now although the physical landscape has dramatically changed, this Deodar Cedar recall the way in which the neighborhood looked. English holly is an invasive plant in the Pacific Northwest.</p>	 

<p><b>17. River Birch</b> <i>Betula nigra</i></p> <p>Inside of the historic Supply and Laundry building (420 Pontius Ave N)</p>	<p>At the near past there was the Rigoletto Restaurant operating inside of this historic building. Unhappily per a closed sign in the window it no longer is open; however, the way in which the trees were selected to echo the urban "decay" of the rusted sign for this restaurant and the way in which the red brick smoke stack of the Supply and Laundry echo the red rust of the sign and surrounding trees remain. Giving this courtyard a superior element of design that echoes the past and hopefully mirrors the future. The River birch is resistant to bronze birch borer. This makes it a great replacement for susceptible birches such as Himalayan birch and European birch. The River birch is a Great Plant Pick.</p>	
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To get back to Whole Foods, walk down Pontius Ave N passing the Cascade Playground until you reach Thomas St. Once you reach Thomas St, turn right and walk down one block reaching to Minor Ave. Turn left here until you reach John St turn right and go until you reach Fairmont where the Onni construction is located. Turn left on Fairmont until reaching Denny St, cross the intersection and take a right on Denny until you reach Lenora St. Take a left on Lenora St and go down one block until Terry Ave, then take a right. You will reach the plaza where the Swedish Aspen is located and go down the stairs and you have reached Whole Foods.

South Lake Union is on a bird and insect flight path between greenbelts on Capitol Hill, Queen Anne, and Magnolia.” (South Lake Union Supplemental Guidance #4. Plants and Habitat page 7.) And on the same page as Guideline #4 is this caption under a photo: “Use landscape to provide refuge habitat and foraging opportunities for bird and insect movement.

Trees absorb water through their roots; thereby, helping to prevent drainage systems from becoming overwhelmed. When drainage systems are overwhelmed, the excess water can flood homes and roads.

Trees also serve an aesthetic purpose, as trees provide us with the appreciation of beauty in our urban landscape. Trees further provide a bridge from one historical past moment in the physical urban landscape to the current moment. The trees in this tree walk show all three ways that trees are an important asset for our city to manage.