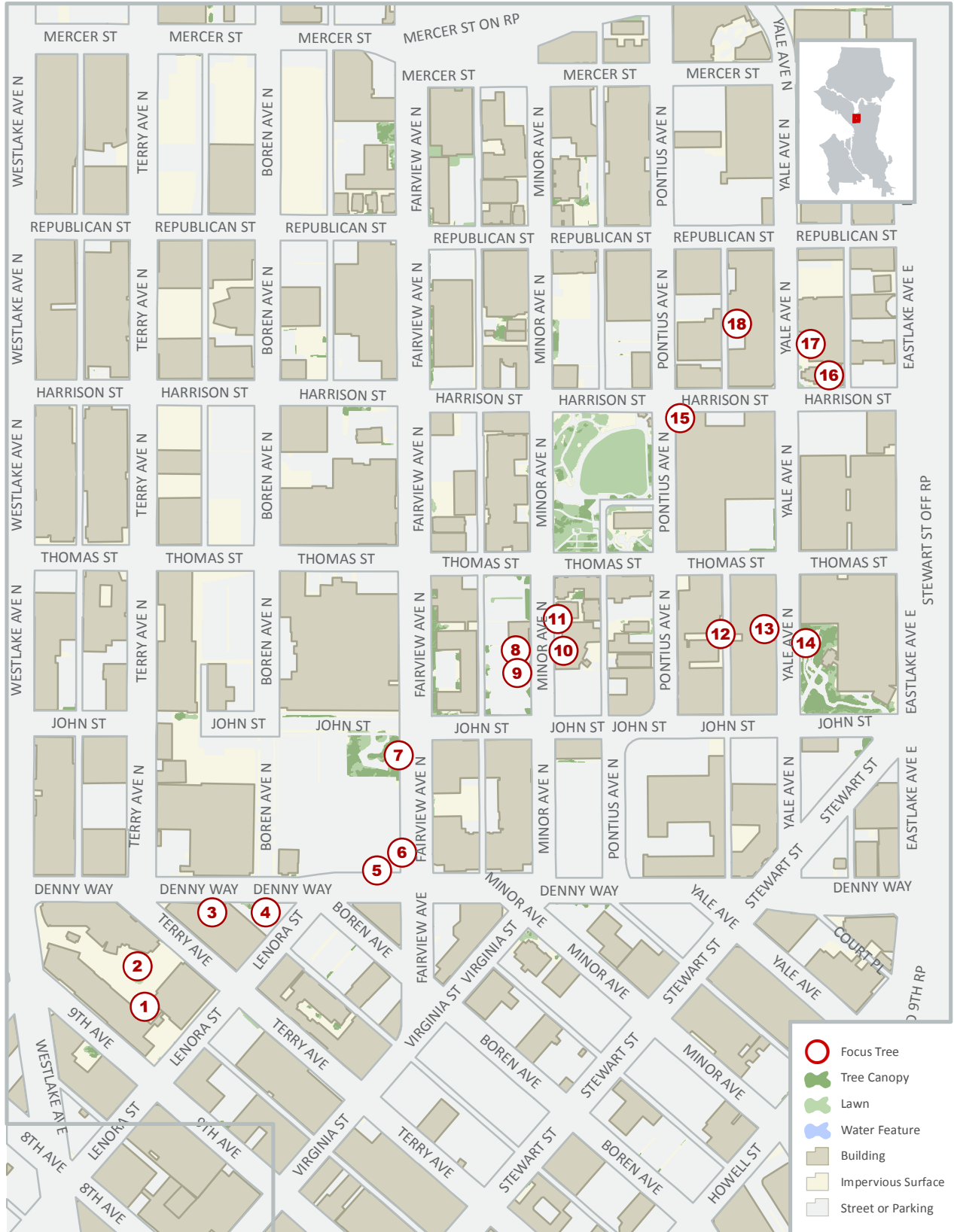


SOUTH LAKE UNION TREE WALK



Thank you for participating in this 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

Call: 206-615-1668




Email: treeambassador@seattle.gov





Follow Trees for Seattle on Facebook




South Lake Union Tree Walk




The value of urban trees in a changing neighborhood


Starting point: 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>1. Magnolia <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i></p> <p>2. Swedish Columnar Aspen <i>Populus tremula 'Erecta'</i></p> <p>Courtyard above Wholefoods (2210 Westlake Ave)</p>	<p>Trees bring a touch of beauty in this courtyard where they are used to help minimize drainage issues while providing respite from the urban condo setting. The beautiful, evergreen <i>Magnolia glandiflora</i> will have large and very fragrant flowers from late-Spring through summer. This type of Magnolia is pyramidal to round in shape and can become 60' or even 80' tall given the right conditions. I was introduced to the Swedish Columnar Aspen through my work as a Tree Ambassador, it has become one of my favorite trees. It grows in straight, upright columns with beautiful green foliage in the summer, turning a sunny yellow in fall followed by red leaves when it turns colder. I also like how the leave "quake" in the late autumn breeze and the tips of its stately columns twist at the top. It's an excellent screening tree for privacy.</p>	 
<p>3. Japanese Maples <i>Acer palmatum</i></p> <p>4. European Hornbeam <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>5. Village Green Zelkova <i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Village Green' (Denny Way)</p> <p>6. Summit Green Ash <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> 'Summit' (Fairview Ave)</p> <p>7. Mixture of Trees (Small park area)</p> <p>Old Seattle Times/ Now ONNI Group Towers (1120 Denny Way)</p>	<p>Trees provide a bridge through history as the built environment around them changes. These Village Green Zelkova and Summit Green Ash trees have been preserved despite construction in the area. The Seattle Times owned and operated this site from 1931-2011, which is now under construction to become a residential tower.</p> <p>The small park was "saved" by a group of citizens who won their fight to keep it open to the public, and is a very critical reminder that citizen action can make a real difference.</p> <p>The small park contains: Blue Atlas Cedar (<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> Glauca Group), Honey Locust (<i>Gledista triacanthos</i>) and Sawara Cypress (<i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i>) and Western red cedar (<i>Thuja plicata</i>).</p>	 
<p>8. Japanese Snowbell <i>Styrax japonicus</i></p> <p>9. Kousa Dogwoods <i>Cornus kousa</i></p> <p>Cascade Apartments (221 Minor Ave)</p>	<p>Japanese snowbell (<i>Styrax japonicus</i>) is a deciduous flowering tree that has horizontal branching with a rounded crown. Its most striking feature is the clusters of bell-shaped, somewhat fragrant flowers that each have 5 waxy and white petals. The flowers give way to drupes (fruits) that are olive shaped and greenish-brown in color. The Kousa dogwood (<i>Cornus kousa</i>) is a small deciduous flowering shrub that grows up to 30' and blooms in late spring. The "petals" look like flowers are actually modified leaves called "bracts" which surround the "flowers" and are greenish-yellow and rather small in size.</p>	 

<p>10. Western Red Cedar <i>Thuja plicata</i></p> <p>11. Norway Spruce <i>Picea abies</i></p> <p>Across from Cascade Apartments</p>	<p>Trees are resilient. By which I mean they are able to 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.</p>	
<p>12. Vine Maple <i>Acer circinatum</i></p> <p>Alley 21 Condo (Pontius Ave N)</p>	<p>Vine maples are native to the pacific northwest and liven up what otherwise may be a drab interior of a condo complex. They are extremely hardy and can tolerate a variety of conditions. Additionally, they have such beautifully colored leaves which branch out in an interesting, multi-tiered formation. While slender in form, the roots of these trees can produce many offshoots, creating dense thickets able to grow in the shade of taller conifers (and buildings!).</p>	
<p>13. Italian Oak <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. Also known as the Hungarian oak, it was introduced from southeast Europe in the 1830's. These oaks are stately deciduous trees that prefer lots of sunlight. With a high canopy and an oval shape, it can grow to 100 feet in the right conditions.</p>	

<p>14. REI - Backyard Douglas fir, Western red cedar, Alaska yellow cedar, mountain hemlock</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. Western red cedars belong to the Cupressaceae or Cypress family. This beautiful cedar was called the 'tree of life' by the Northwest first people. It can reach to 180' and live more than 1000 years given the right conditions with massive, tapered boles and broad branches that droop down but turn up at the tips. It has a distinctively delightful fragrance.</p>	
<p>15. Conifers & rain gardens</p> <p>Sitka Apartments (1255 Harrison St.)</p>	<p>It is amazing to see the wide variety of different conifers and other shrubs/trees this new apartment complex has planted. In 2018, this complex was covered in a white plastic tarp and was under construction from the former warehouse. This year (2019) there are several different mature conifers: Douglas Firs are a common northwest species that can live to be over 1000 years old. Along the sidewalk is a rain garden that collects and filters polluted stormwater, minimizing flooding and keeping our waterways clean.</p>	
<p>16. Deodar Cedar <i>Cedrus deodara</i></p> <p>17. Holly Tree <i>Ilex aquifolium</i></p> <p>Saint Spivodon 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 the street. You could see this tree and the roof of the church from several blocks away. Now, although the physical landscape has dramatically changed, this Deodar Cedar recall the way in which the neighborhood once looked.</p>	

<p>18. River Birch <i>Betula nigra</i></p> <p>Inside of the historic Supply and Laundry building (420 Pontius Ave N)</p>	<p>River birches typically grow between 40' to 70' tall, but it is not unheard of for them to grow to 90' given the right conditions. They are deciduous and can spread as much as 40' to 60' feet. They are fast-growing with diamond-shaped, double-toothed leaves and have a large canopy of branches. Their leaves turn yellow in the fall. When these birches are young their bark is a pretty, silvery gray that turns to reddish-brown or black as they mature. River birches match our Pacific Northwest climate in that they like moist soil best for their growth. River birch is valuable as a source of erosion control and is often used to reclaim areas where floods or industries have caused erosion. Anna's and Rufous hummingbirds like to drink its sap.</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 to Minor Ave. Turn left here until you reach John St, turn right and continue until you reach Fairmont where the Omni 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. Trees clean our air, minimize the effects of a warming climate, and 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.