

PIONEER SQUARE 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

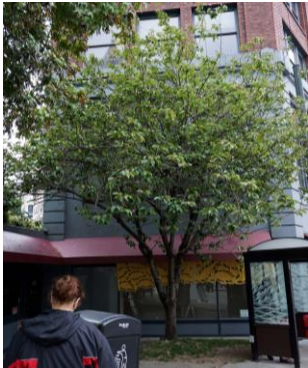



Pioneer Square Tree Walk




Urban Oases

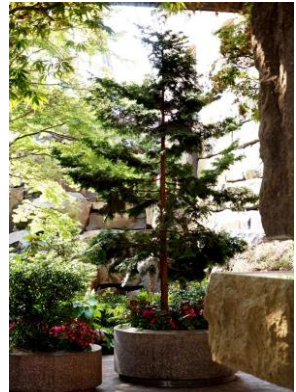

Tree Walk begins at City Hall Park 450 3rd Ave, Seattle, WA 98119




Common name <i>Botanical name</i>	Tree Descriptions <i>Notes</i>	Photos
<p>1. Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i></p> <p>Start at the large tree on the uphill side of the largest grass circle nearest to 4th Ave.</p>	<p>Often planted due to its resistance to neglect and rapid growth habit. About 4% of trees in Seattle are oaks, which are identifiable by lobed leaves and acorns.</p>	
<p>2. Sweetgum <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i></p> <p>Walk to the street sign for Jefferson St at 4th Ave, do not cross the street but look up 4th Ave to the row of trees on both sides of the street.</p>	<p>Sweet gums are large deciduous hardwood trees with heights to 100'. They are often used in Seattle as street trees due to fast growth and tolerance of various conditions. They are easily identified by unique seed pods.</p>	
<p>3. Sycamore Maple <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i></p> <p>Cross the street at Jefferson St and 4th Ave toward the King County Administration Building. Look up at the first tree at the corner on Jefferson St.</p>	<p>The sycamore maple tolerates smog. It is native to Central Europe and Southwestern Asia, and grows to 40-70'. Notice the larger than average planting bed.</p>	


<p>4. Blackgum or Tupelo <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i></p> <p>Next to the sycamore maple on Jefferson St</p>	<p>Can grow to 50' with a 20' spread. It has glossy green leaves and bluish black fruit. This tree is too close to other trees and the neighboring building to reach maximum height.</p>	
<p>5. Japanese Maple <i>Acer palmatum</i></p> <p>From the corner of Jefferson St and 4th Ave walk to the front of the King County Admin Bldg., 500 4th Ave, see the trees in planters.</p>	<p>Japanese maples have good fall color. Most grow only 8-25' and can tolerate a variety of conditions. Planters demonstrate another strategy for adding plants after the fact.</p>	
<p>6. Norway Maple <i>Acer platanoides</i></p> <p>Cross back to City Hall Park and walk toward Dilling Way. Follow the sidewalk around to the corner of Yesler and Dilling, see the tree by the light pole.</p>	<p>This Norway maple is a dense shade tree. The leaves closely resemble the leaves of the sugar maple. It was introduced from Europe in 18th century and popular as a hardy street tree.</p>	
<p>7. European Hornbeam <i>Carpinus betulus</i></p> <p>Walk up hill adjacent to wall with chain</p>	<p>European hornbeams are often planted as urban trees because of their ability to adapt to the allotted planting space provided. The leaves turn yellow in November.</p>	

<p>8. Japanese Flowering Cherry <i>Prunus serrulata</i></p> <p>Walk down to the corner where you started and go left on Prefontaine Place S, see the tree in front of La Bodega Restaurant, 100 Prefontaine Pl S.</p>	<p>The Japanese flower cherry is very popular due to dramatic spring flower display. Tucked in front of this business it provides a welcomed canopy of green.</p>	
<p>9. Maidenhair Tree <i>Ginkgo biloba</i></p> <p>First tree in front of 106 Prefontaine Pl S</p>	<p>This poor specimen has really taken an urban beating from the scar on the sidewalk side to the broken branches on the street side, typically grows to 60'-80'.</p>	
<p>10. Green Ash <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i></p> <p>Walk down Prefontaine Pl S, at corner cross 4th Ave S and you will see the firehouse in front of you.</p>	<p>Green ash trees are similar to the Oregon ash tree which is a native species. However, the Green ash rarely reseeds and is usually purposefully planted.</p>	
<p>11. Chenmou Elm <i>Ulmus chenmoui</i></p> <p>On S Washington & 6th Ave S</p>	<p>Also known as the Langya Mountain Elm this small deciduous tree is from the more temperate provinces of eastern China.</p>	

<p>12. Black Cottonwood <i>Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa</i></p> <p>At the far side of the parking lot at the corner of 6th Ave S and Washington St, walk down 6th Ave S to far edge of the parking lot.</p>	<p>The black cottonwood is native to the Washington coast. It grows up to 150' with heart shaped leaves up to 6" long. Relatively short lived - about 80 years. With lots of room can be good for a multi-row windbreaks</p> <p><i>Why do you suppose this tree was planted here?</i></p>	
<p>13. Pacific Madrone <i>Arbutus menziesii</i></p> <p>Next to the cottonwood closer to sidewalk</p>	<p>The pacific madrone is a native tree of the pacific coast. Its size ranges from 16-130'. An evergreen with bark that is freely exfoliating, peeling off in large thin scales leaving a smooth reddish bark underneath. It has small urn shaped white flowers and red berries.</p>	
<p>14. Honey Locust <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i></p> <p>Continue walking down 6th Ave S and turn right on Main St, you'll see a row of like trees, stop at the last tree near corner of 5th Ave S.</p>	<p>Honey locust trees are very hardy. Used in parking lot islands and along sidewalks and can grow 30-80'. Have distinctive, long brown seed pods up to 18" long. The tree is airy in appearance and allows light to filter through leaves.</p>	

<p>15. Littleleaf Linden <i>Tilia cordata</i></p> <p>Continue walking in the same direction on Main St, when you cross 2nd Ave S, stop at the corner where the gated garden is, see the street tree in front of the garden and along 2nd Ave S.</p>	<p>The Littleleaf linden has leaves up to 3 1/2" sometimes wider than long with irregular bases and a short pointy tip. Has fragrant flowers and fruit similar to the American linden. May grow to 70' tall.</p>	
<p>16. Incense Cedar <i>Calocedrus decurrens</i></p> <p>Walk into Waterfall Park using the 2nd Ave S entrance, see trees in planters.</p>	<p>Handsome evergreen that can grow to 90' with a distinctive columnar form. Fast growing and sometimes used as hedges, another use of planters to expand planting areas.</p>	
<p>17. American Witchhazel <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i></p> <p>Stay on street level in Waterfall Park, walk through looking at several Japanese maples overhead, see tree at the corner of the walkway closest to the waterfall.</p>	<p>American witchhazel flowers in the fall when most leaves are off the trees with spidery looking yellow flowers. Native to the Eastern US.</p>	

<p>18. American Snowbell <i>Styrax americanus</i></p> <p>Before exiting Waterfall Park at Main St, look at the tree on your left, by exit gate.</p>	<p>Deciduous shrub or small tree that grows to 15'. Has fragrant and showy white bell shaped flowers blooming in late spring.</p>	
<p>19. London planetree <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i></p> <p>Exit Waterfall Park, go right on to Main head toward Occidental Square, stop at the Firefighters Memorial</p>	<p>Look up and down Occidental Ave S at the allee of London planetrees. They were planted as part of 0.61 acres purchased in 1971 as “recreation and open space”, trees planted in early to mid 1970s.</p>	
<p>20. Vine Maple <i>Acer circinatum</i></p> <p>Cross S Washington St toward parking garage and corner of Occidental Ave S and Yesler Way, cross street toward group of trees in Pioneer Square, trees are behind pergola in planted bed.</p>	<p>Washington State native, grows 10-20' large shrub or small tree, understory in the forest, considered to be one of the best native trees for the home landscape, and an important part of the Northwest forest.</p>	

<p>21. Totem pole cedar</p> <p>adjacent to planted bed</p>	<p>see below</p>	
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“The Tlingit pole standing in Pioneer Square was acquired in 1899 by a group of Seattle businessmen who took a trip to Southeast Alaska and stopped in the Tlingit village of Tongass. They assumed that the village had been abandoned and proceeded to remove a large pole that was taken back to Seattle and erected in Pioneer Square. In fact, the Tongass people were just away at their fishing camps, and when they returned, they were unhappy to find the pole stolen. The thieves had been observed and their actions were reported to Governor Brady in Alaska. The Tongass people asked for the return of the pole or payment for it. After lengthy negotiations, a payment was made, but the pole remained in Seattle. This pole was damaged by fire in Pioneer Square in 1938, and a replica was carved by a group of Tlingit carvers from Ketchikan as part of a Civilian Conservation Corps project. This replica pole still stands in Pioneer Square in Seattle today.”

Source: Burke Museum Staff

<http://blog.seattlepi.com/thebigblog/2010/07/27/totem-poles-do-we-really-have-historical-bragging-rights/>