

LAKE CITY 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 safer, 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! Two-thirds of Seattle's trees are planted around homes and maintained by residents. Without those trees, Seattle would be a pretty bleak place. Working together, we can have an urban forest that is healthy and growing, and can achieve our goal of 30% tree cover by 2037.

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

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(Use a smart phone's camera to scan code for more info)

Lake City Tree Walk

Trees and history in Lake City

Walk begins at Virgil Flaim Park

Tree Number & Common name <i>Botanical name</i> Address	Tree Descriptions Notes	Photos
<p>1. European Hornbeam <i>Carbines betulus</i></p> <p>Enter Virgil Flaim Park behind the old middle school. 2700 NE 123rd street. In the NW corner of the park, past the big stone. Right by the first picnic table, on your right.</p>	<p>The European Hornbeam makes an excellent city tree, even in very small spaces. It has few insect and disease problems. It grows in most soils. Virgil Flaim was a carpenter who built many houses in Lake City and volunteered a great deal of time and energy to build up the community. He was a member of the Lake City Bearded Vigilantes.</p>	
<p>2. Tulip Tree <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i></p> <p>Continue east on the path, the first tree on your left, just before the skate park.</p>	<p>The Tulip Tree is a fun tree. Its leaves are shaped like tulips. Its shade cools our city in the summer. And it has beautiful flowers in spring. It won the Tree of the year honors for 2018 presented by the Society of Municipal Arborists. The Tulip Tree works with the other trees in the park to improve our moods and our health.</p>	

<p>3. Austrian Pine <i>Pinus nigra</i></p> <p>Follow the path past the skate park and past the Giant Sequoias. On your left see several Austrian Pines in a row.</p>	<p>A durable urban tree, the Austrian Pine, tolerates air pollution, poor soils and drought. Their needles grow in pairs. Each needle is about 3 or 4 inches long. Look for them around town especially in public places.</p>	
<p>4. Lodgepole Pine <i>Pinus contorta</i></p> <p>Continue the path past the Austrian Pines. See some smaller pines, behind the benches.</p>	<p>The Lodgepole Pine is a native pine tree. In the forest, they usually grow in tall thin groups. But with some room to themselves, the Lodgepole Pine grows full and beautiful. These evergreen conifer trees keep cleaning our air throughout the winter when the deciduous trees have lost their leaves. Many Lodgepole Pines throughout the west are under attack from Pine Bark Beetles. As the climate warms, the Pine Bark Beetles are expanding their area. Even small green spaces can have a large beneficial impact on residents' mental health and sense of wellbeing.</p>	
<p>5. Grand Fir <i>Abies grandis</i></p> <p>Follow the path to the right, see a fir tree with rather short flat needles. The needles have two white lines underneath.</p>	<p>The Grand Fir is another native tree. The Native Grand Fir Tree is lucky. It isn't so valuable for the timber industry, so they don't cut them all down. When this tree is old enough to reproduce, you'll be able to see its cones grow straight up. Native Trees are usually going to grow better than non-native trees. Native Trees are already adapted to our regions climate, temperatures and dry seasons. But some can't take the pollution.</p>	

<p>6. Sweet Gum <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i></p> <p>Continue straight west on the path, past the fir and pine trees, now on your right, see a tree who's leaves have 5 points.</p>	<p>The sweet Gum tree is native to Southeast America. It is a very tough tree. See it planted downtown. It withstands compacted soils and drought. It also has exceptionally colorful leaves in autumn. In winter, you can see the star shaped seed balls hanging from the branches.</p>	
<p>7. European Beech Trees <i>Fagus sylvatica</i></p> <p>Over by the picnic tables, there are several smooth barked Beech Trees.</p>	<p>There are several Beech trees near the western part of the park. They produce small nuts in autumn for birds and squirrels. These trees are tolerant of compacted soils and dry summers. They provide excellent shade in summer and graceful branches in winter.</p>	
<p>8. Apple <i>Malus spp.</i></p> <p>In the children's playground there are 2 apple trees</p>	<p>There are two apple trees and a crabapple tree right in the middle of the children's playground. See them near the plaza area with the benches and barbecue. They do grow nice apples.</p>	

<p>9. Sugar maple <i>Acer saccharum</i></p> <p>After the apples, walk back to the path and follow it past the big stone we started at. Walk out of the park. Turn right and walk towards NE 125th St. Near the corner of 125th St, see two large maples trees growing near the brick wall.</p>	<p>These Sugar Maples have brilliant fall colors and a very textured bark. These large Maple trees take in almost a thousand pounds of climate changing carbon dioxide each year. This building was the Lake City school begun in 1931 and educated local children until closed in 1981. High school students went to Roosevelt High School (the girls got to ride a school bus) until Nathen Hale was built in 1963.</p>	
<p>10. Pillar Green Oak <i>Quercus palustris</i> 'Pringreen'</p> <p>Turn right on NE 125th street. Right in front of the Professional Building entrance, on the sidewalk and just before the crosswalk</p>	<p>The Pillar Green Oak is a new variety planted here in 2017. It will grow straight up rather than spreading wide, so it won't take up much space on the sidewalk. It will grow in wet or dry soils. Just as flower breeders breed prettier more colorful flowers, tree breeders develop trees that will fit into and thrive in cities. After the Lake City school closed, the school district sold the building. It has been converted into a mostly medical professional building.</p>	

<p>11. Apple Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i></p> <p>Turn around and cross NE125th street at the crosswalk. Then cross 27th Ave NE and turn left up to Albert C. Davis Park</p>	<p>On your left, see 4 trees in a row. The Apple Serviceberry is a great small urban tree. It even produces small edible berries as it cleans our air. The humorist Will Rogers is honored with a plaque here. He died in a plane crash following a polo game in Lake City. The Park is named for Albert C. Davis, a community leader and volunteer. He helped begin the “Pioneer Days” Salmon Bake in the 1950s.</p>	
<p>12. Red Oaks <i>Quercus rubrum</i></p> <p>Walk through the park, over to 28th avenue NE. Just to the right is the library</p>	<p>In front of the library are several Red Oaks. Strong-limbed, they are excellent street trees that can tolerate difficult urban conditions while they cool the area in summer and provide acorns for hungry squirrels. Note the beautiful Japanese style metal gate in front of the library. The gate was designed by Internationally recognized, Seattle sculptor George Tsutakawa. The library was built in 1965 on the site of the original Lake City School. Lake City was outgrowing itself in the postwar years. Many children come to the library every day after school for homework help with volunteers. This area hosts the Farmers’ Market, and Lake City Days.</p>	

<p>13. Green (Red) Ash <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i></p> <p>Continue down to the corner of NE 125th St. Tall thin trees with rough bark grow all along NE 125th St</p>	<p>These trees were planted up and down NE 125th street. NE 125 Street was an early road down to LC. The whole road was planted with these Green Ashes. Some are starting to die from age, storms and the effects of so much exhaust. Street trees need to be tough. Across, 28th avenue NE is a bank and parking lot. This was the site of the Hayashi Family farm and plant nursery. The Hayashis donated Flowering Japanese Cherry Trees to the Lake City school in 1936. During WWII, the family was interned and sent away. They lost their farm and never returned. The Japanese cherry trees they donated to the school are gone now, too.</p>	
<p>14. Japanese Maples <i>Acer palmatum</i></p> <p>Lake City Community Center</p> <p>12531 28th avenue NE Turn around and walk back past the library to the community center</p>	<p>There is a row of Japanese Maples on the south side of the building. They fit well in the small space. Like the other trees, they can produce lots of oxygen. The community center has activities for children, teens, adults and seniors. There are dances, exercise classes and fairs. Built in 1957 at a cost of \$14,000 with volunteer labor and materials. Thank you, Lions Club.</p>	

<p>15. Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i></p> <p>2806 NE 127th Street NE</p>	<p>Right in front of the “new” fire station 39 are a pair of Red Maples. Red Maples are especially good at filtering water. Look at the water sculpture and the sunken garden with native plants. Look around the corner at a few Coastal Redwoods. The sunken garden slows storm water surges and helps protect urban water ways like Thornton Creek from pollution. The sunken garden, designed by artist Stephen Gassman, stores water in an underground cistern to use for watering the plants in the summer.</p>	
<p>16. Staghorn sumac <i>Rhus typhina</i></p> <p>Just at the edge of the Fire Station in a small planter</p>	<p>The Staghorn Sumac is a small tree that grows well where other plants won't grow. It makes pretty flower clusters. The dried flower clusters are ground up into a tasty lemony powder used as a spice for meats and vegetables.</p>	
<p>17. Black Tupalo <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i></p> <p>2820 NE 127th Street Keep walking east from the fire station. At the corner of 30th avenue NE</p>	<p>The Black Tupalo has few pests or diseases. It has small flowers that pollinators love, and it has good color in the autumn. It is easy to care for. Lake City was a community of small single-family homes. Now most of the new homes, especially close to Lake City Way are in tall multi-family buildings near transit and shopping.</p>	  <p>Society of Municipal Arborists Tree of the Year 2008</p>

<p>18. Hungarian Oaks <i>Quercus frainetto</i></p> <p>On 30th Ave NE just to the left around the corner from the Black Tupalo.</p>	<p>These drought tolerant Hungarian Oaks were planted for the new multistory apartment building. These Oaks make good street trees because they can grow with little water and have few pests. When they grow tall they will beautify the building. They will shade the building during the hot summer but let light in during the cold winter. This building replaced the old fire station, built in 1949, which in turn replaced the old library.</p>	
<p>19. Paperbark Maple <i>Acer griseum</i></p> <p>Cross 30th Ave NE. You will see two trees that have a unique, reddish and brown peeling bark.</p>	<p>The Paperbark Maple's home is the highlands of central China. Because it grows well in our area, we get to enjoy its beauty. It has a three-part leaf, unusual for a maple and it has a naturally peeling bark. This tree replaced a Flowering Pear tree that died. The Paper Bark Maple adds diversity to our urban forest. In September 2018, neighborhood residents dealt with a homelessness problem by removing two trees and planters in front of and across from the Post Office. One was another Paperbark maple.</p>	
<p>20. Red Spire Pear <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Redspire'</p> <p>3019 NE 127 St just beyond the Post Office</p>	<p>There are rows of easy to grow flowering pear trees on both sides of the street. They produce beautiful white flowers in spring. They give a visual unity to the neighborhood. The first Lake City Post office opened in 1936 when Lake City was a rural community. This one has been serving the area since 1954.</p>	

<p>21. Emerald Queen Norway Maples <i>Acer platanoides</i></p> <p>Turn right on Lake City Way.</p>	<p>These Norway maples line Lake City Way NE. They are heat and drought tolerant, with yellow autumn color. They give the busy street a softer feeling. They slow traffic, filter the air, reduce noise, and add beauty. These Norway maples were planted in the early 1980s as part of the Gateway Project to update to the Lake City business district. The median and the sculpture by Mike Sweeny were added at the same time.</p>	
<p>22. Giant Sequoia <i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i></p> <p>12360 Lake City Way NE</p> <p>Continue south on Lake City Way NE. Cross LCW and NE125th at the corner. Outside the Bank:</p>	<p>This giant Sequoia seems to be growing well here in Lake City. It is big now and still growing. It might be the biggest tree in the area. Giant Sequoias are not quite the tallest trees in the world, but they do have the most mass. Their home is in the Sierra Mountains of California.</p> <p>The round brick planter started life as a cheerful water fountain. But as summers have gotten hotter and drier, water became more precious. It didn't seem like a good idea to waste it. The fountain is dry now, just like our lawns in summer.</p>	
<p>23. Japanese Flowering Cherries <i>Prunus serrulate</i></p> <p>From the Sequoia cross Lake City Way NE and continue through the Lake City Mini-park towards 30th Ave NE</p>	<p>These Japanese Cherry trees cheer us up with their beautiful flowers every spring. This was the site of a Seattle First National Bank (SeaFirst) up to the 1970s. After vacating the building, the bank donated it to the city for a mini-park.</p>	

If you continue straight west from here, you can walk back to our starting point of Vergil Flaim Park. Or you can catch a bus on either Lake City Way or NE 125th Street. Or you can stay and enjoy Lake City.

Before you go, there are two more events in Lake City history worth knowing. They are important even though neither one has a tree associated with it. They were both civil rights struggles.

The first happened about two miles south of here on Lake City Way NE. A restaurant and bar used a racially offensive name and images. It was in business from 1929 well into the 1950s. African-Americans and allies protested repeatedly until it finally closed. (photo from historylink.org)



The second event happened just two blocks north of this corner, on Lake City Way NE. The Congress of Racial Equality protested at the Picture Floor Plans Reality Office, for a Fair Housing Law in Seattle. That was May 4, 1964. (photos from Seattle Municipal Archives.) That same November, Seattle voters defeated a Fair Housing Referendum by a 2 to 1 margin. Racial Discrimination in rentals and home sales was legal and almost universally practiced in Seattle at that time. African Americans were clustered in the Central District. A Fair Housing Law was finally passed in 1968. Hopefully, when we understand more about trees, we will work harder to protect them.

We hope that you enjoyed your tour of Lake City Trees and History. For a long time, the area was heavily forested. Only a few Native People wandered through the area. All the native forest was cut in a few years around 1900. The area remained rural up into the 1940s. After WWII many young people moved to the area, built it up and raised families. Today, Lake City is changing and growing. The area is an “urban village” meaning that city planners are building denser housing here. Most of the Lake City residential areas traditionally had rather small houses on rather large lots. Residents were dependent on cars for transportation. Many of the new single-family homes are much bigger houses built on smaller lots. Most of the new population is in large apartment buildings close to shopping and transit and designed for residents without cars.

The Lake City of the 1950s was a much more homogenized community. The great majority of people were European-Americans. Today, Lake City is proud to have diverse community members working together to build the next chapters in the Lake City community’s history.

We hope that you will linger awhile in Lake City. Enjoy the parks, public facilities, restaurants, shops, people and local culture. Lake City is a great place to be and is doing its part to keep Seattle green. According to the 2016 Seattle Tree Canopy Assessment, Lake City is in the North neighborhood which has 35% tree canopy within its residential areas. The city’s goal is to achieve 30% tree canopy cover by 2037; currently at 28%.