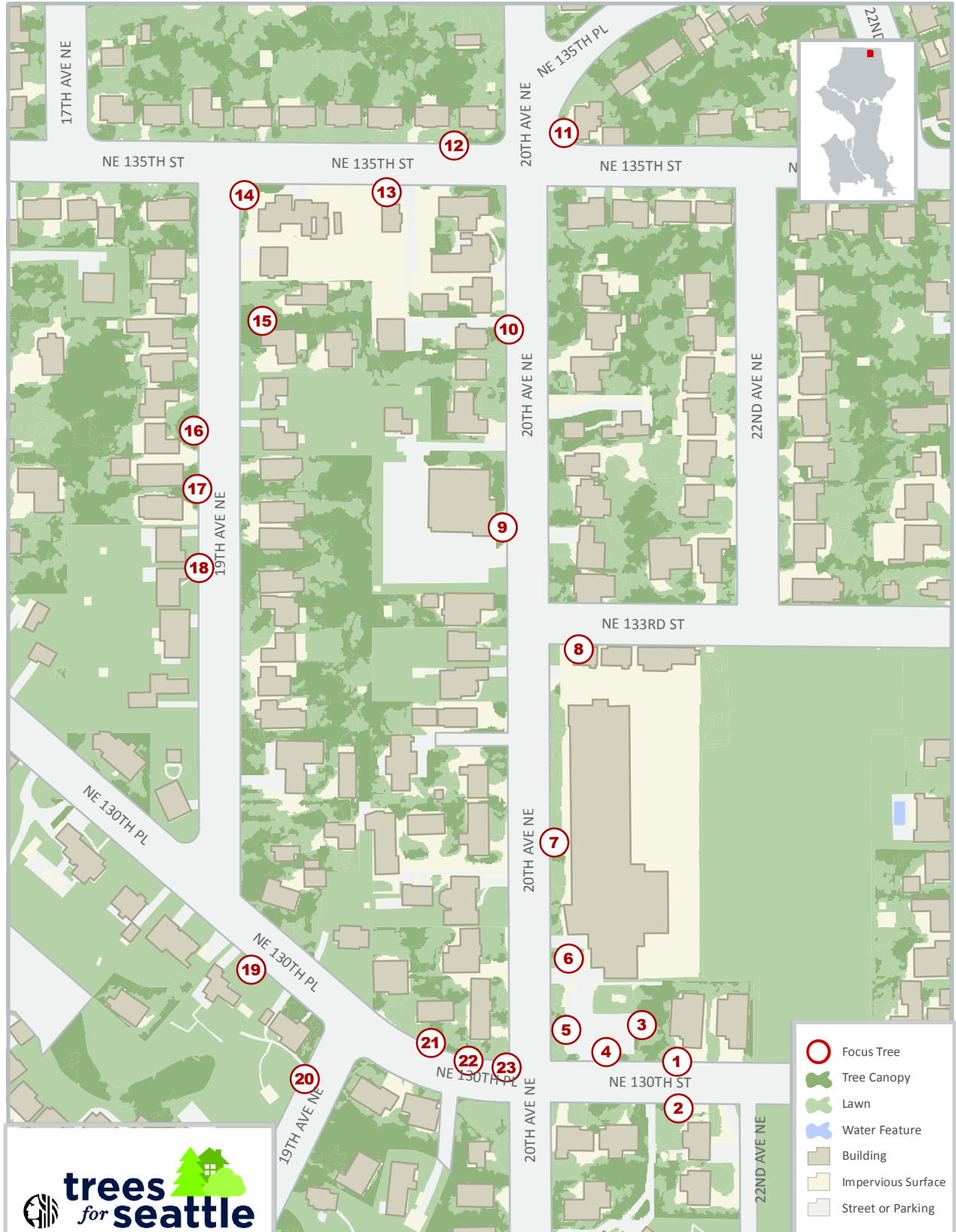


# TREE WALK at Lake City Olympic Hills



## 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](http://www.Seattle.gov/trees)

**Call:** 206-615-1668

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

**Follow** Trees for Seattle on Facebook






### ***Lake City – Olympic Hills: Trees in Winter***




NE 130th Street and 20th Avenue NE




By Olympic Hills School

<b>Tree Number &amp; Common name</b>  <i>Botanical name</i> Address	<b>Tree Descriptions</b> <b>Notes</b>	<b>Photos</b>
<b>1. Magnolia</b>  <i>Magnolia sp.</i>  Just before 2018 NE 130th Street	We come across a Magnolia growing out of a metal grate. This Magnolia makes flower buds in late summer. It keeps them ready to bloom in early spring so it can get an early start on reproduction in the spring. But it has to endure the cold and rain the whole winter long.	




<p><b>2. Hybrid Poplar</b></p> <p><i>Populus sp.</i></p> <p>Across the street</p>	<p>These tall narrow trees form a graceful silhouette against the gray winter sky. Like most of the other trees on our walk they are dormant for the winter. They slow down their metabolism and produce their own antifreeze to keep from freezing. Strange fact: Poplar trees only exist as male trees. The females are extinct. Poplars are only grown by asexual propagation.</p>	
<p><b>3. Eddie's White Wonder Dogwood</b></p> <p><i>Cornus nuttallii x florida</i></p> <p>Walk back towards 20th avenue NE</p>	<p>Walking back towards 20th Avenue NE, there are several trees in a row on the planting strip. Note the little flower buds at the ends of the twigs. The tree makes these buds in late summer, so that they will be ready to begin reproducing in spring. The flowers will be a beautiful showy white. The Pacific Dogwood is native to this area. It is subject to diseases and doesn't really like to be out in such direct sunlight. Plant breeders have developed hardier varieties like these White Wonders from Asian and Eastern American Dogwoods. They thrive in urban environments.</p>	
<p><b>4. English Yew</b></p> <p><i>Taxus baccata</i></p> <p>To our right, we see some tall cedar trees. Poking out from underneath is a darker green English Yew. It is the smaller tree, closer to the school exit driveway.</p>	<p>Unlike deciduous trees that shed their leaves for winter, the English Yew keeps its needles all winter. The needles are thicker and have a waxy coat to retain water even if the ground is frozen. They continue to grow but grow very slowly in the winter. This tree is a male. It spreads pollen to female Yew trees but does not grow the pretty red seed cones. The English Yew, of course, comes from England, with a similar climate to the Pacific Northwest. It grows well here. The wood made excellent bows for the English army. We have a native Pacific Yew which is getting rare around here.</p>	

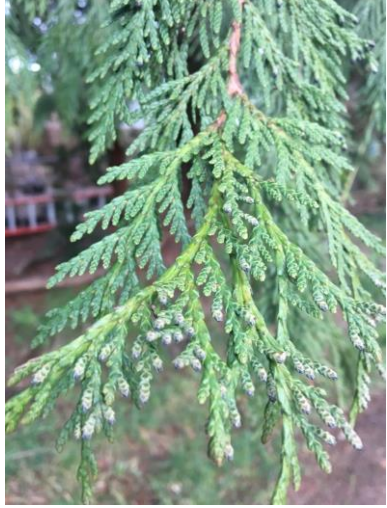

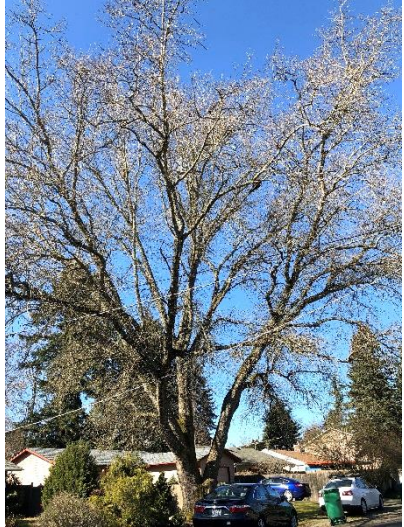


<p><b>5. Atlas Cedar</b></p> <p><i>Cedrus atlantica</i></p> <p>Turn right onto 20th Avenue NE at the corner.</p>	<p>Turn right onto 20th Avenue NE at the corner. We hope this beautiful tree survives. After school construction, many of this tree's needles turned black and fell off. But it's still alive for now. We have to be very careful when disturbing tree roots.</p>	
<p><b>6. Green Vase Zelkova</b></p> <p><i>Zelkova serrata</i> Green Vase</p> <p>Continue along 20th NE .</p>	<p>This row of Zelkova trees from East Asia are very hardy and can thrive in harsh urban conditions with poor compact soil and too much or too little water. They are beautiful survivors.</p>	
<p><b>7. Japanese Stewartia</b></p> <p><i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i></p> <p>In front of the main entrance to the school, there are five concrete planter boxes.</p>	<p>These Japanese Stewartia are great plants for this school. They have showy flowers in early summer, showy leaves in autumn and interesting bark in winter. And despite looking rather delicate, they can withstand frigid cold winters.</p>	




<p><b>8. Tupelo, Sour Gum</b></p> <p><i>Nyssea sylvatica</i></p> <p>Right around the corner, on the back side of the school, along NE 133rd Street.</p>	<p>Like the Zelkovas, the Tupelos are hardy and easy to grow in cities. They have red leaves in autumn. They produce small flowers for the bees and grow sour berries for the birds. Native to the Eastern North America from Ontario into Central Florida, they can thrive in winters much colder than ours. And they can live for 650 years old. Come back and visit this one in 2669.</p>	
<p><b>9. Flowering Cherries</b></p> <p><i>Prunus pendula</i></p> <p>13315 20th Ave NE</p>	<p>These cherries are deciduous, shedding their leaves in autumn. They stock up on food and make their own sugary antifreeze to survive cold winters. They go dormant. Then in spring, they grow many flowers from buds they developed last summer. The flowering cherries don't produce fruits. But other cherries produce fruits that birds love. And the birds spread cherry seeds all over. While the Tupelo tree can live 650 years, the delicate Flowering Cherry lives a pretty short life. They live about as long as a human.</p>	
<p><b>10. Horse Chestnut</b></p> <p><i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i></p> <p>13337 20th av NE</p>	<p>Everything that the cherry tree does to survive and reproduce, the Horse Chestnut does, too. Except the Horse Chestnut produces nuts that fall right down below the tree. Squirrels love them and bury the nuts for later.. Some of these nuts sprout and grow into new trees. The Horse Chestnut tree is easy to grow provides excellent shaded beautiful color in the fall.</p>	







<p><b>11. Douglas Fir</b></p> <p><i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i></p> <p>At the corner of 20th av NE and NE 135th Street on 2 corners</p>	<p>Widespread throughout the west and Puget Sound, the Douglas Fir provided wood for homes throughout the nation. Olympic Hills was full of Douglas Firs until they were all logged about 100 years ago. In their natural forrest, Douglas Firs can grow to great heights and widths. They can live for over 500 years. They cooperate to support and protect each other in the forest.</p> <p>Like the Yew, the Douglas fir keeps its needles all winter and continues to grow very slowly. It has very thick bark to insulate itself. Look for more on this walk.</p>	
<p><b>12. White Alder</b></p> <p><i>Alnus rhombifolia</i></p> <p>Cross NE135th Street, and then cross 20th av NE. The first house on your right.</p>	<p>The White Alder is a native Northwest tree. It is similar to the smooth gray barked Red Alder but grows further inland. And like the Red Alder, they like lots of water. Notice the catkins hanging down.</p> <p>You'll see more Red Alders, with smooth gray bark, around the neighborhood.</p>	
<p><b>13. Northern Catalpa</b></p> <p><i>Catalpa speciosa</i></p> <p>1919 NE 135th street</p>	<p>Most Catalpas are more tropical. But the Northern Catalpa has evolved to survive in cold winters, even winters much colder than ours. They have very large leaves and very long seed pods. They drop lots of litter for people to stay busy cleaning up all year long.</p>	

<p><b>14. Western Red Cedar</b></p> <p><i>Thuja plicata</i></p> <p>All along the corner of NE135th and 19th Av NE</p>	<p>The Western Red Cedar is a very successful native tree in the Pacific Northwest. It is another very thirsty tree. It needs water. Like the other evergreen conifers on this walk, it stays somewhat active through the winter. It cleans the air and brightens our gray days. Look for more on our walk.</p>	
<p><b>15. Black Locust</b></p> <p><i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i></p> <p>13338 19th Ave NE</p>	<p>The Black Locust shows off its graceful branches in winter. The wood is very strong and durable. The seeds are poisonous to cattle. They are listed as an invasive species because they easily spread so readily.</p>	
<p><b>16. Oregon White (Garry) Oak</b></p> <p><i>Quercus garryana</i></p> <p>13325 19th Ave NE</p>	<p>This particular tree is recognized by the City of Seattle as a Heritage Tree. That means it is very old, very big, or a community landmark. There are only a few Heritage trees in all North Seattle. It is deciduous and native to Washington and British Columbia. It grows acorns. Even a giant old tree like this needs water in the summer to survive the winter.</p>	



<p><b>17. Deodor Cedar</b></p> <p><i>Cedrus deodora</i></p> <p>13311 19th Ave NE</p>	<p>The Deodor Cedar is native to the Himalayan mountains. It has evolved to survive with cold winters. It stays nice and green and beautiful all winter long.</p> <p>They are revered in their homelands. The name means “Timber of the gods.”</p> <p>The downward droop of their branches allows heavy snow to slide off, protecting the branches from breaking.</p> <p>Look for more of them around the neighborhood.</p>	
<p><b>18. Norway Spruce</b></p> <p><i>Picea abies</i></p> <p>13043 19th Ave NE</p>	<p>The evergreen conifer Norway Spruce is native to the cold winter regions of Northern Europe. But it does very well in the cooler regions of North America. It reproduces on its own, or naturalizes in the colder Northeast. Look for its long cones high up in the tree or fallen on the ground.</p>	
<p><b>19. Western Hemlock</b></p> <p><i>Tsuga heterophylla</i></p> <p>1901 130th place NE</p> <p>Walk down to the corner, watch for cars, and turn left.</p>	<p>The native Western Hemlock is the state tree of Washington. It can grow up to 270 feet tall in its natural temperate rain forest home. And it has been suffering from our longer dryer rainless summers.</p>	

<p><b>20. Bamboo</b></p> <p><i>Bambusoideae</i></p> <p>Turn right at the corner. Walk uphill on 19th Ave NE as far as the creek.</p>	<p>Bamboo is a grass not a tree. But it stays green all year. Here it lines the fence allowing us a look at Thornton Creek.</p> <p>Thornton Creek flows through Shoreline and Northeast Seattle and eventually enters into Lake Washington near Matthew's Beach. The Thornton Creek Alliance is working with the City and others to clean the water and reintroduce native species.</p>	
<p><b>21. Port Orford Cedar</b></p> <p><i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i></p> <p>1924 130th Place NE Three tall evergreen trees on our left</p>	<p>The Port Orford Cedars slow down but don't go completely dormant. They still absorb some carbon dioxide and produce some oxygen in the winter.</p> <p>They are native to a small area in Southwestern Oregon. Their wood is amazingly good. But they are subject to a fatal root disease even in their native range.</p>	
<p><b>22. Strawberry tree</b></p> <p><i>Arbutus unedo</i></p> <p>In the planting strip along NE 130th Place NE</p>	<p>These young smaller cousins of our native Pacific Madrone look like bushes not trees. But they should slowly grow into a 15 or 20 foot tall trees over time. They make pretty strawberry looking fruits.</p> <p>Feel the leaves. They are thick and waxy to keep in water.</p>	

<p><b>23. Golden Rain Tree</b></p> <p><i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i></p> <p>Right at the corner of NE 130th place and 20th av NE</p>	<p>These trees were planted in about 2012. They didn't do well over the winter of 2017-18. Most of them died back to the ground. Some have begun to regrow. Winter can be deadly for a tree. Will they survive?</p> <p>This is the last tree on our Winter Tree Walk of Olympic Hills. We hope that you enjoyed their beauty. Thank you.</p>	
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Trees in the forest are suffering from warmer winters and hotter dryer summers. We must advocate for solutions to climate change. But we can help the trees in the city, where we live! If you have a tree or two that you care for, including street trees outside your home, there is a lot you can do to help them overwinter safely.

Winter care starts in the summer. Give the trees, even well-established trees, water during the long hot and dry summers. They would like an inch of water a week all around their drip line. Give them water as far out as the leaves and branches extend from the trunk. Give them some mulch to cool their roots. And pull up the weeds that steal water from the tree roots. If you are out for a walk, drain a bottle of water on a thirsty looking tree.

Check the trees for insect damage. Most insects are beneficial or at least harmless. But if you see some insects that are suspicious, take a picture, ask your garden shop or Master gardener for identification and advice. Look for natural ways to repel the insects rather than toxic sprays or powders.

In autumn, keep the trees watered. Rake up dropped fruit. And put down another layer of mulch if needed. In winter, check that the trees are not in standing water and look for broken branches from wind or snow. Check to see if any branches need pruning.

Our trees help us so much. They clean our air. They filter and absorb excess water, keeping our waterways healthy. They produce lots of oxygen and absorb lots of climate changing carbon dioxide. They provide cool shade. They provide food and nests for birds. They improve our mental and emotional health. They improve our property values. They even help reduce crime and mortality rates.

Just over one hundred years ago, Olympic Hills was an ancient forest with 800 year old trees, streams flowing with salmon, and foraging bears. We don't know of any Native villages in Olympic Hills, but the native people would have hunted here. Today, Olympic Hills is a diverse, family friendly neighborhood. It has lots of trees. **Thank you for visiting Olympic Hills!**