

COLUMBIA CITY 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

Columbia City Tree Walk

Tree Walk begins at the Rainier Community Center (4600 38th Ave S)

Tree Number & Common name <i>Botanical name</i> Location	Tree Descriptions Notes
1. American Elm <i>Ulmus american</i> Rainier playfield	Most elm trees in Seattle are American Elms, which are renowned for their grandeur, with heights reaching 100ft. However, these elms have been particularly ravaged by Dutch elm disease, resulting in more hybrid elms being planted since the 1990's.
2. Ginkgo tree <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> Rainier playfield	Native to China, these unique trees are considered living fossils, resembling fossils from over 200 million years ago and having no current living relatives. They are also extremely resilient trees, living for thousands of years. In Hiroshima 1945, six ginkgo trees within two miles of the atomic explosion survived, and are still alive today.
3. Hinoki Cypress <i>Chamaecyparis obtuse</i> 38 th & Alaska St	Slow growing cypress native to central Japan. While many people opt for plant dwarf version of this tree, naturally they can grow up to 120 ft tall. Unfortunately these particular trees have been topped and won't be reaching that anytime soon.
4. Pissard's Purple-leaved plum <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 38 th & S Angelina St.	This beautiful fruit tree was brought to France from Persia by M. Pissard, who was head gardener to the Shah. Come back end of July and you might find some little plums to snack on if the birds don't get to it first!

<p>5. Silver Maple <i>Acer saccharinum</i></p> <p>Rainier Ave S & S Angelina St</p>	<p>One of the many types of maples planted and maintained by the Seattle Dept. of Transportation. Studies from UW have shown that urban trees positively affect local businesses by creating a more welcoming consumer experience.</p>
<p>6. Crimson King Norway Maple <i>Acer platanoides</i></p> <p>Rainier Ave S & S Angelina St</p>	<p>These beastly trees are just one of many cultivars of Norway Maples, with leaves tinted purple all summer long.</p>
<p>7. Catalpa <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> or <i>Catalpa speciosa</i></p> <p>Corner yard of blue building</p>	<p>There are two main species of catalpa in North America. The main way to distinguish them is by their flowers and seed pods, neither of which this young catalpa seems to have.</p>
<p>8. Douglas-fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i></p> <p>S Ferdinand St & 39th Ave S</p>	<p>Good ol' Doug-firs, one of the main players in our NW forests. These trees can grow up to 300ft and live for hundreds of years. Unfortunately, this particular tree might meet its fate prematurely due to the massive amount of invasive ivy currently dominating it.</p>
<p>9. Kentucky Coffeetree <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i></p> <p>S Ferdinand St & 39th Ave S</p>	<p>A relatively rare species, the tree's seeds were used as a substitute for coffee by pioneers. Before you run and grab your coffee grinders, be warned: the seeds are both poisonous if not fully roasted and not nearly as tasty as real coffee.</p>
<p>10. Flowering Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i></p> <p>Corner of Ferdinand St. & 42nd</p>	<p>Adorning what looks like huge white flowers near the end of May, a closer look shows that the actual flowers are the little cluster of green in the middle of the four white bracts, which are modified leaves rather than petals.</p>

<p>11. Persian Walnut <i>Juglans regia</i></p> <p>42nd Ave S, across the street</p>	<p>This tree produces the types of walnuts you find in the store. They are particularly common in SE Seattle and stand out with their sweetly fragrant leaves.</p>
<p>12. Common Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyma</i></p> <p>S Angelina St & 42nd Ave S</p>	<p>There are a lot of Hawthorns out there and it can be tricky to tell them apart. This species in particular is used extensively for both culinary (edible leaves, fruit, and petals) and medicinal uses. So start working on your I.D. skills!</p>
<p>13. Honey Locust <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i></p> <p>S Angelina St & 39th Ave S</p>	<p>In nature, honey locusts are adorned with daunting thorns 3-10cm long. The tree derives its name from the sweet pulp incased in its large seedpods, which were used by Native Americans as a natural sweetener and thickener.</p>
<p>14. Fig Tree <i>Ficus carica</i></p> <p>Across from the honey locust</p>	<p>Fig trees are fairly common in the region, particularly in south-central Seattle. Preferring warmth and sun, most remain fruitless shrubs rather than flourishing trees. This particular tree seems to be one of the lucky ones that was either cultivated to fruit here or simply planted in just the right spot.</p>
<p>15. Silver Birch <i>Betula pendula</i></p> <p>39th Ave S, toward S Americus St</p>	<p>While its peeling bark is similar to the paper birch, the silver birch has a distinctive pendulous shape. As it gets older, the peeling bark becomes more rigid and marked by deep fissures.</p>
<p>16. Goldenchain Tree <i>Laburnum anagyroides</i></p> <p>Corner of path above S Americus St</p>	<p>This tree/shrub is rather unassuming, until mid-April when its branches are embellished by hanging clusters of bright yellower flowers.</p>

<p>17. Horse Chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i></p> <p>Midway down path</p>	<p>Very common in Seattle, this tree drops spiny green fruits in the fall which reveal shiny buck-eyes inside.</p>
<p>18. Douglas Fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i></p> <p>Corner of S Americus St and 42nd</p>	<p>A perfect example of right tree in the right place and proper ivy removal, these pair of Doug Firs are well over a hundred years old!</p>
<p>19. Katsura <i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i></p> <p>Corner of Americus St across from Doug Firs</p>	<p>This attractive tree is native to Japan and China. It thrives in the wet climate of Seattle, and is known for producing a sweet cotton-candy fragrance during the fall.</p>
<p>20. Service Berry <i>Amelanchier arborea</i></p> <p>Street trees along 42nd</p>	<p>This small tree can grow up to 40 ft and produces edible fruits in July and August. Its downy leaves distinguish it from other types of serviceberry trees.</p>
<p>21. Sweet Gum <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i></p> <p>Corner of S Alaska St & 42nd</p>	<p>One of the main forest trees in the southeastern United States, this tree is sometimes referred to as alligator-wood because of the reptilian look of its small branches, which grows bark edgewise in plates rather than laterally.</p>

<p>22. Deodar Cedar <i>Cedrus deodora</i></p> <p>Path along Rainier Playfield, past S Snoqualmie St</p>	<p>This true cedar is native to the Western Himalayas and is regarded as a divine tree in Hinduism. It has become a fairly popular tree in Seattle, and is the most common tree planted along I-5.</p>
<p>23. Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i></p> <p>Near community gardens</p>	<p>Similar to the white oak, this tree is distinguished by having pointed leaves rather than rounded.</p>
<p>24. London Plane tree <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i></p> <p>Across from community center</p>	<p>The London plane is a hybrid between Oriental planes and American sycamores. Because it is so resilient to pollution and soil compaction, it is one of the most planted urban trees.</p>