

Chinatown-International District Tree Walk

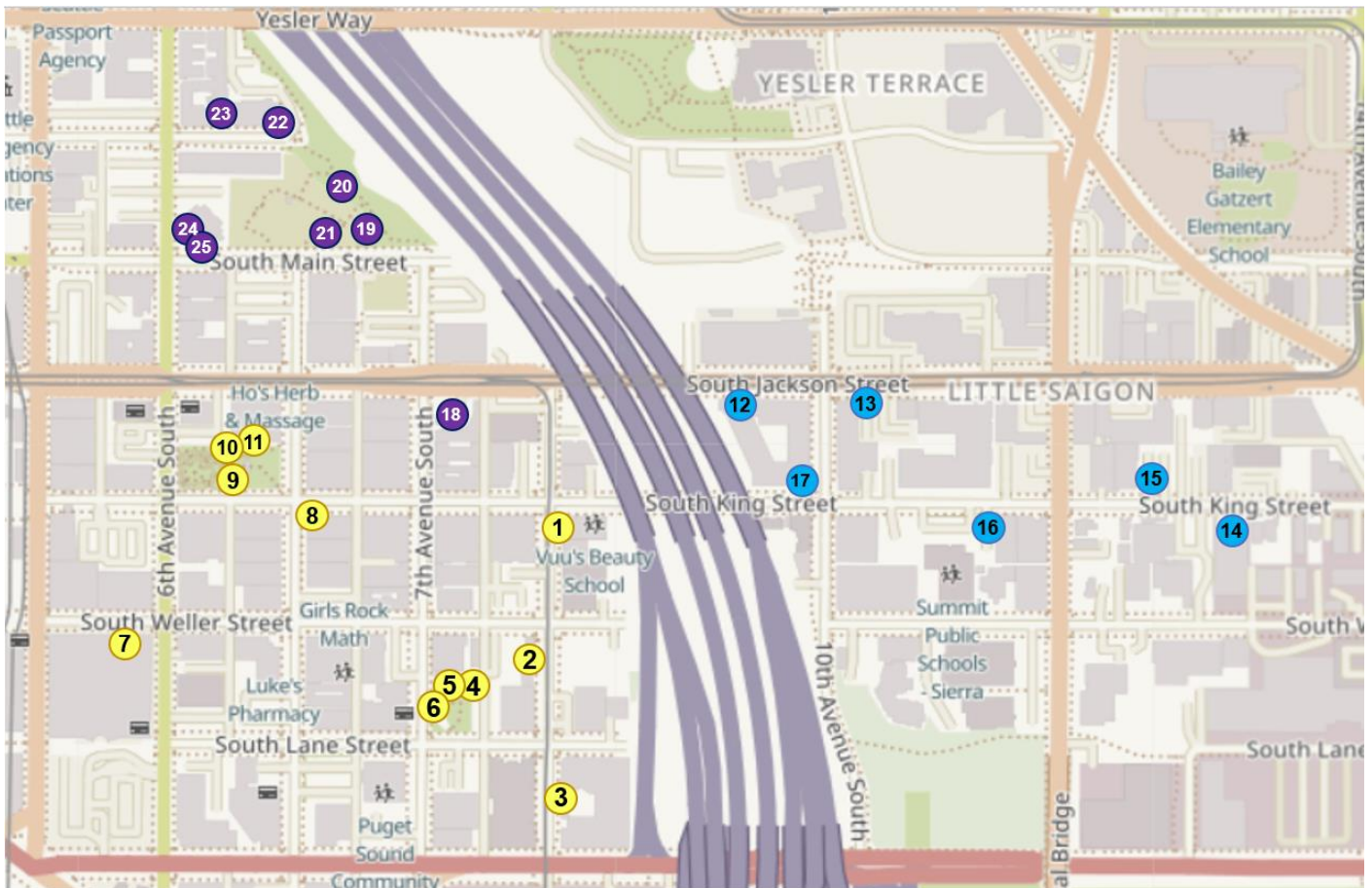
“History, Culture and Trees”

This walk is in partnership with the Wing Luke Museum to celebrate the diverse culture and neighborhoods of the International District. Explore Chinatown, Little Saigon, and Japantown while learning about the history of the district and these beautiful trees.

Chinatown: Yellow dots (1-11)

Little Saigon: Blue dots (12-17)

Japantown: Purple dots (18-25)





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


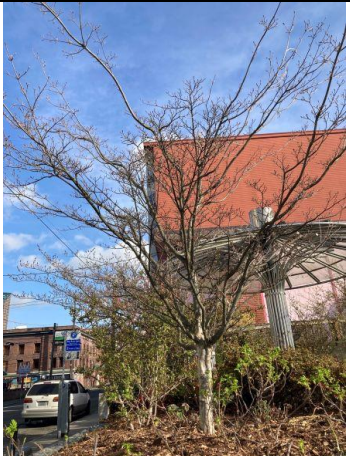
Call: 206-615-1668



Email: treeambassador@seattle.gov



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Tree #	Common Name <i>Botanic Name</i> Address	Tree Descriptions Notes	Photos
1	<p>Skyline Honey Locust <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> 'Skycole'</p> <p>719 S King St SDOT</p>	<p>Welcome to the Chinatown Tree Walk, starting at the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience. On the other side of the museum is Canton Alley which has beautiful artwork you can enjoy as you walk to the first tree.</p> <p>This beautiful tree is a common street tree in this neighborhood. It is thornless and creates fewer seedpods than other locusts, which can become trip hazards and create barriers for people using the sidewalk.</p> <p>Its relative, the Chinese honey Locust, <i>Gleditsia sinensis</i>, is highly valued for its thorns (Zao Jiao Zi) and seedpods (Zao Jiao), which can be used for traditional medicinal purposes and as the ingredients for soap. Skyline, this particular variety of American honey locust, is planted here because it resembles the medicinal Chinese locust.</p>	
2	<p>Loquat <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i></p> <p>611 8th Ave S Private</p>	<p>Introduced from China and Japan, loquat is a traditional evergreen shrub or tree that produces yellow to orange fruits called pi pa in Chinese in late spring to summer. The cultivar of the tree is often used in fruit production because ripened fruit pi pa is very rich in nutrients. This tree has white fragrant flowers that bloom any time between fall and winter. Although young leaves and seeds can be slightly poisonous, the dried huge leaves are commonly used in traditional Chinese medicine.</p> <p>The loquat is an uncommon tree in Seattle, and it is even rarer to see one this big. Arthur Lee Jacobson, who wrote a book about Seattle trees, believed that this tree was planted around 1961!</p>	




<p>3</p>	<p>Paperbark Maple Xue Pi Feng 血皮槭 <i>Acer griseum</i> 720 8th Ave S SDOT</p>	<p>The paperbark maple is native to central China where it can grow in altitudes up to 7,000 feet (half-way up Mount Rainier!). It is named for its attractive papery peeling bark, which is a reddish-brown color. The trifoliate leaves (meaning the leaves are a small clump of three leaflets) turn a bright red color in fall.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Dawn Redwood <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i> Near the parking lot on the east side of Donnie Chin International Children's Park PARKS</p>	<p>Like the ginkgo (featured later on this walk), this tree species can be traced back to the dinosaur eras. It is a deciduous conifer, meaning they produce cones but unlike most conifers, they drop their leaves in the winter. It is theorized that this happens to conserve energy during harsh winters.</p> <p>This species is native to central China. Fossils of this tree were observed by Japanese paleobotanist Shigeru Miki in the early 1940s. Seeds were brought to the USA soon after. This particular tree is dedicated to Donnie Chin, the late director of the International District Emergency Center. He is considered the hero that brought the International District community together.</p>	  

<p>5</p>	<p>Hinoki Cypress <i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i></p> <p>Near the wall on the north side of Donnie Chin International Children's Park</p> <p>PARKS</p>	<p>Native to East Asia, Hinoki cypress is a slow-growing evergreen conifer. While this one is small, it can grow up to 75 feet tall. The trees you see here are at a very young age. Hinoki Cypress is a great tree for screening views for privacy because of its height and dense leaves. Some varieties only grow a foot tall, so they are popular for bonsai trees. Hinoki means "fire tree" in Japanese. It is genetically related to the Sawara Cypress in the Little Saigon walk.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Kousa Dogwood <i>Cornus kousa</i></p>	<p>This plant is also called Chinese dogwood, Japanese dogwood, and Korean dogwood because it is native to all of those countries. Kousa dogwood have beautiful blooms in late spring. The blossoms include white modified leaves (called bracts) which surround the actual flower. If you look closely, you can see the small green flower in the middle of four white bracts.</p>	

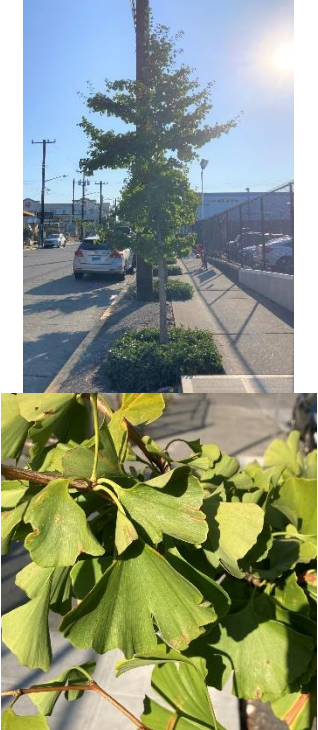

<p>7</p>	<p>Japanese Snowbell Tree <i>Styrax japonicus</i></p> <p>525 S Weller St</p> <p>Private</p>	<p>Like the Kousa Dogwood, this tree is native to China, Japan, and Korea. It is called “snowbell” because of its white bell-shaped flowers that bloom in early summer. This tree was used to make umbrellas from its branches and insecticide from its seeds. Two snowbell trees are proudly featured at the Seattle Japanese Garden.</p> <p>This particular tree has suffered some damage from cars on the side of the street and some pruning to prevent it from hitting the awning of Uwajimaya Asian grocery store. While this tree is appropriate for small spaces, like under powerlines, it is important that trees aren’t planted too close to structures, or they will likely suffer.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Eddie's White Wonder Dogwood <i>Cornus nuttallii x florida</i></p> <p>505 Maynard Ave S</p> <p>SDOT</p>	<p>The particular variety of dogwood is a hybrid between our native Pacific dogwood (<i>Cornus nuttallii</i>) and flowering dogwood (<i>Cornus florida</i>) which is native to the eastern US and northern Mexico. It is more resistant to disease like fungal anthracnose and more adaptable to urban environment than its parents. The tree has an interesting lumpy form with showy white blossom in the spring and red foliage in the fall.</p>	


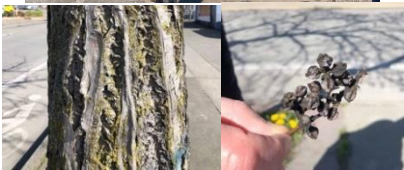
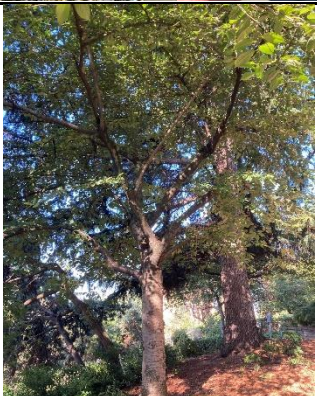

<p>9</p>	<p>Village Green Zelkova Chu Shu/Ju Shu Keaki/Keyaki <i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Village Green'</p> <p>Biggest tree at the south end of Hing Hay Park</p> <p>PARKS</p>	<p>This is an uncommon tree in Seattle but very common as a street tree in the CID. This tree has a major presence in the park with its wide form and showy, majestic habit, which is similar to elm trees. The leaves have beautiful orange to yellow fall color, so make sure you come back and enjoy it in the fall. This particular variety 'Village Green' serves well as an urban tree because of its high tolerance to wind, pollution, drought, and soil compaction.</p> <p>If you take a look at the bottom of the trees next to it on the sidewalk, you can notice the roots of the tree have grown circular around the trunk due to previous constraint of tree grate. This is called girdling, and it can stress the tree. Luckily, the grate has been removed and the roots now have more space.</p>	 
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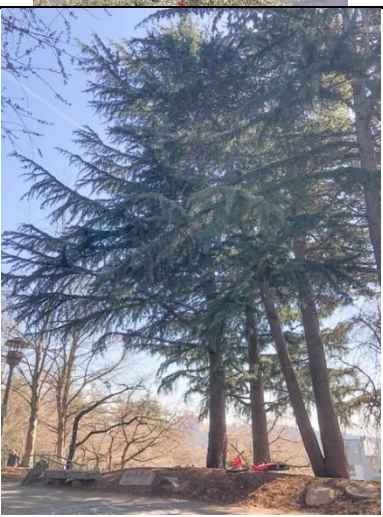
<p>10</p>	<p>Crape Myrtle <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i></p> <p>Small tree near the pavilion of Hing Hay Park</p>	<p>Crape Myrtles can be a shrub or tree depending on size and pruning. They are known for their smooth bark and beautiful summer flowers that range from white to deep pink. This species adapts to hot dry or humid weather as well as occasional cold weather, which makes it suitable for withstanding the challenge of global warming. It is a nice ornamental tree for the park.</p> <p>The traditional Chinese-style pavilion of Hing Hay Park was donated by the City of Taipei when the old part of the park was designed in 1970s when the park was only 0.33 acres. It is now twice the size!</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>Ginkgo <i>Ginkgo biloba</i></p> <p>Tree near the Hing Hay lantern. At the north side of Hing Hay Park</p> <p>PARKS</p>	<p>Originating from China, the ginkgo tree is considered as the living fossil of trees because it is the most primitive tree on Earth, and it can live up to 1,000 years! The leaves of ginkgo are unique with a fan shape and their vibrant yellow color in the fall. The tree is a male plant, which doesn't produce any fruit, while the female plant produces fruit with a strong smell. You can also see some cultivars of Ginkgo, which is developed to better suited urban streets as street trees in the Little Saigon and Japantown walks.</p> <p>The Hing Hay lantern near the tree was designed by George Lee as an art piece that highlights the cultural significance of the park in 2019.</p>	



<p>12</p>	<p>Red Horsechestnut <i>Aesculus x carnea</i></p> <p>913 S Jackson St</p> <p>SDOT</p>	<p>This tree is a hybrid between the red buckeye and the horse chestnut, hence its name. It blooms beautiful pink to red flower clusters in spring. They provide great shade and are often used as street trees to cool city streets. Red horsechestnuts grow brown nuts in spikey, green pods. These nuts are toxic to humans and should not be eaten.</p>	
<p>13</p>	<p>Cherry/Plum/Laurel <i>Prunus sp.</i></p> <p>1017 S Jackson St</p> <p>SDOT</p>	<p>The Prunus genus includes over 430 species, including cherries, plums, and peaches. They are native to northern temperate regions. Their fruits are called “stone fruits” because of the hard pit in the center. These fruits are generally good for human health as some contain antioxidants that may prevent disease.</p> <p>Some cultivars are planted as ornamental trees because of their beautiful flowers, fruits, or foliage.</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>Sawara Cypress <i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i></p> <p>1251 S King St</p> <p>Private</p>	<p>This evergreen tree is native to Japan. It is used for its timber and as a beautiful ornamental tree in European, American, and Japanese gardens. This tree has an impressive height, growing 50-60 feet tall. Its leaves are soft and scaled unlike other evergreens with needles. They also grow spherical cones which are initially green.</p>	


15	<p>Willow <i>Salix sp.</i></p> <p>1234 S King St</p> <p>Private</p>	<p>Willows are known for their drooping branches and long leaves that create beautiful movement in the wind. There are more than 400 species of willows! They have a variety of uses, including medicinal, tools such as fishing baskets, and for religious ceremonies. Willows love water, so it's a wonder that it survives in this relatively harsh urban landscape.</p> <p>The tree is right next to the future green crossing between Jackson St. and King St., one of the few green spaces in Little Saigon area in the future.</p> <p>As you keep walking towards 12th Ave S, you may notice many developments happening on here. It is because 12th Ave S is a major throughfare that connects to Beacon Hill in the south and Downtown Seattle in the north.</p>	  
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<p>16</p>	<p>Princeton Sentry Ginkgo <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> 'Princeton Sentry' 1025 S King St, North of parking lot SDOT</p>	<p>Ginkgoes are native to China, but fossils have been found in North America from 170 million years ago. Some theorize that other plants evolved and overtook the ginkgoes' habitat, leaving modern ginkgoes to be confined to Eastern Asia. They have easily-recognized fan-shaped leaves.</p> <p>A cultivar is a variety of a tree species that was selectively bred for certain characteristics. This ginkgo is a narrow cultivar that is suitable as a street tree because of its narrow form. Ginkgo cultivars are all male to prevent female fruit from littering the streets and sidewalks. Its leaves become a beautiful yellow in the fall.</p>	
<p>17</p>	<p>Scarlet Oak <i>Quercus coccinea</i> 423 10th Ave S Private</p>	<p>The Scarlet Oak is native to the Eastern United States. They have green leaves with seven lobes with pointy tips. This species is named for its beautiful deep red fall foliage. They also produce acorns that are eaten by wildlife such as squirrels and birds.</p> <p>The winter picture of this tree shows marcescence, which is when trees keep dead leaves throughout the winter. This is common in oak trees, especially young trees. There are numerous theories as to why this happens. Some think that it could prevent animals from eating parts of the tree or collect snow over the winter for water in the spring.</p>	

<p>18</p>	<p>Amur Cork Tree <i>Phellodendron amurense</i></p> <p>701 S Jackson St</p> <p>SDOT</p>	<p>The Amur Cork Tree is known for its thick, spongy bark. The leaves have a unique citrus smell when crushed. It is native to Eastern Asia, including parts of China, Korea, and Japan. However, this tree is considered invasive in the US. One tree can produce thousands of winged seeds that are carried by the wind.</p> <p>Amur Cork Tree has many medicinal uses. Huáng bò, an herb used in traditional Chinese medicine, is produced by using parts of this tree. The herb is used to lower fever, treat pneumonia, and lower blood pressure.</p>	 
<p>19</p>	<p>Mt. Fuji Cherry Trees <i>Prunus serrulata</i> 'Mt. Fuji'</p> <p>Kobe Terrace PARKS</p>	<p>These beautiful Cherry Trees are native to Japan, China, and Korea. Buds in pink and flowers are white. These trees are gifted as a symbol of friendship by the mayor of Kobe, Japan, the sister city of Seattle.</p> <p>This tree is located in Danny Woo Community Garden. This garden founded in 1975 is the largest green space in the International District. This space allows residents to explore their passion for gardening in a dense urban environment.</p>	 

<p>20</p>	<p>Japanese White Pine <i>Pinus parviflora</i></p> <p>Where the paths converge at the upper level of Kobe Terrace</p>	<p>Japanese White Pine is a great ornamental conifer suitable for small yard because of its columnar shape. The needles of this pine have a blue-ish hue. Their cones grow in clusters and turn from green to reddish brown as they mature.</p> <p>The tree is often used as bonsai or container plant. Bonsai is a Japanese term for the traditional horticultural practice of growing plants in container, which has a long history both in Japan and China. It represents nature in a smaller size by training the form of the trees.</p>	
<p>21</p>	<p>Deodar Cedar <i>Cedrus deodara</i></p> <p>North entrance of Kobe Terrace</p> <p>PARKS</p>	<p>Deodar Cedars, also called Himalayan Cedars, have iconic drooping leaves and branches. It is also called the Himalayan Cedar because it is native to the mountain range and can grow in high elevations. Essential oils can be made from these trees and used as insect repellent or in aromatherapy. It is the national tree of Pakistan.</p> <p>This part of the Danny Woo Community Garden is called the Kobe Terrace, named after Seattle's "sister city" of Kobe, Japan. Several Mount Fuji cherry trees and a Yukimi stone lantern were donated by the people of Kobe.</p>	

<p>22</p>	<p>London Plane <i>Platanus x hispanica (P x acerifolia)</i></p> <p>626 S Washington St</p> <p>Private</p>	<p>The London Plane is a hybrid tree that can grow to 75-100 feet tall with a spread of 80 feet wide. It is related to the Sycamore tree, both of which have splotchy and peeling bark. They produce spikey, non-edible fruits that hang in small clusters. The base of this tree is covered by an invasive ivy. This can eventually harm a tree if the ivy climbs high enough by damaging branches and bark and taking the tree's nutrients.</p> <p>This tree is in front of the Nippon Kan Theater which was opened by Japanese residents in the early 1900s. It closed for a few decades during incarceration of Japanese Americans in World War II. It was named a Historic Landmark. The curtain that displayed advertisements is now at the Wing Luke Museum.</p>	
<p>23</p>	<p>Italian Oak <i>Quercus frainetto</i> 'Schmidt'</p> <p>120 6th Ave S</p> <p>Private</p>	<p>Also called the Hungarian Oak, the Italian Oak tree is native to Europe. Like many oaks, its leaves have distinct sinuous lobes. Oaks are extremely valuable to the urban landscape because it can provide a wide canopy for shelter and food, such as acorns, for urban wildlife. The "Schmidt" cultivar, also called Forest Green, was introduced in Oregon in the 1980s.</p>	

<p>24</p>	<p>Japanese Maple Iroha-momiji/Yama-momiji <i>Acer palmatum</i></p> <p>202 6th Ave S</p> <p>Private</p>	<p>The Japanese Maple is very common in Seattle. It has fascinating red fall foliage. Japanese maples have many cultivars that vary in form and leaf shape. They have many purposes like using its sap for cooking or medical benefits such as liver health. The tree can get quite big like this one, so it is important to pick the right place for it. Right now, it is a little too big for this place. Maples comprise of about 30% of Seattle's urban forest, which may be too many for the city, and we now need more diverse species!</p> <p>Across the street is Panama Hotel and Tea House, which was built by a Japanese American architect, Sabro Ozasa, in 1910. There is an exhibition underground that displays the belongings left by Japanese Americans due to Japanese internment during WWII.</p>	
<p>25</p>	<p>Japanese Red Pine <i>Pinus densiflora</i></p> <p>202 6th Ave S</p> <p>Private</p>	<p>The Japanese Red Pine or Korean Red Pine is a small conifer from Eastern Asia. You can generally distinguish what kind of pine it is based on the needles in a bundle. In this case, there are two needles in a bundle. The bark is papery and red, hence the name red pine. It is the most common Japanese pine in nature and in Seattle. It is suitable for this space because of its small size.</p> <p>This pine is historically used for timber, even in Japanese architecture from hundreds of years ago. It is also special in Korea with ties to Confucianism. This tree is even mentioned in the South Korean national anthem.</p>	