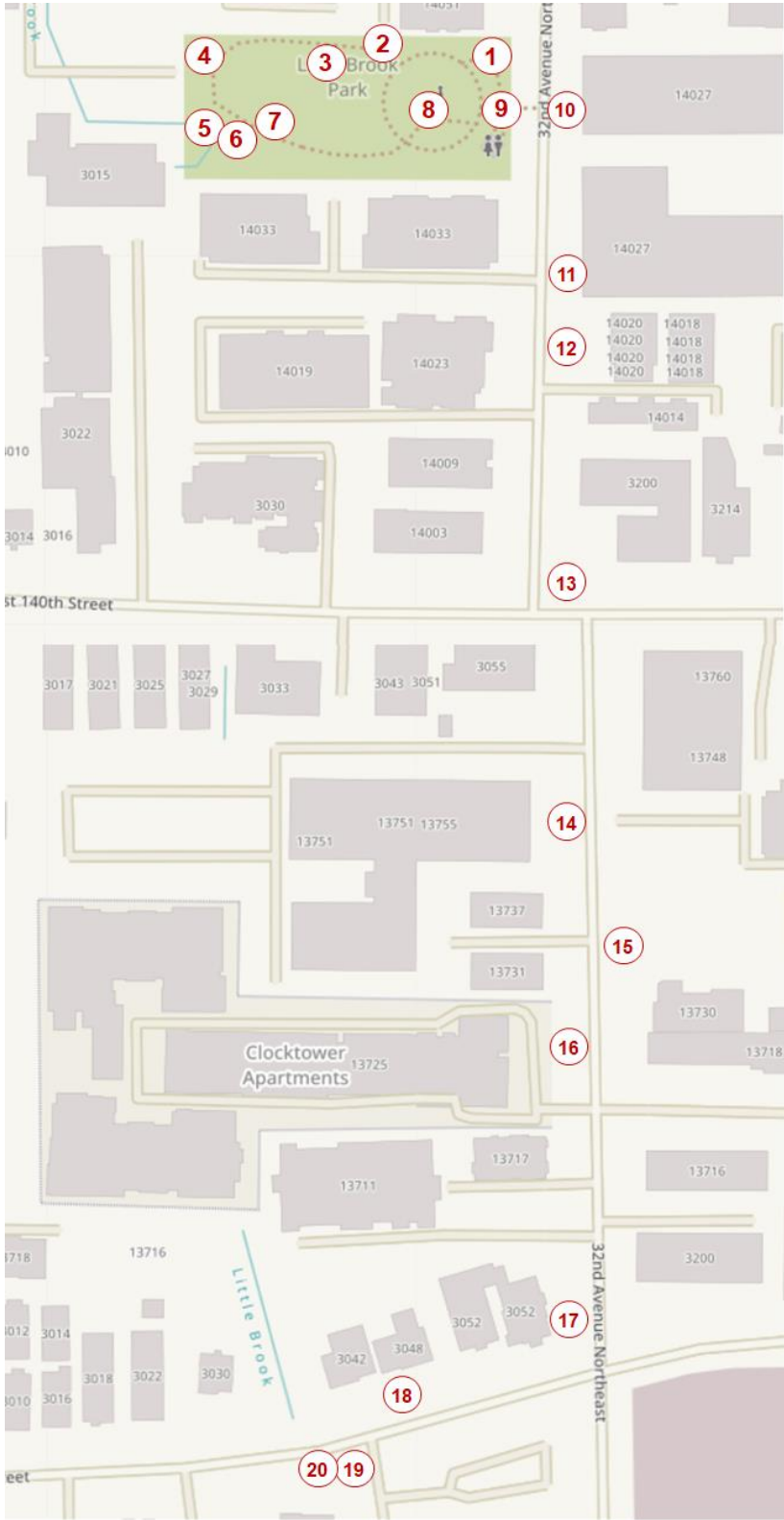


Little Brook Tree Walk





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 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: treambassador@seattle.gov




Follow Trees for Seattle on Facebook and Instagram




Little Brook Tree Walk features the creek and the trees that help to keep the creek clean. It is located in diverse communities with wonderful people speaking over 20 languages, hardworking immigrants, families, and young people. As you enjoy the tree walk and appreciate the neighborhood, think about how trees help filter polluted water and contribute to the neighborhood. The Little Brook Creek and the rest of Northeast Seattle's Thornton Creek are monitored and restored by the Thornton Creek Alliance. Contact them for more information or to help.

Tree Walk begins at Start at Little Brook Park, 14043 32nd avenue NE.



DBH and height recorded on 03/30/2021

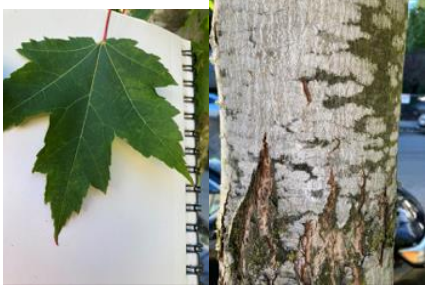

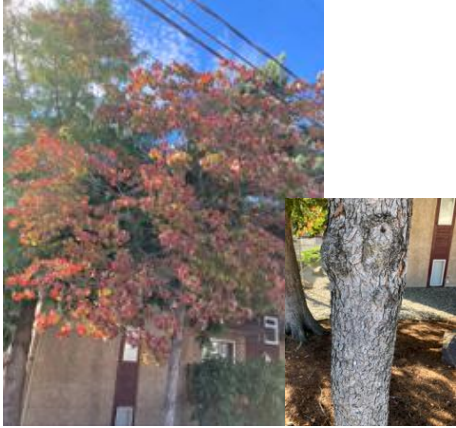
Tree #	Common Name <i>Botanic Name</i> Address Ownership	Tree Descriptions Notes	Photos
1	<p>Lodgepole Pine <i>Pinus contorta</i></p> <p>El Pino 扭葉松/扭叶松</p> <p>A small group to the right of the park entrance 14043 32nd Avenue NE</p> <p>Height: 24' DBH: 12"</p>	<p>The lodgepole pines stand at the entrance to the park, welcoming all. The Lodgepole pine or shore pine is a native to the Pacific Northwest. The lodgepole variety grows inland and the shore pine grows near the ocean. The lodgepole grows naturally in tall thick stands. Both depend on fires to prepare the seeds for germination. They have two needles to a cluster, dark rough bark and cones that remain on the tree for years. You can see many of them planted around town, and further out if you get out of town for a hike.</p>	
2	<p>Black Locust <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i></p> <p>la falsa acacia 刺槐</p> <p>on the trail to the right</p> <p>Height: 40' DBH: 16"</p>	<p>The black locust is native to the southeastern United States. It is another invasive species, outcompeting native trees for water and sunlight. It is a beautiful tree that really shows off its graceful branches in winter. The wood is very strong and durable. The seeds are poisonous to cattle. Many black locust trees have long sharp thorns, but we don't see any on these.</p>	



<p>3</p>	<p>Katsura <i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i></p> <p>Katsura 连香树</p> <p>On the lawn to the left</p> <p>Height: 29.5' DBH: 14"</p>	<p>Katsura trees are native to the forests of Japan. The Japanese often use Katsura wood to make “goban” the board for the game of “Go.” The trees grow well in our climate but don’t spread. They have softly colored leaves in early autumn.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Bigleaf Maple <i>Acer macrophyllum</i></p> <p>el arce de Oregon 大叶槭树/大叶枫树</p> <p>Follow path back until it just begins to turn left</p> <p>Height: 39' DBH: 10"</p>	<p>The bigleaf maple is a native broadleaf deciduous tree. It grows on the Pacific slope from Southern California to central British Columbia. Its wood is used for furniture and even guitars. Its leaves are bigger than your hand. Look for more around town.</p> <p>The beautiful bigleaf maple fights back against civilization. Its strong vigorous roots can break up sidewalks and other infrastructure.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Little Brook Creek</p> <p>Little Brook小溪</p> <p>Along the very back of the park</p>	<p>Little Brook Creek surfaces for a bit here before flowing into underground pipes. The Little Brook Youth Corps and the Thornton Creek Alliance work together to restore the health of the creek by removing trash and invasive plants. The Little Brook Youth Corps learns about science in the watershed as they test the water for e-coli and toxins. They trim plants, pull weeds and plant native species.</p>	







<p>6</p>	<p>Red Alder <i>Alnus rubra</i></p> <p>el aliso rojo americano 红桤木</p> <p>Height: 52' DBH: 10"</p>	<p>The native red alder loves to grow around water. It is common around the Pacific northwest. It has the smooth bark, woody seed cones that stay on the tree all winter and spear shaped leaves. It lives about as long as most people. Its most common use is as firewood. The Red Alder is one of the first trees to grow on disturbed areas. It grows quickly and works with bacteria on its roots to produce nitrogen. Other trees will use the nitrogen for fertilizer after the Red Alder dies. Birds nest and perch on the branches. Insects that live on the bark are food for the birds.</p>	 
<p>7</p>	<p>Black Cottonwood <i>Populus balsamifera var. trichocarpa</i></p> <p>美國黑楊/美国黑杨</p> <p>Several tall trees on the right of the path as it heads back towards the street</p> <p>Height: 70' DBH: 18"</p>	<p>The black cottonwood is another tall tree that likes to live close to water. It is native from the southwest coast of Alaska to the mountains of Baja California. The seeds come out and blow around later in the spring. They look like snow. Some people blame the seeds for their allergies. People may be allergic to the invisible pollen that comes out earlier in the spring but not to the fluffy white seeds that blow around like snow. This tree helps us by capturing over 650 pounds of carbon dioxide and other toxic pollutants per year. It soaks up over 2000 gallons of stormwater per year.</p>	



<p>8</p>	<p>Raywood Narrowleaf Ash <i>Fraxinus augustifolia</i> “Raywood”</p> <p>El fresno 桤树</p> <p>on the left as we circle back to the playground</p> <p>Height: 35’ DBH: 14”</p>	<p>The Raywood narrowleaf ash is another non-native but very attractive tree. Native to South Australia, it makes a good tree for parks and streets because it naturally grows in dry, poor and compacted soil. The particular cultivar Raywood has beautiful leaves purple shade color in the fall. Native ash trees in North America are susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive pest that attacks ash trees, but given this ash is non North American ash tree, it may have some resistance to the pest.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Flowering Pear <i>Pyrus sp.</i></p> <p>Los perales 豆梨/花梨</p> <p>Back out on the sidewalk, right in front of the park</p> <p>Height: 14’ DBH: 9”</p>	<p>These flowering pears are very similar to the pear trees that grow fruit. But instead of being bred to grow delicious fruit, these trees have been bred to grow beautiful flowers in the spring. There are quite a few growing around Lake City. There are some on the same blocks as the post office and the library. They all develop a, harmless to humans, leaf disease over the summer, that helps us recognize them.</p>	

<p>10</p>	<p>Galaxy Magnolia <i>Magnolia 'Galaxy'</i></p> <p>La Magnolia '群英'玉兰</p> <p>Directly across from the park are these lovely flowering trees.</p> <p>Height: 19' DBH: 4"</p>	<p>These magnolias show off their gorgeous flowers in early spring. There are many magnolias growing throughout the city and the world. Different varieties flower from early spring until well into summer. Magnolias are a very ancient genus. They developed even before bees.</p> <p>The bark is used in traditional Chinese medicine. These small trees haven't soaked in a lot of carbon dioxide yet, many only less than a hundred pounds per tree, but given time to grow, they will absorb lots more.</p> <p>A hybrid of (<i>M. liliiflora 'Nigra'</i> x <i>M. sprengeri 'Diva'</i>)</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>Western Red Cedar <i>Thuja plicata</i></p> <p>Tuya gigante 西部红柏/红雪松</p> <p>14020 32nd avenue NE</p> <p>Height: 59' DBH: 25"</p>	<p>The western red cedar is an iconic Northwest native tree. It has scaled little leaves that stay green all year long. You see many western red cedars growing in the city and in the forests. They can grow to be very large and very old. Western red cedars are culturally important to Pacific Northwest Native people, and the wood is used by both Native people and European settlers to build houses, boats, fences and anything that needs strong, water resistant wood, that won't rot. Undoubtedly, this neighborhood was originally an ancient western red cedar forest. This big tree with three trunks will soak up about 230 pounds of carbon dioxide in a year, about the same amount that we create when we drive a car for about 230 miles.</p>	

<p>12</p>	<p>Red Maple <i>Acer rubra</i></p> <p>el arce rojo americano 美国红枫</p> <p>14020 32nd avenue NE</p> <p>Height: 37' DBH: 7.5"</p>	<p>Through every season there is usually something red growing on the red maple: the small flowers, the leaf stems, the samaras, and especially the leaves in autumn. The red maple leaf has 3 shallow lobes (protrusions), which sets it apart from other maples. The bark is smooth when young, but develops gray scaly ridges with a tinge of red as it ages. The samaras, seed pods, are red and form a 90 degree angle.</p>	
<p>13</p>	<p>Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i></p> <p>el roble rojo americano 红橡</p> <p>on NE corner of 32nd avenue NE and NE 140th street</p> <p>Height: 67' DBH: 28"</p>	<p>The red oak is native to Eastern North America. It is often planted as a beautiful large shade tree. Its strong and hard wood is valuable for building. Many animals eat the acorns. The red oak has a relationship with fungi that helps the oak grow so big. This red oak tree has taken in about 556 pounds of climate changing carbon dioxide this year. Over its lifetime, so far, this tree has sequestered over 30,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, plus significant amounts of other health destroying toxic air pollutants. red oaks this size would capture the same amount of carbon dioxide that the average American generates in one year.</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>Eastern Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i></p> <p>cornejo florido 大花四照花</p> <p>Height: 18' DBH: 5"</p>	<p>Dogwoods are unremarkable for most of the year, but in spring they produce delightful flowers. The dark grey bark gets very textured like alligator skin. The dogwood also produces small reddish fruits that birds enjoy. There is also a native dogwood, the Pacific dogwood. It is much less common than the Eastern dogwood or Asian hybrid varieties we see in the city, now.</p>	

<p>15</p>	<p>Purple Leaf Plum <i>Prunus cerasifera</i></p> <p>ciruelo mirabolano 紫叶李</p> <p>Height: 27' DBH: 8"</p>	<p>The purple leaf plum is a variety of the common edible fruit. These trees are grown for their beautiful foliage. We welcome their very early spring flowers. Some purple leaf plums produce tasty fruit, too.</p>	
<p>16</p>	<p>Japanese Maple <i>Acer palmatum</i></p> <p>arce palmado japonés 鸡爪槭/鸡爪枫</p> <p>13725 32nd avenue NE</p> <p>Height: 13' DBH: 5"</p>	<p>Thirty percent of all trees in Seattle are maples. Although this type is native to Japan, Korea, China, eastern Mongolia, and southeast Russia, it is generally called the "Japanese maple." They are handsome trees and can be maintained at a smaller size for city living. Like other trees, they take in climate destroying carbon dioxide and trap polluting air particulates.</p>	

<p>17</p>	<p>Douglas Fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i></p> <p>abeto de Douglas 花旗松</p> <p>3052 NE 137th street (on the 32nd ave NE side)</p> <p>Height: 74.5' DBH: 26"</p>	<p>The Little Brook Area along with most of the City of Seattle and the whole area was originally an ancient forest with many Douglas fir trees. The wood from these giant strong trees built the homes of this area and most of North America. Douglas fir trees grow from Mexico and North throughout western North America. Look for woody cones with trident shaped "bracts" that hold the seeds. They can grow to over 200 feet tall, several feet wide, and live for 1,000+ years. You can see many younger ones growing all over the area.</p>	  
<p>18</p>	<p>Little Brook Creek</p> <p>Little Brook 小溪</p> <p>NE 137th street between 30th ave NE and 32nd ave NE</p>	<p>Here is another look at Little Brook Creek before it flows into underground pipes. In the summer, there may not be much water flowing, but when it rains hard, the creek can overflow. Then yards and houses can flood when the pipes are full or blocked. Trees can soak up some of the excess water, but all that water needs safe places to go.</p>	 
<p>19</p>	<p>Atlas Cedar <i>Cedrus atlantica</i></p> <p>cedro del Atlas 北非雪松</p> <p>3031 NE 137th street NE, the smaller of the two</p> <p>Height: 30' DBH: 18"</p>	<p>The Atlas Cedar is native to the Atlas mountains of North Africa, very close relative to the cedars of Lebanon that built the Temple of King Solomon Note how the cone grow upwards. People love them and plant them where ever they will grow. Look around and you'll see these all around town. There is a nice one at Olympic Hills school. This Atlas cedar takes up about 114 pounds of Carbon Dioxide per year. Over its life time to date it has taken up about 1556 pounds of carbon dioxide. It soaks up</p>	

		<p>about 360 gallons of potential flood water a year. And, a neighborhood here, it trap pollutants: carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrous dioxide, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter that could get stuck in our lungs. Atlas cedars help keep our neighborhoods healthy.</p>	
20	<p>Fungi Micelio 菌类 under your feet</p>	<p>While we sometimes see mushroom growing for a few days at a time, we rarely think about their “roots,” called mycelium. constantly growing below the ground. Mycelium often work together with the trees to share and distribute carbon and nutrients. The mycelium often enable the tree roots to absorb nutrients. And the mycelium carry communications and nutrients from one tree to the others.</p>	

The Creek

Little Brook Creek originates in Shoreline. As it flows downhill into Seattle, the water is clean. It runs from NE 145th Street and 28th avenue NE, mostly underground in large pipes. It runs under streets, private homes and apartment houses and condos. It still remains visible running on the surface here and there. It runs through Little Brook Park and down the block.

It runs almost entirely through the underground pipes down and under Lake City Way and into the big retention pond at NE 125th street and 35th avenue NE, before eventually flowing into the North Fork of Thornton Creek and emptying into Lake Washington near Matthews Beach.

In nature, the Little creek just wound its way always flowing downhill, filling up any hollow places with water. Salmon and steel head trout would swim up stream to spawn in the Little Brook area. Deer and bears would drink the clean water and eagles would swoop down and catch little animals that weren't careful.

As loggers, farmers and real estate developers surveyed the area, they saw the creek as a problem. It flooded. It created muddy wetlands that were hard to farm or build on. And as they did to most of the rest of the other Thornton Creek tributaries, they saw it as a nuisance. They drained it, channeled it, piped it and hid it underground. They used it as a drainage ditch or big sewer.

We throw stuff on the ground, it washes into the creek. We drip oil, our tires break down, our actual sewers leak from our houses, our pets leave their waste on the ground, we throw candy wrappers and lawn chemicals and all kinds of big and microscopic plastic on the

ground. It all washes into the creek. It's one reason that our beaches get closed each summer. It's one reason the fish die.

We could fix Little Brook Creek up and make it beautiful. We could live with the creek. We could be more careful with all our waste. We could filter the water that gets polluted. We could make beautiful peaceful places for people and animals and trees along the creeks. The Thornton Creek Alliance works to monitor and restore Little Brook Creek and the rest of Northeast Seattle's Thornton Creek. Contact **The Thornton Creek Alliance** for more information or to help.

The People

The Little Brook neighborhood has wonderful people. There are beautiful hardworking families with many children and young people. There is lots of diversity and many immigrants. There are over 20 languages spoken. There are many trees, the creek and a little park. There is good transportation. There are restaurants and shops nearby.

The community has needs also. It needs programs for kids. It needs more parks and green space and more trees. The Little Brook park is nice but it is small. And it's the only park for a mile in any direction. Where can children play and adults meet and exercise? Where are sidewalks? How can children walk to school safely? Where are low interest loans for the people, including immigrants, to start small businesses? And where is support from the larger community to help restore the health of Little Brook Creek and its people.

The Little Brook community also needs protection from gentrification. As the neighborhood improves, will the current community be displaced.?

That's the end of this Tree Walk. We hope you enjoyed it. While you are here, walk around the neighborhood and enjoy the trees, the creek and the people. Thank you

Tree Walk description:

Little Brook Tree Walk features the creek and the trees that help to keep the creek clean. It is located in a diverse communities with wonderful people speaking over 20 languages, hardworking immigrants, families, and young people. As you enjoy the tree walk and appreciate the neighborhood, think about how trees help filter polluted water and contribute to the neighborhood. The little brook creek and the rest of Northeast Seattle's Thornton Creek are monitored and restored by the Thornton Creek Alliance. Contact them for more information or to help.