FIRST HILL 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

City of Seattle

Trees for Seattle
Your City of Seattle Tree Resource

First Hill Tree Walk

Starts at 9th and University Pavement Park

Tree Number & Common name *Botanical name* Address	**Tree Descriptions Notes**	**Photos**
1. Sweetgum ***Liquidambar syraciflua*** NW corner of University St. and Terry Ave.	These trees can become quite large, with their star shaped leaves and round poky seeds they are a city favorite. Its scientific name is derived from the Latin 'liquid' and Arabic for 'amber'. They are native to eastern North America and are also called American storax. Storax may fight some bacteria and is taken for cancer, coughs, diarrhea, epilepsy, parasitic infections and sore throats.	
2. Alaska/ Yellow Cedar ***Xanthocyparis nootkatensis*** NW corner of University St. and Terry Ave.	Their shapes are reminiscent of what Dr. Seuss would paint for a tree or maybe a witch tree to some. It has the strongest wood of the cedars and has been used to make boats. It is one of the slowest growth rates and have up to 60 growth rings per inch! It is native to the coastal regions of NW North America. If you expose the inner bark and it is yellow and smells like raw potatoes you know it's a yellow cedar. It is the oldest tree in our region, it can live up to 1500 years old!!	

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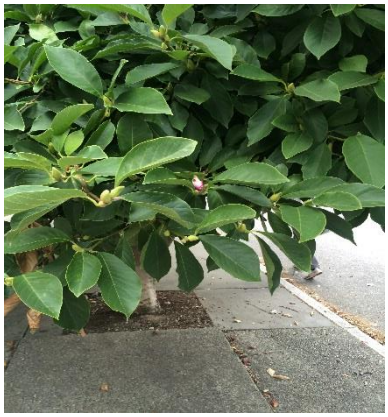
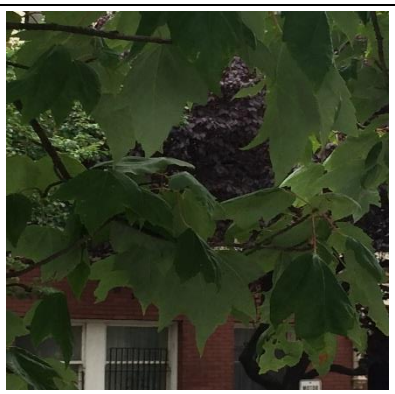
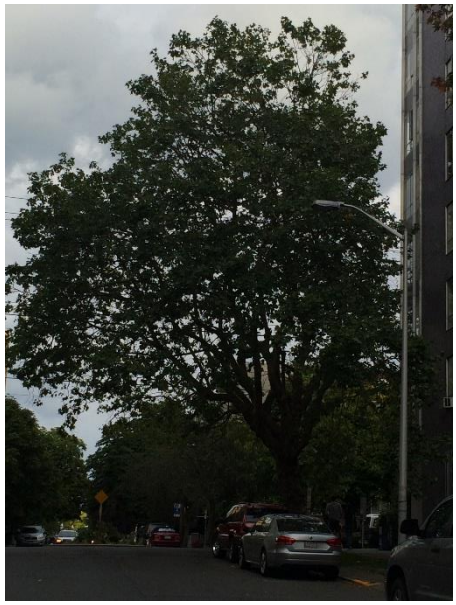
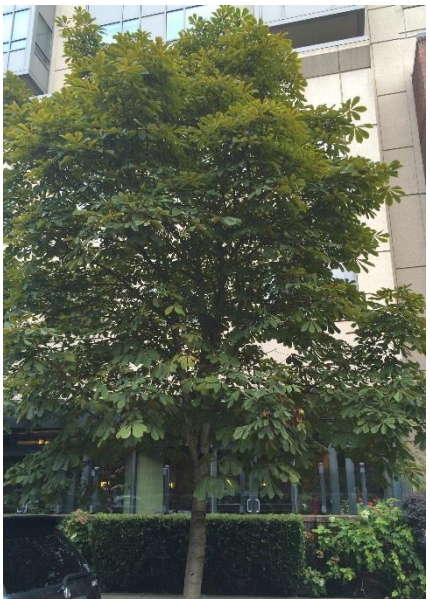
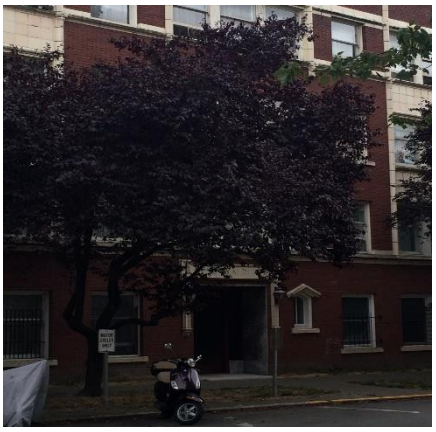
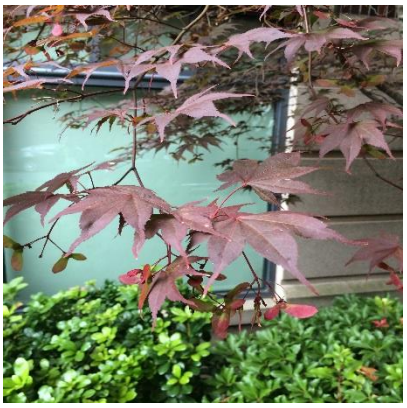
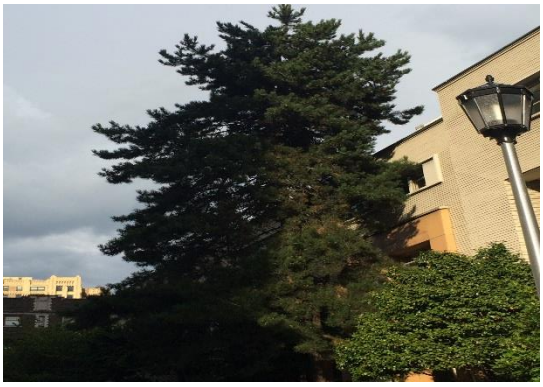
3. European Hornbeam ***Carpinus betulus*** **NE corner of University St. and Terry Ave.**	This is a wonderful tree for cities as it has a bell shape. It also likes to grow in bunches or rows, as seen here. Its leaves will turn a nice yellow in fall and its seeds are called catkins. 'Carpinus' is Latin for hornbeam and 'betulus' for birch. Hornbeam comes from 'horn' for hard and 'beam' old English tree.	
4. Chinese Juniper ***Juniperus*** **Chinensis 'broadway'** **University Street on north side by the alley between Terry and Boren Avenue**	This tree is native to northeast Asia and has over a 100 cultivars since it's very popular in gardens and parks. It has two kinds of needles and berry-like cones. Gin get its flavor from Juniper berries. This 'broadway' variety is called that because it looks like the tree is going hurrah! (with its branches up in the air=-)	
5. Kobus magnolia ***Magnolia kobus*** ***NW corner of University St. and Boren Ave.***	Also called Kobushi magnolia, it is native to Japan. It has a teardrop shaped leave and its older bark is greyish-brown. It blooms early in Spring and is related to the star magnolia. There are about 210 magnolia species and many more varieties, which are named after the French botanist Pierre Magnol.	
6. Red maple ***Acer rubrum*** ***SE corner of University St. and Boren Ave.***	Also called a 'Swamp maple' this tree loves to grow by rivers and swampy area =-)It is native to North America and is recognized by the U.S. Forest service recognizes it as the most common tree in North America!! It has red flowers, red fruit, reddish stems and twigs, red buds and in the fall red leaves ;-)	

7. Big leaf maple ***Acer macrophyllum*** **Universtiy Street East of Red leaf maple**	Native to our Pacific NW, this maple has the biggest leaves of any other maple and also the longest flower raceme. It also carries the most moss than any other plant in our region, which can lead to 'canopy roots' from other plants growing on the accumulated soil. It can have so much moss its bark is not even visible. It is also called the paddle tree by the First Nations.	
8. Sugar Maple ***Acer saccharum*** **University Street next to Big leaf maple**	The leaves of this tree are those found on the Canadian flag and currency. The leaves have five lobes and five distinct veins. Its trunk is greyish. Like all maples it produces winged seeds/ helicopter seeds aka samaras which fly away to create little maples. Thanks to this wonderful tree we get maple syrup. In autumn its leaves can turn yellow, orange, red and more.	
9. London plane ***Platanus x acerifolia*** ***SW corner of University St. and Minor Ave.***	These large trees are native to Europe. They have a round poky seed, but not as poky as the sweetgum. 'Acerifolia' means maple species because of the similar leaves and the 'x' in the Latin name means it is a hybrid. It is closely related to the American sycamore tree. If you look at the bark it has a camouflage pattern of grayish-brown and whitish flaky patches. Just remember sycamores have round fruit clusters and maples have 'samaras' or helicopter like seeds.	

10. Yellowwood ***Cladrastis kentukea*** **Throughout First Hill Park**	Yellowwood have a distinct yellow wood under its bark. It produces a beautiful white and/or pinkish flower that hangs in racemes and is smells wonderful. This tree is also part of the Fabaceae family or legumes. It is native to SE North America. It also has brittle branches as its Greek name says 'klados' and 'thraustos'. In D.C. if you plant one of these trees in your backyard you can get a $100 rebate.	
11. European White Birch ***Betula pendula*** **Southside of First Hill Park**	This tree is native to Europe and Asia. It was introduced to the USA and in some places it is thought of as invasive. Unfortunately, there is an aphid attacking these trees and within 15 years possibly most birches will be gone in the USA. In Scandinavian countries birch wood is used for lumber and in Finland its leaves for tea. Birch sap is used in some countries to make beer, wine and birch syrup. It also produces betulinic acid which is used in antimalarial, antiretroviral and anti-inflammatories.	
12. Japanese Cedar ***Cryptomeria japonica*** **Northside of the WA Trust for Historic Preservation Manor**	This beautiful tree has reddish bark and light, waterproof and strong wood. It's actually a close relative of redwoods and sequoias. It is Japan's national tree and is planted in many sacred sites. There is many varieties of Cryptomeria ranging from featherlike needles to dreadlock, thick foliage and purple and pink needles.	

13.English midland hawthorn *Crataegus laevigata* ***Southside of University St. by First Hill Park***	Another tree in the Rosaeae family, this is one is native to Europe. It has hermaphrodyite flowers and is a very important medicinal plant. Its fruit has bioflavanoids which have lots of antioxidants and are used to prevent blood vessels from deteriorating, and for heart and circulatory disorders (ex. Angina). Its species name comes from the Greek *kratos* referring to its very hard wood. We have Black Hawthorn in the Pacific NW.	
14. Horse chestnut *Aesculus hip-pocastanum* **Southside University St. from Summit Ave. to First Hill Park**	This tree is not a chestnut and horses do not eat its fruit, which is toxic to them. Though the seed (conker) looks almost exactly like a chestnut and the young conkers contain saponins. Saponin can be used to make a frothy lather as for soaps and shampoos. It is a hardy tree that can grow in cold and dark climates as far as Iceland. Next time you want to play conkers you know where to go and say "Oddly oddly onker my first conker"! Just remember to bring a string.	
15.Cherry plum *Prunus cerasifera* **Southside of University St**	Cherry plums are native to Asia and Europe. There flowers are similar to cherry blossoms and bloom early in spring. Prunus trees are part of the Rosaceae family and are cyanogenic, producing cyanide. This tree can have sweet or sour fruits. And the sour plum is used to make Georgian tkemali sour sauce for meat, poultry or potato dishes. Yummy!	

16. Frisia black locust/ Golden locust ***Robinia pseudoacacia 'Frisia'*** ***NE corner of Bolyston Ave. and E Union St.***	Its golden, compound leaves give this tree its name. Just beautiful!! Tolstoy mentions locust trees in Russia, being one of aristocracies favorite. Yet this tree is native to North America and is considered its strongest timber. It was used to build Jamestown and 'hardened' the U.S. navy in the War of 1812. This tree is in the Leguminosae or Fabaceae family, in other words is related to beans =-)	
17. Colorado Blue Spruce ***Picea pungens*** ***NW corner of University St. and Bolyston Avenue***	This beautiful blue spruce is native to the Rocky Mountains. It has a Christmas tree shape. This poor tree has two adelgids that can affect it. You can use a pesticide to get rid of it but then it also gets rid of its pretty blueish color. It was discovered in 1862 high up in the mountains.	
18. Ginkgo ***Ginkgo biloba*** ***NW side of University between Bolyston Ave. and Summit Ave.***	This tree has fossils as old as 270 million years. Eastern Washington used to have forests of them as is evidenced in the Ginkgo Petrified Forest Interpretive Trail near Ellensburg. 'Biloba' comes from the Latin for its bi-lobed seeds. Many believe its extract can increase your cognitive function. Its seeds are edible and are made into a dish called Buddha's delight. They are a special treat for Chinese weddings and New Year's.	

19. Evergreen magnolia ***Magnolia grandiflora*** ***Throughout northside of University Ave. between Summit Ave. and Minor Ave.***	Magnolias can be dated back 20 million years, before bees and bumble-bees were around. This caused there carpels to become really strong to withstand the landing of heavy beetles for pollination. There are many kinds of magnolia and some can grow in such cold places as Finland. This variety is native to SE U.S.A. and its flower can be up to a foot long. Also, it is state flower of Mississippi.	
20. Japanese maple ***Acer palmatum*** ***Throughout northside of University Ave. between Summit Ave. and Minor Ave.***	Japanese maples come in a variety of colored leaves which in turn can be dissected and in different sizes. In Latin 'palmatum' refers to the leaf which looks like a little palm. You can enjoy a plethora of these maples in Freeway Park. It is a wonderful tree to make a bonsai and as the name implies it is native to NE Asia.	
21.Red Horse Chestnut ***Aesculus x carnea*** **North side of University St. between Minor Ave. and Boren Ave.**	This variety of horse chestnut is a cross of *A. hippocastanum* and *A. pavia.* It does not grow as tall as other horsechestnuts and barely produces fruit aka conkers. This makes it a great city tree since you don't have any conkers to pick up. Eventually it will have pretty pink flowers.	

22.Witch Hazel ***Hamamelis spp.*** **SW corner of Terry Ave. and University St.**	This tree was mistakenly given its name by early European explorers who thought it was a hazelnut due to its similar looking seed and because they saw native Americans using it for medicine purposes (witch doctors). This wonderful tree has many purposes one of which is the production of tannins 'hamamelitannins' which are used to fight colon cancer. Its extract is also used for itchiness, inflammation of the eyes and mucous membranes, pain and swelling, hemorrhoids, bruises, minor burns and other skin problems.	
23.Austrian Pine ***Pinus nigra*** **In front of Horizon House**	This tall pine is native to Europe and Northern Africa. It has two long, strong needles and small cones. Some call it the hardest working pine since it can grow in really bad conditions, such as windy slopes or poor soil. It is also an important lumber tree in southern Europe.