TREE WALK at JIM ELLIS FREEWAY PARK

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

Urban & Community Forestry

Trees for Seattle
Your City of Seattle Tree Resource

Freeway Park Tree Walk

Tree Number & Common name *Botanical name*	**Tree Descriptions Notes**
1. Canadian Hemlock *Tsuga canadensis*	This tree is native to Canada and North America can live a very long time. Some samples are recorded to be over 500 years old. This specimen here is small and delicate- looking, but can potentially grow up to 30m tall. These trees are also a most popular Christmas tree
2. Star Magnolia *Magnolia stellata*	These are the first magnolias to bloom. These beautiful flowering trees can be dated back to 20 million years ago/ They evolved before the bees and bumblebees, developing carpels strong enough to withstand pollination by beetles.
3. Kousa Dogwood *Cornus kousa*	These dogwoods are native to eastern Asia and bloom in late spring. Also known as Korean dogwood. Their fruit is edible and sweet and is used for making wine. It has pointy bracts surrounding its flowers.
4. Pear Pyrus *spp.*	Perhaps a Callery pear tree, the leaves on these trees are beautiful in the fall turning red, orange and yellow.

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5. Sugar Maple *Acer saccharum*	These beautiful maples are very similar to Norway maples since the leaves are almost identical. A way to distinguish them is that their winged seeds do not open up as wide as the Norway maple seeds.
6. Magnolia **Magnolia** *spp.*	The name Magnolia is in honor of the French botanist Pierre Magnol. Its species can be found in Asia, North and South America.
7. Crabapple Malus *spp.*	These delightful, little trees are easily identifiable in the fall due to the clusters of small, red apples, they produce, which are edible. The flowers can be white, pink. Or red. They are part of the rose family Rosaceae. The bark contains cyanide-producing compounds.
8. Fragrant Snowbell *Styrax obassia*	These sweet smelling trees are native to Japan and Korea. Their white flowers are bell shaped and very fragrant in spring.
9. Dogwood Cornus *spp.*	Some species of dogwoods produce such a bitter fruit that it is assumed the name dogwood may have come from the fact that not even a dog would eat it.
10. Norway Maple *Acer platanoides*	Norway maples turn a brilliant yellow in the fall. The sinuses between the lobes on their leaves are more U-shaped than the Sugar maples, which are more V-shaped. These trees can live up to 200 years.

11. Douglas Firs *Pseudotsuga mensiezii*	3 Stately Douglas firs. Some of the things made out of their wood where: spoons, harpoon barbs, fishing utensils and caulking canoes and water vessels
12. Magnolia Elizabeth *Magnolia spp.*	Considered to be a very elegant tree because of its beautiful, pale- yellow, cup-shaped flowers. It was created by crossing a cucumber tree M. acuminata and Yulan magnolia M. denudata in 1977 in the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens.
13. Mountain Hemlock *Tsuga mertensiana*	This tree is native to our Pacific Northwest and has needles slightly bluish-green. It is a subalpine or montane species, growing high up in the mountains allowing it to withstand long periods of snow.
14. Forrest's Pink *Magnolia denudata*	This beautiful large tree is native to eastern China and produces a lovely flower which was used as a purity symbol in the Tang Dynasty. This tree blooms through spring, producing flowers up to 16cm in diameter that smell citrusy. It is the same tree as the Yula Magnolia. This deciduous tree has a fast growth rate and a striking outline when the leaves fall off due to its irregular, multi-stemmed form.
15. Larch *Larix spp*	This is a beautiful soft-leaf larch. Though larches are conifers they are also deciduous. Larch wood is very valued for its tough, water-proof and durable qualities.
16. Winter-hazel Corylopsis *spp.*	This is a deciduous shrub from the temperate regions of Asia that has pretty yellow flowers hanging on racemes in mid- winter.

17. Canadian Hemlock *Tsuga Canadensis*	These trees were used by native tribes in many ways and still are. Tsuga Essential Oil, which has analgesic, antimicrobial, anti-rheumatic and antiseptic properties is made from this tree. Lately anti- cancer properties have also been discovered.
18. Sugar Maple *Acer saccharum*	These hearty North American trees are responsible for our delicious maple syrup. In fall their leaves turn a vibrant orange, red and soft yellow.
19. Oyama Magnolia *Magnolia sieboldii*	This is a very strong species of Magnolia which will even grow in Finland. Its flowers are easily distinguished from other Magnolias as they have a bright red center composed of stamens.
20. Magnolia Butterfly *Magnolia spp.*	This Magnolia is a cross between M. acuminate and M. denudata. It has showy, fragrant white to yellow flowers which are tulip-like and star-shaped.
21. Mountain Hemlock *Tsuga mertensiana*	An interesting fact about hemlocks, is that they were erroneously classified by European explorers when they first came to America, as 'hemlock' the deadly poisonous plant that Socrates was forced to drink for his execution. Though the two plants are not related in the least, early explorers thought they looked very similar.

22. Pacific Dogwood *Cornus nuttallii*	This pretty variety of dogwoods is native to our Pacific northwest. Ancient tribes used the bark for making medicine for lung, blood and stomach problems. Do not over prune this tree if you want many flowers.
23. Evergreen Magnolia *Magnolia grandiflora*	These dark green, shiny leaf trees are also known for their majestic, white flowers that can be up to a foot wide. It is the state flower of Mississippi.
24. Japanese Maples *Acer palmatum*	Like most maples, the seeds are winged so they can fly away far from its parent to start a new tree.
25. Japanese Maples *Acer palmatum*	These 3 maples are growing next to snowberry and salal, two indigenous shrubs which produce delicious edible berries. The salal leaf makes a tiny drinking cup if you fold it. Notice this special cultivar of Japanese maples with dissected purple leaves.
26. Dogwood Cornus *spp.*	These opposite leaf trees may grow up to 20 feet tall and have beautiful exfoliating bark when they get older. Notice these bracts are rounded at the tips when flowering.

27. Dunkeld Larch *Larix marschlinsii*	These beautiful larches have linear, soft, grey-green leaves that are straw colored the first year but later turn yellow and red. It is a deciduous conifer cultivar from the Pine family.
28. Golden Larch *Pseudolarix amabilis*	Especially in autumn, you can appreciate these magnificent trees in their attractive golden foliage. Native to eastern China, it is a popular Bonsai specimen, though not a true larch species.
29. Red Maple *Acer rubrum*	This tree native to North America has leaves that are light green on one side and whitish and hairy on the other in the summer. It is a very popular tree and turns a brilliant deep scarlet color in the fall.
30. Larch *Larix spp.*	Another interesting larch. Some larches, like the L. laricina have such strong, hard wood that it is used for building ships, telephone poles and mine timber.
31. Cornelian Cherry *Cornus mas*	This tree native to southern Europe and southwest Asia has an intriguing yellow flower that from far away looks like little yellow bubbles. Its wood is so dense that it will sink in water and is used for making handles for tools. The fruit, which looks like coffee beans (unroasted), is edible and makes a tasty marmalade which has been enjoyed for 7,000 years.

32. Japanese Snowbell *Styrax japonica*	Native to China, Japan and Korea, here you can observe the Styrax fruit which is cherry-like but yellowish-white and not edible. They produce clusters of showy, white, bell-shaped and drooping flowers.
33. Orange Flowering Winter-hazel *Hamamelis mollis jelena*	Once again our early uneducated European explorers, mistakenly named this tree 'witch-hazel' as they assumed it to be related to the Common hazel *Corylus avellana* or hazelnut tree. They assumed it was a hazelnut and as they watched the native 'witch-doctors' use it for medicine, calling it witch-hazel. These gracious trees also produce tannins called hamamelitannins which are used for combatting colon cancer.
34. Magnolia *Magnolia spp.*	This stairway has some nice magnolias on its right side.
35. Flowering Dogwood *Cornus florida*	This variety has a spectacular blossom that is the floral emblem of British Columbia. It is distinguished from other Cornus as it has a pink-hued flower.
36. Allegheny Serviceberry *Amerlanchier laevis 'cumulus'*	This species is related to A. alnifolia or Saskatoon. These berries were most desirable to tribal groups since they are most delicious! They usually fruit in August and several varieties have been cultivated for commercial and garden use.

37. Red Maple *Acer rubrum*	Here is another large red maple in full glory, whether it's cool and shady in the summer or bright red in the autumn.
38. English Oak/ Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*	This tree native from Europe to Anatolia to north Africa is named after is hard, strong wood (robur=Latin for strong and hard). Oaks live a long time and some specimens are believed to be as old as 1500 years. The Celts considered this tree sacred and worshiped it. Can you guess where the "Knock on wood" saying comes from?
39. Bitter cherry *Prunus spp.*	These trees have a nice, smooth reddish bark with long lenticels. They are very similar looking to 'dark-bark paper birch'. They blong to the Rose family and many varieties of *Prunus* are cyanogenic, meaning they produce cyanide.
40. Dove Tree/ Hankerchief Tree/ Sonoma Tree *Davidia involucrata*	Sometimes it is classified in the tupelo family and other times in the dogwood family, sometimes classified as a family all of its own. It is native to China. The flowers are red and form clusters which are surrounded by two large white bracts that give it the appearance of a handkerchief blowing in the wind.
41. Japanese Maples *Acer palmatum*	Notice this strange variety of Japanese maple which was infected purposely with a virus to give its leaves a white spray.

42. Sweetgum Liquidambar *styaciflua*	These large trees with star-shaped leaves have a very distinct poky and round seed pod. Its scientific name is derived from the Latin for 'liquid' and the Arabic for 'amber'. *Styraciflua* means flowing with styrax.
43. Red Maple *Acer rubrum*	This tree is also known as a swamp maple as it loves to grow by stream banks and swamps. Its winged seeds are closely paired and do not flare out.
44. Magnolia Galaxy *Magnolia spp.*	This hybrid of *M. liliiflora* and *M. sprengeri* was developed in the U.S. National Arboretum. It has a dark reddish-purple flower that smells deliciously like candy.
45. Butterfly Japanese Maple *Acer palmatum* '	Yet another beautiful example of the many varieties of Japanese maples. Its leaves are green with a silvery margin during spring and summer and turn a bright magenta in fall. It is a great tree for making bonsais.
46. Camellia *Camellia spp*	Native to Southeast Asia, they were named after Jesuit botanist Georg Joseph Kamel. These small, evergreens have bright green, shiny leaves and beautiful pink flowers that are great for ornaments.

47. Incense Cedar *Calocedrus decurrens*	It is native to western North America. Its wood is excellent for making pencils since it's easy to sharpen without many splinters. Steam from an infusion of the bark was used to treat the common cold.
48. Eastern Redbud 'Forest Pansy' *Cercis Canadensis*	Though these trees are part of the pea family (Fabaceae) they differ from the other members as they have a single leaf as oppose to a leaf with many leaflets as in the case with acacia or black locust trees.
49. Deodara Cedars *Cedrus deodara*	This tree tends to be healthy and not get pests or diseases. It is also used as Christmas trees and its heartwood can be used in a variety of medicines.
50. Strawberry Tree *Arbutus unedo*	It is a favorite in English gardens. It is also mentioned by the Roman poet Ovid and the Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch in his painting 'The Garden of Earthly Delights.'
51. Stewartia *Stewartia spp.*	Stewartias are related to Camellias and are native to eastern Asia. The bark is very attractive, being orange to yellow-brown and peels similar to Madrona bark, in soft flakes. They are perfect for Seattle since they require lots of rain.