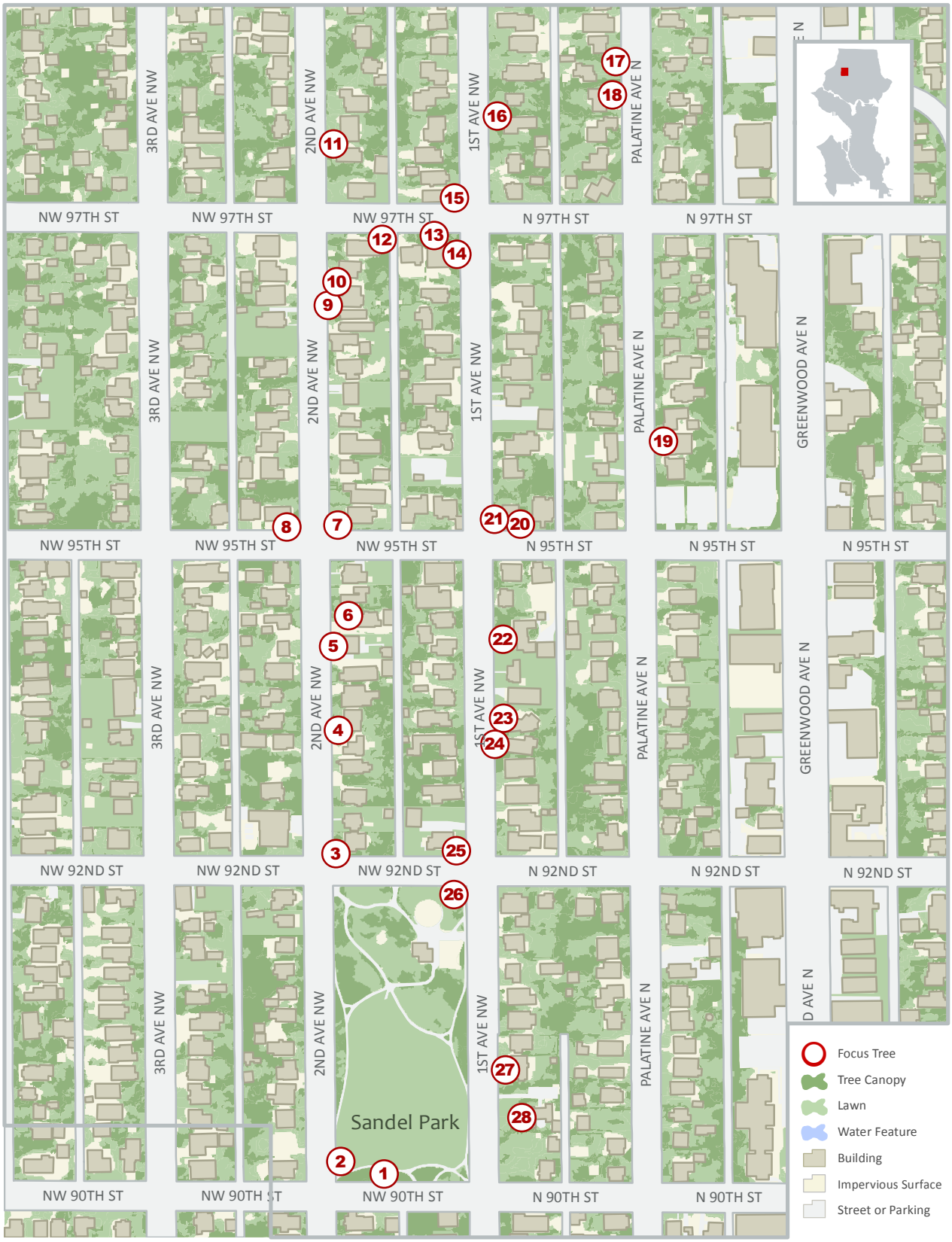
# GREENWOOD TREE WALK



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:

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Trees for Seattle
Your City of Seattle Tree Resource

# Greenwood Tree Walk

## *Sandel Park*

Begins in the southeast corner of Sandel Park, 9053 1st Ave NW

| **Tree Number & Common name** *Botanical name* | **Tree Descriptions Notes** | **Photos** |
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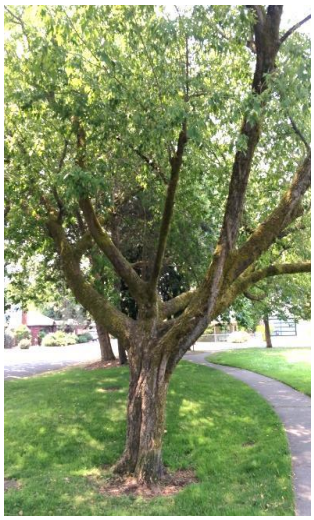
| **1. Box Elder** *Acer negundo* Sapindaceae – Soapbark family | Walk west along the path on NW 90th St a little over ½ ways to the first large tree. This tree is a maple, believe it or not. It's unusual because it has compound leaves with 3, 5, or 7 small pointed leaflets, unlike other maples which only have 1 palmate (palm shaped) leaf. The leaves are a pale yellowish-green & turn yellow in fall. The twiggy growth habit can make the tree look a bit cluttered. It has a deeply furrowed bark which is common as it ages. It's not commonly planted in Seattle but it is naturalized here & as such is considered by many to be a "weed tree". Still, it has many admirable qualities, as well as some nice cultivars such as variegated leaf forms. The name comes from its wood looking like Boxwood & its leaves looking like an Elder. It is also used to make boxes and crates. It is a USA native with a huge range, from the Pacific to the Atlantic. It was brought into Europe by the late 1600's. This is a nice specimen of this tree which is probably about 45 years old. |  |
| **2. London Plane Tree** *Platanus x acerifolia* Platanaceae – Plane family | Continue west to the corner of the park and look up at the trees that line the sidewalk going north. Also known as a Sycamore, this tree is often known by its bark, which is a beautiful creamy variegations in youth but develops grayish brown as it ages. Look up at the upper branches and you can see this. You may also see some of the seed pods which often hang on the tree well into winter and beyond. The balls with spikes may look cool but they can be rather prickly and hard to walk on. The leaves are palmate and look a lot like maple leaves, thus the specific name *acer* (maple) *folia* (foliage). This tree is planted extensively in Europe and the USA in parks and public areas, such as along streets, though that can be unfortunate because of its invasive roots. It was discovered as a hybrid between the Asian and American Sycamores in the 1600's in Europe, and is common in Seattle. In some parks it is sometimes seen pollarded, an acceptable form of careful yearly topping that allows for dense shade production. | |

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| **3. Princeton Gold Norway Maple**<br>*Acer platanoides* 'Princeton Gold'<br>Sapindaceae – Soapbark family | Go north along 2nd Ave NW in the park to the NE corner of N 92nd St to see an unusual tree for Seattle. You can see this tree from a distance as you approach it because of its bright yellow leaves. It's a smaller cultivar of one of the most planted trees in the USA, especially in the Midwest, the Norway Maple. This yellow form is rare in Seattle and can be identified by its palmate leaves which open a brilliant yellow but turn a bit greenish thru the summer and then turn even brighter yellow in fall. The species is naturalized here and comes up in all sorts of places. This cultivar was introduced by the Princeton Nurseries in 1987 so it's relatively new to horticulture. The larger species trees have a wide range and are native from Europe to Asia and from Iran to Scandinavia. | |
| **4. Quaking Aspen**<br>*Populus tremuloides*<br>Salisaceae – Willow family. | Continue north along 2nd Ave NW about ½ a block to 9228 2nd Ave NW. As you approach these two trees you will probably already know them by their shimmering and shaking leaves. These trees have white bark and rounded leaves with a slight point on the end and a flattened leafstalk that allows them to flicker, or quake, in the slightest breeze. They spread by underground roots and develop large colonies or clonal clumps. One of these in Utah, The Pando Clone, is considered to be one of the largest and oldest living organisms on the planet. Some native peoples called them "noisy leaf" for the trembling of the leaves, and the specific name is indicative of that trembling. It is widely distributed over North America, mostly east of the Cascades in Washington. Its relative, *Populus tremula*, covers much of Europe. | |
| **5. European White Birch**<br>*Betula pendula*<br>Betulaceae – Birch family. | Continue north along 2nd Ave NW a few houses on the right to 9242 2nd Ave NW. As you move up the street you will see a large deciduous tree with lacey pendulous branches that droop at the tips to form a cascade of foliage. You can easily see the white bark with the black diamonds on it here and there. There may be catkins or flower clusters that hang down in spring. This tree is known for its peeling white bark and is common and naturalized in Seattle and planted frequently, despite the fact that it is not a long lived species. It is native to Europe, Russia and Asia. The wood is very high quality for interior work such as veneer and cabinetry, but not good for exterior work. It's a pioneer species in its natural range, moving into disturbed areas first to colonize the land for other plants. | |

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| **6. Deodar Cedar**<br>*Cedrus deodora*<br>Pinaceae –<br>Pine family. | Go one house north to 9246 2nd Ave NW. This large coniferous tree is obvious by its huge size and breadth. It is known by its drooping branches that seem to drip down from the ends of the trees. It's a "true" Cedar – a *Cedrus* – as opposed to our Western Red Cedar that is actually an Arborvitae, or *Thuja*. The needles are borne in large clusters and tend to lie along the ends of the stems. They are rather short, soft and fine, much different than the larger and stiffer fan shapes common to most trees called cedars. You may be able to see the large cones as they sit upright on top of the branches of female trees. This tree is naturalized and common in Seattle, but is native to the Himalayas, where it was known in Sanskrit as the "wood of the gods". It's an extremely important timber tree there and has been used to build everything from railroads to temples. Trees can live for 1,000 years and can get 250 feet tall and very wide, as this one shows by its width, due no doubt to its damaged tops. It more frequently grows upright with a central leader and gets wider in great age. | |
| **7. Austrian Black Pine**<br>*Pinus nigra*<br>Pinaceae –<br>Pine family. | Continue to the far right hand side of the next corner at NW 95th St and 2nd Ave NW to 120 NW 95th St. These two trees are known for their stiff dark green needles held in bunches of two. See how they are different from the needles of the Cedar we just saw? They're more spikey and stiff and very persistent. They stay on the tree for years and give it a very dense, solid, bulky appearance. It is commonly planted in Seattle, especially along freeways, like the Deodar Cedar, and you've probably seen many of them as you drive. Now you know what they are! It is native in various forms all throughout Europe and was introduced to North America in the 1750's. More than 217 million of them were planted in the Dust Bowl Shelterbelt beginning in 1935. Currently, Diplodia Tip Blight is said to be slowly wiping out these trees. | |

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| **8. Blue Atlas Cedar**<br>*Cedrus atlantica (Glauca Group)*<br>Pinaceae – Pine family | Look to the west at the same corner to 202 NW 95th St. This blue tree has seen some harsh treatment in its past because of its interference with the power lines. It's a graphic demonstration of just how important it is to put the right tree in the right place. Though this is another true Cedar, see how different the needles are compared to the Deodar Cedar we just saw. These needles stick up straight in clusters and are stiff and prickly, unlike the Deodars which are soft and lay along the branches. There are many cultivars and naturally occurring blue forms of this tree and botanists have now lumped them all together as the Glauca Group – all of the Blue forms of the Atlas Cedar, which is normally green in its native range and is not planted as often as the blue ones. It develops a flat top in old age, much like the Deodar we just saw, only much more so. They can attain 160 feet in height with even greater widths. It is native to the Atlas mountains of North Africa and is the most abundant of the few African trees we grow here in Seattle. | |
| **9. Coral Bark Japanese Maple**<br>*Acer palmatum* 'Sango-Kaku'<br>Sapindaceae – Soapbark family | Walk north on 2nd Ave NW about ¾ of a block and look to the right for 9546 2nd Ave NW. Don't look up for this next one. This is a small tree. This cultivar of the Japanese maple is commonly planted here in Seattle and only grows to 25ft. We wanted to show you some smaller trees for those of us with smaller yards. You can tell this maple right away by the red stems on the new growth, especially in winter when they are at their brightest. It's called the Coral Bark Maple for these red stems, which are said to resemble a tower of sea coral. The leaves are small classic palmate maple leaves that turn a bright golden apricot color in fall. It is native to Japan and there are many dozens of cultivars of the species of all sorts right here in Seattle. All of them are potentials for smaller gardens. The species itself can get to 30 or 40 feet tall or larger in time and is a delicate airy tree. | |

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| **10. Alpine Snow Gum**<br>*Eucalyptus pauciflora ssp. Niphophila*<br>Myrtaceae – Myrtle family. | Go one house north on the right side to 9550 2nd Ave NW. This is another small tree, at least so far. It's really a variable height tree that can reach 100 feet in time in its native habitat, though not likely in cultivation. It's one of the most commonly planted Eucalypts in Seattle and certainly the hardiest one. It is native to high elevations in SE Australia and Tasmania where it grows at timberline. It was brought into cultivation by Captain Cook's Botany Bay expedition in 1770. You can recognize it by the creamy brown bark that exfoliates as it grows leaving behind this lighter color. The 5-7" long leaves have red stems and are heavy and tough like most Eucalypts, with flowers that hang in clusters of white in spring. The growth habit is also lovely with this rounded form being common. This is an attractive pairing of the tree with this house. | |
| **11. Weeping Higan Cherry**<br>*Prunus x subhirtella* 'Pendula'<br>Rosaceae – Rose family | Go north and cross NW 97th St, go a couple of houses on the right to 9702 2nd Ave NW. You won't be able to buy this old form of this tree in any nursery in Seattle but there are more recent forms of weeping cherries available that don't grow this large and are suitable for smaller gardens. This one is on its own rootstock while the others are generally grafted high so they can weep down. Its highly distinctive form is a giveaway for this tree. In spring the light pink flowers look like snow on the branches. In Japan where it grows in the wild the name for it is Ito Zaku, which means "thread-like", as a reference to the thread-like branches hanging down. | |
| **12. Colorado Blue Spruce**<br>*Picea pungens* 'Glauca'<br>Pinaceae – Pine family | Go back to NW 97th St and head east. Walk about ½ a block and on the right between 111 & 121 NW 97th St you will recognize this large tree by its blue foliage and its stiff prickly needles that wrap around the stem. They'll stick you if you grab ahold of a branch. Rather common in Seattle this blue form of the Colorado spruce is a naturally occurring type that can range in color from a rough green to a striking blue. It grows in the Rocky Mountain states and is the state tree of both Utah and Colorado. It's often used in the holiday tree trade and many people use these during the season as living trees. Though it may open up some in age, this stiff narrow upright growth habit is common to it and is another way to tell it apart from the Blue Atlas Cedar that we saw a few trees back. | |

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| **13. Loquat, Japanese Medlar**<br>*Eriobotrya japonica*<br>Rosaceae – Rose family | Continue east NW 97th St to the house on the corner of NW 97th and 1st Ave NW. At 9551 1st Ave NW the small tree by the gate is definitely an uncommon tree in Seattle and an unusual and interesting looking tree anywhere. It has large leathery leaves with a fuzzy light green underside and 1.5" - 3"long tasty fruits that resemble an apricot, to which it is related in the Rose family. It's been cultivated in China for over 1,000 years and there are over 800 cultivars of it growing in Asia and the warmer regions of the world, including the southern parts of the US. Unfortunately for those of us farther north the trees bloom in winter so they rarely set fruit here. This tree was pruned this spring so it's not as big as we'd thought it would be, but there's another, larger one around the corner near the rear of the house you can see when you visit our next trees. | |
| **14. Olive**<br>*Olea europeae*<br>Oleaceae – Olive family | Go around the corner to the right onto 1st Ave NW, still at 9551 1st Ave NW. These two trees by the walkway are really unique for Seattle. Have you seen many other Olives here? They're not common at all but they do grow well here, and have since the 1990's when people started planting most of them here. The light grey-green foliage color is very distinctive and can give the tree a dusty look. They tend to grow as a multi trunked specimen and the tree develops fantastic gnarly shapes to its branches as it ages. Some trees in their native habitat of Southern Europe are thought to be 1,000-1,500 years old. These trees here are young but have actually set fruit already, which can be really staining to walks and driveways. The oil from the fruit is of major importance in commerce in the Mediterranean region. In fact the generic name Olea means "oil" in many languages. There are hundreds of cultivars of this tree worldwide. There are also ornamental forms that do not set fruit. | |
| **15. Crimson King Norway Maple**<br>*Acer platanoides* 'Crimson King'<br>Sapindaceae – Soapbark family | Turn around & cross N 97th St. to the opposite corner to 9701 1st Ave NW. You'll know this tree as you approach it because of its dark red leaves. This is another well-known cultivar of the Norway Maple we saw earlier in the tour. Its leaves are always deep reddish purple, & the tree casts a dense shade that is hard to garden under because of it. It was introduced to horticulture in 1948 from a French clone discovered in 1937. It has now cornered the market for big dark red trees worldwide & is commonly seen growing here in Seattle, often as a street tree. It is smaller, denser & slower growing than the species, but may still grow to 40 feet or more. Its stout limbs & deep color give the tree a heavy solid look. | |

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| **16. Shore Pine**<br>*Pinus contorta var. contorta*<br>Pinaceae – Pine family | Continue north on 1st Ave NW a few houses on the right to 9712 1st Ave NW. This tree is the large dark evergreen on the left side of the yard. It is native to the Pacific Northwest coast, including right here in Seattle, although this tree was probably planted. It's an unusual shape for this tree which is mostly known for growing as a shrubby, intricately twisted and gnarly small tree often seen along the Oregon coastline. This upright form is more common in trees that grow more inland. It is closely related to the Lodgepole Pine that grows in the higher mountains of the West and is very straight and tall. The needles are held in bunches of 2 and are dark green and stiff, while the cones are relatively small compared to the Austrian Black Pine. It is frequently planted here in naturalistic, native or wildlife gardens. | |
| **17. Lawson Cypress, Port Orford Cedar**<br>*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*<br>Cupressaceae - Cypress family | Go back to NW 97th, head east to Palatine Ave NW and go north approximately ½ a block on the left to 9723 Palatine Ave NW. This is an iconic and well known large tree here in Seattle. Native to the coastal regions of Northern California and Southern Oregon it is not a true cedar, or Cedrus, but is really a false cypress. It was introduced to Europe in 1854 by the Lawson Nursery in Scotland which is where the name comes from. There are over 200 cultivars of this tree, and this may be one, but who can tell? Some of the bigger forms are difficult to tell apart and this one may, or may not, be the true species. It looks like it anyway. Many of the cultivars are smaller, some growing as little as 1 foot tall. There are also blue forms available. They can be recognized by their flattened fans of foliage with pointed tips that hang down from the branches, unlike any of the conifers we've seen thus far. The foliage is a medium shade of grayish green. The trunks are strong and heavy but the wood is light and fragrant with a ginger aroma highly prized in Asia. | |
| **18. Hinoki Cypress**<br>*Chamaecyparis obtusa*<br>Cupressaceae - Cypress family | Come back one house on the same side of the street to 9719 Palatine Ave NW. The two trees against the right hand side of this house are another type of false cypress & share some of the same characteristics of the Lawson Cypress. But here the sprays of flattened foliage are darker green & are blunted at the ends, which is where the *obtusa* in its specific name comes from. It's the slowest growing type of cypress found in Seattle but may still reach heights of 40' or more in cultivation. It is native to Japan where it is highly respected, & has well over 200 cultivars, which are far more often planted here than these species trees are. In Japan Hinoki means "fire tree" & it is used extensively for building temples & shrines there. Structures built of its wood can last over 1,000 years. It has been in cultivation outside of Japan since 1861. | |

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| **19. Southern Magnolia or Bull Bay Magnolia**<br>*Magnolia grandiflora*<br>Magnoliaceae - Magnolia family | Go south on Palatine Ave NW, cross N 97th St and continue to 9516 Palatine Ave NW, on the left. You'll know this tree by its large glossy dark green leaves that clothe it all year round. It's a broad leaved evergreen like the Olive and Eucalyptus, which is different from all the coniferous evergreens or broad leaved deciduous trees we've seen so far. Native to the Southern states of the US it is the state flower of both Louisiana and Mississippi. It's the most easily recognized, spectacular and highly prized of the many magnolias that are in cultivation. It is abundant in Seattle and has over 150 cultivars. The flowers are huge and fragrant and cover the tree in summer with creamy white saucers of beauty. In the language of flowers, Magnolia means dignity and these beautiful trees surely exemplify that concept. | |
| **20. American Beech**<br>*Fagus grandifolia*<br>Fagaceae – Beech family | Continue south on Palatine Ave NW to N 95th St and go west almost one block to 9502 1st Ave NW. You'll see this tree on your right as you come to the house at the corner. It's a rare tree to be found here in Seattle and is less likely to outgrow its spot in the garden here than the much larger and more commonly planted European Beech. It has a distinctive growth habit with outstretching branching and long slender pointed leaf buds in winter. The bark is a smooth pale gray color. The leaves have parallel veins, are longer than they are wide and are held alternately on the branches. They are also edible when young (they taste like a wild green) and the nuts are prized for their flavor. The mast, as the nuts are called, was once the favorite food of the now extinct Passenger Pigeons, who arrived in great numbers to devour them. It grows wild in the Eastern US in bottom lands where the soil is deep and rich so that large tracts were frequently cut down by early farmers for their homesteads and fields. The wood is very tough however, and so it was not harvested much until the advent of power tools and fortunately large native stands still exist. | |

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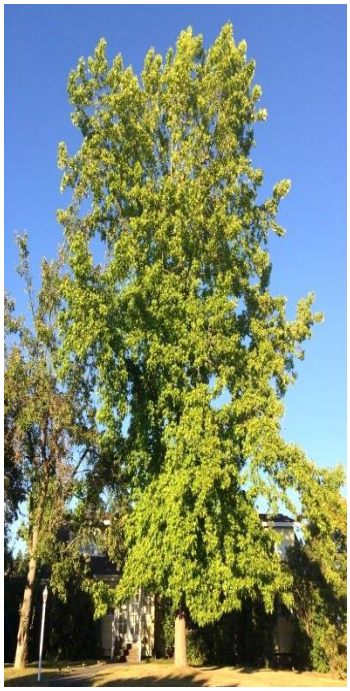
| **21. Narrowleaf Ash**<br>*Fraxinus angustifolia*<br>'Flame', 'Raywood'<br>Oleaceae – Olive family | At the corner head north on 1st Ave NW still at 9502 1st Ave NW. The large lacey tree here on your right is known for its strikingly deep purple/red fall leaf color, but you can appreciate its beauty all year round. In summer it is a graceful, feathery tree with compound leaves of long pointed leaflets that hang loosely on the stems. It is common and popular in Seattle, often planted as street trees and seen mostly as the cultivar 'Raywood'. This tree is one of these cultivars, judging by the red/purple fall color. In contrast the species turns yellow in fall. It is native to Southern Europe, North Africa and SW Asia and is closely related to the European Ash. Ashes are in the Olive family, along with Forsythia, Lilac and Jasmine. The cultivar 'Raywood' was selected in Australia in 1910 and made its way to the USA in 1956 to where it is now the most commonly planted form of this tree that is available. | |
| **22. Liquidambar, Sweetgum Tree**<br>*Liquidambar styraciflua*<br>Altingiaceae - Sweetgum family | Head south on 1st Ave NW 3 houses on your left to 9236 1st Ave NW. This huge tree was planted here in 1978. Wow, does this thing grow fast or what? You can recognize this tree by its distinctive star shaped leaves and the spikey balls of fruit that hang on the tree for most of the year. It frequently has corky bark and very corky twigs which were once sold as Alligator Plants in big NE cities in winter. It is native to the SE USA and is one of the iconic trees of the South, along with Magnolia and Swamp Cypress. It is very common in Seattle and is thought to be overused by some. As early as 1651 it was mentioned by Spanish naturalists and called the Sweetgum for its sweet sap that is used for chewing gum and other things, from medicinal uses to making Styrofoam. It is an important hardwood timber tree whose wood is used for flooring, furniture and other indoor applications. The fall color of these trees is just amazing and this tree in particular turns a deep purple red that simply blazes with intense color. Fast growth and the remarkable fall colors ranging from yellow to orange and red to purple, are two significant reasons that this tree is planted as widely as it is. |  |

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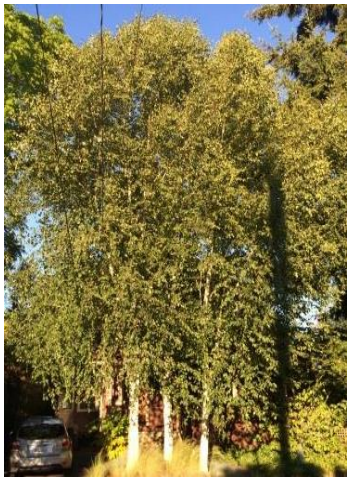
| **23. Black Walnut**<br>*Juglans nigra*<br>Juglandaceae – Walnut family | Continue south on 1st Ave NW another 3 houses on the left to 9228 1st Ave NW. This tree was planted by the relatives of one of the neighbors in the early 1900's. It can be recognized by its large compound leaves made up of several leaflets that can be 18" long and tend to lack a terminal leaflet. It is native to the SE USA, north to the Midwest and was introduced to Europe in 1629, where it is cultivated for its wood, not its nuts or as an ornamental. It is common in Seattle where it reseeds easily. The nuts are highly prized and delicious, though very hard to crack, and the seedpods stain walks and drives. The beautiful wood is in high demand and one tree alone sold for $30,000! During WWI there was a rallying cry of "Fight with your Walnuts" because the Germans had been trying to buy up large stocks of it to use in making gunstocks and airplane propellers. This is a pioneer species in its natural range and grows readily along roadsides and in disturbed areas. | |
| **24. Himalayan White Birch**<br>*Betula utilis var. jacquemontii*<br>Betulaceae – Birch family | Go one house south on the left to 9226 1st Ave NW. Look at the clump of 3 white trees here. You can immediately see the reason people plant this tree. It is considered one of the whitest birches of any we know. It's the main way it can be identified. There are several cultivars here in Seattle and we're not sure which one, if any, this is. It's native to the high elevations in the Himalayas up to 15,000ft. It is uncommon in Seattle, and the white barked forms are the ones in use here. Others in the species have orange or brown bark and are also beautiful. The white bark comes off in strips and is used for written texts in Sanskrit, clothing, packaging, roofing, umbrella covers and more. You can see the many uses acknowledged in the specific name *utilis*, which means useful. |  |

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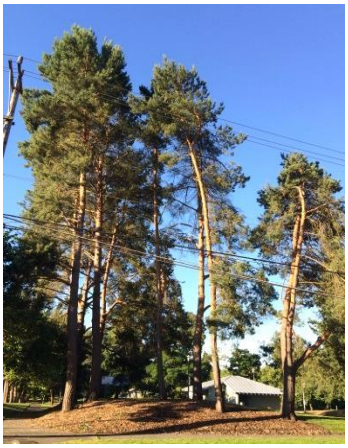
| **25. Western Hemlock**<br>*Tsuga heterophylla*<br>Pinaceae – Pine family | Continue south on 1st Ave NW to the corner on the right to 9210 1st Ave NW and look up high for this one – our own magnificent State Tree. See the nodding tips of the branches? This is one easy way to identify these trees, but don't confuse them with the Deodar Cedar! These have very small fine needles that drip from the ends of their branches and the trees themselves tend to have very straight and narrow aspects to them. They are common in Seattle and are of course native to the Pacific Northwest. The high quality wood is used extensively for flooring, cellulose, pulp, plywood, building and more. The tree will tolerate considerable shade and will grow well where the more popular timber tree, the Douglas Fir, won't make it. They are often seen in the woods growing on nurse logs, which are decaying down logs in the forest. The cambium, or inner bark, is edible, and was thought to be high quality food by the native people here. It was taken to Europe by 1852 and was so beloved by Queen Victoria that she wanted to name it Albertiana in honor of her Prince. | |
| **26. Scots Pine**<br>*Pinus sylvestris*<br>Pinaceae – Pine family | Look across the street to see the trees with orange bark. This bark is a hallmark of this next tree. They are common in much of the USA & grown widely in Europe in plantations, where their native range spreads from Western Europe to Eastern Siberia and from the Arctic Circle to the Caucasus in the SW Soviet Union, one of the largest distributions of any tree, especially pines. Known as the first "fir" tree it is really a pine, known by its bluish green needles held in bunches of 2 with small cones about 2"long that hang down from the branches. It is common in Seattle in both private gardens and public spaces. It once covered the British Isles but now only 3 native forests remain all of them in Scotland. You can see the great variability in their growth habit from this line of trees. |  |
| **27. Boulevard Sawara False Cypress**<br>*Chamaecyparis pisifera*<br>'Boulevard'<br>Cupressaceae – Cypress family | Go south thru the park about ½ way down the block to this bluish tree on the left side of the street at 9024 1st Ave NW. This is another false cypress, like the Lawson and the Hinoki. Native to Japan, there are 3 stages of growth to the tree, and this form is growing in the juvenile stage, with soft bluish branches with sprays of foliage with pointed ends. The fluffy juvenile foliage with a blue cast is a good reason to plant this small tree. This cultivar is not that common in Seattle but there are many others that are planted more often, and trees of the species itself can be seen in older neighborhoods. In fact we've passed several of them on our walk. This particular specimen is listed in the wonderful book Trees of Seattle, which is highly recommended for both budding and experienced friends of the trees. | |

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| **28. Monkey Puzzle Tree, Monkey Tree** *Araucaria araucana,* Araucariaceae - Monkey Puzzle family | Go two houses on the left to our final tree at 9014 1st Ave NW. Well, we're about done with our walk, and we've saved one of the best and most recognized for last. This tree is well known as a skyline tree in Seattle and thrives here better than in any place in N America. It is native to the Andes and is the most common S American tree we grow here. It has been protected in Chile since 1976, where it is the national tree. It was introduced to Europe around 1800. It is relatively hardy and has been seen growing in the snow on the far northwest coast of Scotland in the Inverewe Botanical Garden, along with palms and Sequoiadendron (the Big Tree). While not as attractive in its native forests, there are reports of it living there for 1300 years. Not an easy tree to live by, the Dr. Seuss like branches are covered with large pointed leaves which are dangerous to touch, especially when dried. A British wit once said that they would puzzle a monkey, thus the common name. The huge cones are born upright on the stems near the tops of the trees, and contain nuts that are rich and delicious when cooked and are important foods for the Mapuche tribe in Chile. | |

Well, that's our Greenwood Tree Walk at Sandel Park. We hope you enjoyed yourself and perhaps learned a few new trees and saw some old friends. We've been traveling thru parts of the Piper's Creek drainage and the biggest peat bog in Seattle on our tour. The soil here is deep and rich and grows all sorts of interesting plants. Originally named Woodland, Greenwood was the end of the street car line and was only incorporated into the city in 1954. The livable space along these streets here once stopped at N 95th St. and north towards Holman Road was mostly a peat swamp.

Purchased in 1969, Sandel Park was Greenwood's first playground. It was named in honor of Neil J. Sandel, a Greenwood District Community and Business leader, and former Superintendent of the Greenwood Avenue Sewer District, who spent much of his life in the greenhouse business. (Info. courtesy of the files of Don Sherwood, 1916-1981, Park Historian). The park was created by digging out the peat to about 8 feet and then bringing in fill dirt to replace it, so this is not native soil here in this park.

The 3.7 acre park is used extensively by the local neighborhood citizens and is a great place to come to walk, run your dog, play volleyball or soccer or to enjoy the playground with your kids. It is also a haunt for a few drug dealers and the homeless, as are many parks in Seattle. Still, it's a homey neighborhood with mostly single family dwellings in this central part of Greenwood. There are lots of families with kids and dogs, and no sidewalks, as you've seen! The central business district around 85th and Greenwood has many shops, bars, cultural venues and restaurants to serve a growing population of diverse interests and tastes. It's becoming more eclectic every day. It's a great place to live and to visit and we hope you'll be back for more Tree Walks in the future. Thanks for coming!