

# ROSS PARK TREE WALK



-  Focus Tree
-  Tree Canopy
-  Lawn
-  Water Feature
-  Building
-  Impervious Surface
-  Street or Parking



# Ross Community Tree Walk

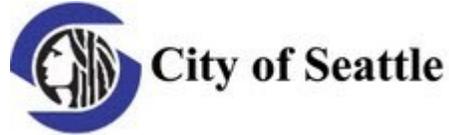
September 7, 2013

**Organized by the Ross Community Club**

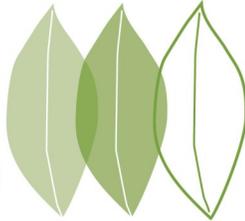
For more information about neighborhood events and the Community Club,  
email [myrosspark@gmail.com](mailto:myrosspark@gmail.com)

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keep the emerald city green



# Trees Along The Walk

## #1: Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

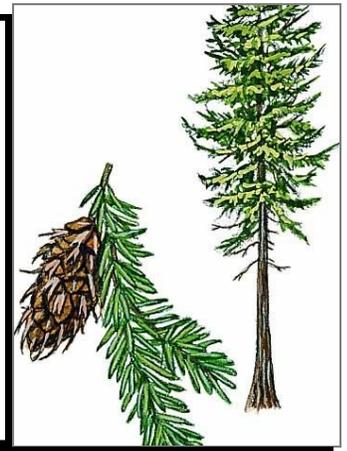
NW Native

FORM: Grows up to 230', some as tall as 390'.

LEAVES: Soft green needles, up to an inch long, one groove on upper surface, 2 white bands on underside of needle called stomatal bands (pores for gas exchange).

FRUIT / FLOWERS: Buds sharp and pointed; seed cone reddish brown to grey with papery 3 forked bracts resembling the tail and feet of mice hiding in the cone.

FUN FACTS: Douglas Firs are not true firs; the scientific name *Pseudotsuga* means "false hemlock." Confusion surrounded the classification of this tree due to its similarity to other more commonly known conifers. It has been classified as a pine, fir, hemlock, spruce and even a redwood. Botanist Michael Dirr says 'This tree has more aliases than the world's worst criminal!'. Douglas Firs are named for David Douglas, a Scottish botanist who introduced it into cultivation in Scotland in 1827.



## #2: Garry Oak / Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*)

NW Native

FORM: 40-90' with a broad spreading rounded crown and crooked branches.

LEAVES: Deeply rounded lobed leaves, shiny dark green above, greenish yellow and brown hairy below, leathery feel.

FRUIT / FLOWERS: Male and female flowers are on the same plant, male hanging catkins, female inconspicuous single flower or small clusters.

Acorns are edible, 2-3cm long, rough cups above, smooth and pointed reddish brown below.

FUN FACTS: Acorns were eaten by the Salish people after soaking to leach out the bitter tannins. Garry oak bark was one of the ingredients in a medicine for tuberculosis made by the Saanich people.

## #3: Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*)

NW Native

FORM: Up to 200' tall, with a drooping leader, graceful down-sweeping branches, and delicate foliage.

LEAVES: Needles short, flat, and arranged in feathery flat sprays, yellowish green above, and two fine lines of whitish stomata (pores) below.

FRUIT / FLOWERS: Numerous small seed cones, oblong and purplish green when young, turning brown when mature.

FUN FACTS: Bark has high tannin content and is used broadly as a dye, to tan leather, make tea, and as a cleansing solution. Wood was used for making implements. Pitch was used for poultices, lineaments, and teas.



## #4: Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*)

NW Native

FORM: Multi-stemmed understory tree reaching 25' in height. Sprawling form in deep shade and vase-shaped in sun.

LEAVES: Oppositely attached roundish leaves with 7-9 pointed lobes and serrated margins, yellow to red fall color, the more sun the redder the color.

FRUIT / FLOWERS: Winged fruits called samara, 1-1.5" long and are green becoming reddish or brown.

FUN FACTS: Used by NW Native American peoples for snowshoe frames, drum-hoops and small implements like spoons and dishes.

## #5: Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)

Native to Eastern US

FORM: broadleaf deciduous tree 60 -75', pyramid shaped with descending lower branches. Fast growing oak, as much as 15' in five to seven years. Shallow root system and more easily transplanted than other oaks.

LEAVES: Alternate with 5 -7 lobes and deep U shaped sinuses. Leaves often hang on all winter after turning brown.

FRUIT / FLOWERS: Fruit is a small acorn and takes two seasons to mature.

FUN FACTS: The name "pin oak" comes from its many small twigs or from its historical use in making pins from its hard wood for use in wooden building construction.



# Trees Along The Walk

## #6: Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*)

NW Native

FORM: Large, 200' often with drooping leader, fluted and buttressed base, and stringy red bark.  
LEAVES: Scaled leaves that look like a flattened braid, with white butterfly or bowtie like pattern on underside (stomata).  
FRUIT / FLOWERS: Brown egg shaped cones turned upward, opens like a flower.  
FUN FACT: Called the tree of life, said to be the cornerstone of NW coast native culture. It is easily split and rot resistant, very important in making dug-out canoes, furniture, tools, totem poles, and other ceremonial items. Bark was used for weaving and making clothing. The power of the red cedar tree was said to be so strong a person could receive strength by standing with their back to the tree.



## #7: Apple Trees (*Malus sp.*)

FORM: 30 -55 species of small deciduous trees native to the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere reaching 15' - 40' at maturity. Mature bark is plated and exfoliating - potato chip like.  
FRUIT / FLOWERS: Related to crabapple trees which have fruit under 2" in diameter  
FUN FACTS: These apples are 'espaliered' pruning and tying the branches to a frame so that they grow into a flat plane against a building or a fence. Originally done to improve fruit yield and ease of picking. Used by Romans, in the middle ages Europeans refined the technique typically using it in a castle courtyard.

## #8 Common Fig (*Ficus carica*)

Native to middle east and western asia.

FORM: grows up to 33', multi-stemmed with stout branches and a rounded crown.  
LEAVES: Leaves 3 lobed with a heart shaped base, irregularly toothed, and dark green above.  
FRUIT / FLOWERS (and FUN FACT!): What appears to be the fruit is an inverted flower that is pear shaped and green to purple. The inverted flower is pollinated by a fig wasp that crawls inside resulting in the production of seeds. The wasp dies in what is now the fruit and is digested by enzymes produced by the fig. By the time the fruit is ripe enough to eat there is no longer any trace of the wasp. In the Northwest it takes two summers for the fruit to ripen.



## #9: Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*)

Native to Norway

FORM: Pyramidal in shape reaching 40-60' with drooping branchlets.  
LEAVES: Needles are bright to dark green, four sided rhomboidal shaped, and stiff and sharp up to 1" long. Arranged around the stem like a bottle brush.  
FRUIT / FLOWERS: Cones hang down are 3-7 inches, the longest of any spruce cone, cylindrical and green or reddish turning light brown at maturity.  
FUN FACT: Every Christmas the Norwegian capital Oslo provides New York, London, Edinburgh, and Washington with a Norway spruce as gratitude for aid provided during WWII.

## #10: Thundercloud Flowering Plum (*Prunus cerasifera* "Thundercloud")

Parent species native to Western Asia and the Caucasus.

FORM: This cultivar grows up to 15 to 25' tall.  
LEAVES: Foliage emerges bright red, darkening to dark purple, maintaining good color throughout growing season. Leaves pointed elongated ovals with serrated margin, reverting suckers often grow from base with green foliage.  
FRUIT / FLOWERS: Pink flowers in early spring, older specimens produce a sour cherry like fruit. Fruiting has been bred out of new versions of this cultivar. Once a popular street tree, it is now being used less, due to its tendency to sucker and its susceptibility to disease.



# Trees Along The Walk

## #11: Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)

Native to Japan, Korea, China and Russia, there are 100's of named cultivars in all shapes and colors.  
FORM: Multi-stemmed and vase-shaped, 20 to 33' tall, rarely reaching 50', understory plant preferring dappled light.

LEAVES: opposite with 5-7 pointed lanceolate lobes, doubly serrate edges and a fall color from yellow to scarlet.

FRUIT / FLOWERS: Small winged samara which ripen in fall.

FUN FACT: Displays significant variance from plant to plant of the same species



## #12: London Plane Tree or Sycamore (*Platanus x acerifolia*)

Hybridized in Spain in the 17<sup>th</sup> century between *Platanus orientalis* native to Eurasia and *Platanus occidentalis* native to North America.

FORM: Large tree 70- 100' tall, sometimes to 130'. Bark exfoliating, cream and grey or sometimes brown and smooth.

LEAVES: alternate and maple shaped, 3-5 broad pointed lobes, stiff texture, and white hairy coating that rubs off by late summer, irritating when inhaled.

FRUIT / FLOWERS: Round yellow to brown multiple fruit made up of many achenes, remain on tree long after leaves fall and break apart slowly over winter.

FUN FACT: Very tolerant of pollution and root compaction therefore a popular urban tree.

## #13 Western White Pine (*Pinus monticola*)

NW NATIVE

FORM: Grows to 160'.

LEAVES: Needles in bundles of five, up to 5" long, with white stomatal banding.

FRUIT / FLOWERS: Cones 4-10" long and slender, thin and flexible scales covered in white pitch, and hang from branches.

FUN FACT: Susceptible to white pine blister rust, must have 2 hosts to infect either plant, i.e. a white pine and currant or gooseberry. Especially devastating to white pines. Avoid planting currants near white pines.



## #14: Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*)

Native to eastern North America,

FORM: 98-130', crown is oval to round, and bark is dark brown to grayish black. Prefers sun and rich soils, tolerates dry soils but grows more slowly.

LEAVES: alternate and compound i.e. one leaf is made up of 15 – 23 long oval pointed serrated leaflets.

FRUIT / FLOWERS: fruit round with green leathery husk, nut inside small and edible, tastes better if husked while green, husk contains black tannins used as dyes.

FUN FACTS: Highly prized for dark heartwood, heavy and strong yet is easily split and worked.

Allelopathic : produces a chemical that is toxic to other plants.

## #15: Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*)

NW NATIVE

FORM: 40-50' tall, some over 100'. Bark smooth and grey, usually mottled with white lichens.

LEAVES: alternate, simple, and tapered from middle to both ends, 1 - 5" long, dull green and smooth above, rust colored and hairy below with coarsely toothed margins.

FRUIT / FLOWERS: Male catkin 2-8" long, female catkin is under an inch. Fruit in clusters of small brownish cones that remain on tree through winter.

FUN FACTS: Roots have symbiotic relationship with bacteria that fix nitrogen making it available for the plants. Stands can contribute up to 280 pounds of nitrogen per acre, making it the first tree to grow in disturbed deforested areas where it improves soil quality.

Considered the best wood for smoking salmon and other types of fish. Inner layers of the bark can be used to make a red to orange and yellow dye, its name may be derived from this use. Bark is known to have strong antibiotic properties and was used as washes for skin infections and wounds.



# Trees Along The Walk

## #16: Maidenhair Tree (*Ginkgo biloba*)

Native to China, some specimens believed to be over 1500 years old.

FORM: 66 to 115'. Angular crown with long and somewhat erratic branching.

LEAVES: Fan shaped leaves have veins that radiate out into the leaf blade. Prized for its saffron yellow autumn foliage.

FRUIT / FLOWERS: Female trees produce attractive yellow fruit which smell of vomit, male trees tend to be planted more often.

FUN FACT: Excellent urban trees have few diseases and tolerate poor conditions.

It is a living fossil, similar to fossils dating back 270 million years.

Nuts are used in Chinese dishes served at special occasions.

May enhance memory and concentration, however studies differ on its efficacy.



## #17: Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)

**INVASIVE**

FORM: 35-75' tall with a rounded crown.

LEAVES: opposite, 5 lobed, and sharply pointed, 4 -7" wide, glossy dark green above, and are bright yellow in fall. White sap seen in broken leaf stem (petiol).

FRUIT / FLOWERS: Showy clusters of bright yellow-green flowers open in spring before leafing out. Produces large quantities of samara which germinate rapidly and crowd out native species.

FUN FACTS: Tolerates pollution and hot dry conditions, because of this it has been planted widely as a street tree. Sometimes confused with the sugar maple, even by those who designed the new Canadian money! Botanists have complained the new Canadian polymer bill features the invasive Norway maple leaf. The Canadian mint claims they created a 'stylized blend' of Canadian maple species, though botanists argue otherwise!

## #18 English Yew (*Taxus baccata*)

Native to Europe, Northern Africa, and Western Asia, cultivated in England for over 1000 years.

Many cultivars available. Estimated age of the oldest yew in Scotland is 2000 – 4000 years

FORM: Evergreen shrub or tree, wide and spreading to 30–60' tall and 15–25' wide.

LEAVES: Needles are radially arranged around the stem but appear to be arranged in 2 ranks. They are dark green on upper surface with yellowish green on lower surface, tips are very pointed, almost horned in appearance.

FRUIT / FLOWERS: Flowers inconspicuous, fruits are bright red fleshy cups containing a single seed, and are POISONOUS!

FUN FACTS: History of being planted around churches and cemeteries in Europe because long life was suggestive of eternity, toxicity was a symbol of death, or to discourage farmers from grazing livestock on church grounds

English yew is related to native Pacific Yew which is used to create the cancer drug taxol.



## #19: Black Cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera* ssp. *Trichocarpa*) NW NATIVE

Found in riparian (stream-side) habitats,

FORM: 165' tall, old bark is deeply furrowed and dark grey.

LEAVES: Buds and young leaves are resinous and fragrant, leaves alternate with a thick oval base with sharp pointed tip and smooth margins, underside is pale with brown patching.

FRUIT / FLOWERS: Male and female flowers hang in catkins on separate plants. Mature seeds covered in white fluffy hairs.

FUN FACTS: Native peoples used inner bark and cambium as a food source. Many parts of the tree were used to make medicines for different ailments. Chehalis people thought the cottonwood had a life of its own because its leaves shake when there is no wind, for this reason it was never used for firewood.

## #20: Bigleaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)

NW NATIVE

FORM: 115' tall, older bark is grey brown and ridged, often covered in lichens, mosses, and ferns .

LEAVES: opposite, 5 deeply separated lobes, up to 12 inches across, dark green turning yellow in fall.

FRUIT / FLOWERS: Showy greenish yellow flowers hang in cylindrical clusters. Samara are golden brown pairs in V shape hanging in clusters.

FUN FACT: In nature they carry a huge load of mosses and other plants that cover the bark. Soil forms in crotches of branches where additional tree roots form providing another source of nutrients and water for the tree.

Called the paddle tree by many first nations as the wood was used to make paddles and other tools.

This big leaf maple is listed as a Seattle Heritage tree for its magnificent size and form.

Big leaf maple



[www.tree-species.blogspot.com](http://www.tree-species.blogspot.com)

