TREE WALK at VOLUNTEER PARK





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North East Loop

The Tree Walk starts in front of the Seattle Asian Art Museum inside Volunteer Park

Tree #	Common name/ Botanic name	Notes	
-	-	center front of the Seattle Asian Art Museum and proceeds north to pool, crosses E Highland Drive to continue south then back to the N	-
1	Chinese Juniper Juniperus chinensis 'Tolurosa'	This tree-like shrub flanking the Museum entrance is sometimes called the Hollywood Juniper because of the way it "waves" its branches. There are 50 to 67 species of Juniper, a member of the Cypress family, mostly throughout the northern hemisphere. Leaves are scale- like.	Added in the second sec
2	Atlas Cedar Cedrus atlantica	At the North corner of the building, this native to the Atlas Mountains of Algeria and Morocco is a Museum landmark. Its leaves are short needles held in clusters of 19 to 28 along the branch. Female cones break away in spring leaving only the spindles.	
3	Japanese Maple Acer palmatum	Towards Volunteer Drive this native to Japan, North Korea, South Korea, China, Mongolia, and Russia, this species has many attractive leaf shapes and colors. This species can be upright or mounding, but this particular tree is an upright variety. They can grow in part shade to over twenty feet.	
4	Common Horsechestnut Aesculus hippocastanum	These large deciduous trees line both sides of Volunteer Park Road. Native to southeastern Europe, they are a good urban tree though messy with leaves and dropping fruit in the fall. This tree has coarse, palmately compound leaves and spikey fruit in autumn.	
5	Carolina Silverbell Halesia carolina	Walk towards the Conservatory and turn right along the small path to a bench. This small tree is a native to the southeast United States, hiding behind the rhododendrons. Its bark is striped, the flowers look like little white bells that may remind you of the Japanese Silverbell (<i>Styrax japonica</i>) which is in the same family. The fruit appears to have four wings. This is a nice small garden tree.	
6	English Holly Ilex aquifolium	From the bench, look North. This is one of the most easily recognized but highly invasive trees in the Pacific Northwest. Native to S Europe, NW Africa, and SW Asia, its dense shade prevents seeds of native plants from germinating. Although it is considered invasive, it is widely available in local nurseries.	

7	Flowering Dogwood Cornus florida	Walk to the Conservatory. This small, deciduous tree with crocodile-like bark in front to the right is a native of the eastern US. It is highly susceptible to anthracnose, a fungal disease that causes leaves to turn brown and drop early. Despite this drawback, it continues to be a favorite small garden tree with its smooth leaves and distinctive white- bracted flowers.	
8	Katsura Cercidiphyllum japonicum	Turning east from the Conservatory, this tree, native to Japan and China, is one of a group of five, including the largest in the Park, on the lawn west of the wading pool. In the wild it can reach 120 feet in height. Found frequently in Seattle gardens and right-of-ways, it has apricot-colored leaves with a cotton candy scent in Fall. Note its fluted trunk.	
9	Giant Sequoia Sequoiadendron giganteum	At E. Highland Drive, this Giant Sequoias is one of the world's largest trees by volume, growing to 280 feet high and 26 feet in diameter, but with only a 2-inch cone whose seeds are viable for decades. Their leaves are needle-like. This one near the road is an excellent specimen. Notice its spongy, fibrous bark.	
10	Norway Maple Acer platanoides	Cross E Highland Drive and at the edge of the road is the largest specimen of the Norway Maple in Seattle. Planted frequently as a street tree, it grows too tall to fit under wires and disrupts sidewalks with a vengeance. This tree provides dense shade with great fall color.	
11	Austrian Pine Pinus nigra	Eastward, beyond the Maple, look south along the west edge of the lawn where this group of 4 Austrian Pines includes the tallest one in Seattle. These Pines from southern Europe have stout, curved and slightly twisted 3- to 5-inch needles held in clusters of 2. Their cones appear in groups of 2, maturing in the fall of the second year.	
12	Western Redcedar Thuja plicata	Looking east across the lawn is a native tree which defined the culture of the PNW Indians who made use of all parts of the tree. This one is a very large tree with multiple trunks. Despite its common name, the Redcedar is not a true Cedar of the genus <i>Cedrus</i> , but it does have fragrant, cedar-like wood with scale-like leaves in spray branchlets. They are a long-lived tree growing to over 200 feet.	
13	London Plane Platanus x acerifolia	Down the path along the east edge of the lawn is this excellent street tree with mottled trunk, the London Plane. It is planted world-wide and can grow to over 100 feet tall. You will see many of these in the Park. The leaves are shiny on top, allowing rain to easily wash away urban dust. In the same fashion, the bark falls off in scales, ridding the trunk of layers of pollutants.	

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14	Nikko Fir Abies homolepis	Nearby on the left side of the path is an evergreen conifer native to Japan with its short needles that have a notch at the tip. Look for its purple cones in spring and summer. It is a broad spreading tree not common in Seattle.	
15	Tulip Tree Liriodendron tulipifera	Native to eastern North America, this upright tree on the right side of the path is the tallest of the Eastern hardwoods with a straight trunk. This tree was frequently used to make canoes, and is sometimes called the Canoe Tree. Its leaves and flowers are tulip-shaped.	
16	Turkish Hazelnut Corylus colurna	Along the path on the right is this smaller, but not as tasty, Hazelnut. It is the largest species of Hazelnut. This particular tree does not fruit because it does not have the partner it needs to cross-pollinate.	
17	Pacific Madrone Arbutus menziesii	Away from the path to the west is this red-barked native to the west coast of North America, it is the only native broadleaf evergreen in the PNW. This one is huge, and the only one in the Park.	
18	Northern Red Oak Quercus rubra	Follow the path back west towards the Museum to see this North American native. It is a good example of the mighty Oak, growing straight and tall (up to 140 ft) with bristle-tipped leaves. A good street tree because it tolerates pollution and compacted soil, it only produces a good crop of acorns every 2 to 5 years.	
19	Tree of Heaven Ailanthus altissima	Standing in the middle of the field to the right (north) side of the path, this native of China rapidly grows to 50 feet in 25 years. It has compound leaves with a disagreeable odor when crushed. It is short-lived, rarely living more than 50 years, and can be invasive.	
20	Bigleaf Maple Acer macrophyllum	Native to western North America, the leaves of this tree on the path can be over 9 inches across, but it is not a good street tree because its roots tend to disrupt sidewalks, and it is weak limbed.	
21	European Copper Beech Fagus sylvatica f. purpurea	Behind the Museum south of the path is this native to Europe. The European Beech can reach up to 160 feet in height with a lifespan of 150 to 200 years. This one is a purple-leaved variety referred to as "Copper." Leaf margins are lined with fine hairs. Beechnuts are edible.	



The **Tree Ambassador** program empowers residents to become stewards of the urban forest and serve as resources for their local community. The program is a project of the Green Seattle Partnership, a collaboration between the City of Seattle and Forterra, and is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program.

Volunteer Park is centrally located on Seattle's Capitol Hill, and is the most complete and well-preserved example of the Olmsted Brothers' design approach for Seattle city parks. It is both a Seattle destination park and a neighborhood park in one of Seattle's most prominent neighborhoods. The Tree Ambassadors are pleased to provide this guide to help visitors identify some of the many trees on this site as they enjoy this park.

For a full list of Seattle tree walks, visit http://www.seattle.gov/trees.