

TREE WALK at VOLUNTEER PARK
















- NE Loop Focus Tree
- SE Loop Focus Tree
- SW Loop Focus Tree
- NW Loop Focus Tree
- Tree Canopy
- Lawn
- Water Feature
- Building
- Impervious Surface
- Street or Parking















TREE WALK at VOLUNTEER PARK







North West Loop

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

Tree #	Common name/ Botanic name	Notes	
NW Loop – Walk begins at the northern lily pond and proceeds along the path to the turn behind the Bandstand, then across the Carriage Drive, past the tennis courts, turning back towards the Drive and the Conservatory			
67	Deodar Cedar <i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Looking west across the northern lily pond, there are several Deodar Cedars, mixed with Pines and a Japanese Cedar. They flank the path and provide a prominent entry to the path along the lawn. This tree has 1- to 2-inch long needles in clusters of 20-30 and along the branch.	
68	Zebra Cedar <i>Thuja plicata 'Zebrina'</i>	On both sides of the walk beside the lawn, this cultivar of the Western Redcedar gets its name from the Zebra-like lateral strips of yellow on the sprays. It has citrusy-scented leaves. <i>Plicata</i> in its name refers to the scaly leaves folded into plaits or braids.	
69	Chestnut Oak <i>Quercus prinus</i>	Behind the Bandstand to the left of the pathway, hidden behind the Elms, these trees are usually found in rocky places and on poor sites. They have a sweet acorn and a 6-inch leaf with rounded lobes that indicate it is part of the White Oak family.	
70	European White Elm <i>Ulmus laevis</i>	A grove of these arching trees line the left side of the path behind the Bandstand. They look very similar to the American Elm but have a denser canopy. Like all Elms, they have a shallow root system that makes them easy to transplant, and they are urban tolerant.	
71	Oriental Spruce <i>Picea orientalis</i>	In the open field north of the Bandstand lawn, this striking tree has very short, dark green, four-sided needles with new purple cones that hang down. When the needles drop, they leave a peg-like stalk on the branch. Despite their shape, Spruce are not a good choice for Christmas trees because they lose their needles quickly once inside.	
72	Snake Branch Spruce <i>Picea abies 'Virgata'</i>	At the edge of the same field stands this cultivar of the Norway Spruce with its dreadlocks-like form. This tree likes our cooler weather. The primary branches turn up, but secondary branches hang down in a snake-like manner as it matures.	

Tree #	Common name/ Botanic name	Notes	
73	Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	Crossing the road, you see several of this North American native along the road. It is called the Red Maple for its red leaf stems or petioles and its flowers. Its leaves in fall may be red, but are often yellow or yellow-orange instead.	
74	Black Walnut <i>Juglans nigra</i>	At the bottom of the glade to the west as the path heads towards the tennis courts, stands this lovely deciduous tree with its pinnately compound leaves that turn gold in fall. The fruit, unlike the English Walnut (<i>Juglans regia</i>), has a tough husk, but squirrels still find it edible. It is difficult to grow other plants beneath its canopy.	
75	Camperdown Elm <i>Ulmus glabra</i> 'Camperdownii'	It is unfortunate that this small, graceful tree is crowded behind and under the Horsechestnut. To allow for its pendulous branching, this tree is grafted high onto another Elm stock, usually a Siberian or American Elm.	
76	Black Cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i>	Cross over the path to the east side approaching the tennis courts, there leaning into the middle of the field, stands this native Cherry. It is a food source for birds. Its wood is used for fine furniture. Native Cherries are not grown for their looks, but they are an important source of food for wildlife.	
77	European Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Turning away from the Cherry and closer to the path, this tree is the Ash Tree of song. It grows to great heights with grace. Like other <i>Fraxinus</i> , it has pinnately compound leaves, the leaflets appearing opposite each other on the stem. It does well on the down side of the hill, preferring moist soil found near the bottom. It is much planted in Europe though not so much here.	
78	European Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Back along the path, look to the right up into the woods near the tennis court to see the split trunk of this Beech. Its leaves are deeply undulating and without teeth. The bark is smooth gray like an elephant hide. The fruit of this tree is an edible nut inside a bristly husk that attracts wildlife.	
79	Sycamore Maple <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Near the Beech, this Maple looks more like a Sycamore with its mottled bark, but it is a large-leaved Sycamore Maple. Notice that its leaves appear opposite each other along the branches, and its fruits are winged seeds called <i>samara</i> , like other Maples.	

Tree #	Common name/ Botanic name	Notes	
80	Pin Oak <i>Quercus palustris</i>	At the southeast edge of the tennis court, this Oak is mixed in a grove of Beeches. Everything about this tree is slender, including the leaves. It is a fast-growing, pioneer species, fond of wetlands. It tends to retain its leaves all winter. We say the leaves “persist.” The tree can have a strange skunk-like odor. The wood was historically used for pins in the wooden building industry.	 
81	London Plane Tree <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	The London Plane Tree on the path beside the tennis court is difficult to tell from the American Sycamore, one of its parents. Its leaves are lobed, and its fruit, a dense stiff-bristled ball, hangs in twos. It readily withstands root compaction and airborne pollutants which makes it a good urban tree. The young leaves have stiff hairs that can be a breathing irritant.	 
82	Lombardy Poplar <i>Populus nigra</i> 'Italica'	In the middle of the path, this Poplar is a huge tree. It grows quickly and usually is not very long-lived, but seems to have found a protected area to thrive in this park. The trunk becomes fluted with age, often developing boles that appear as warty lumps on its sides. These trees are often used as wind breaks in the Italian countryside.	 
83	Sitka Spruce <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Above the path along the north side of the tennis courts stands this state tree of Alaska, and one of the world's largest trees. It is the dominant tree along the Pacific coast, making tight hedges behind the sand dunes. Its needles are very sharp, carried on stiff branches that often hang to the ground. This one appears to be infected with dals (insect pods).	  
84	Portuguese Cherrylaurel <i>Prunus lusitanica</i>	Further along this path is a bushy, evergreen shrub or small tree that is considered invasive. This tree responds very well to pruning. It looks more like a Bay Laurel than an English Laurel with its lustrous, dark green leaves. It has fragrant white flowers in spring, a gnarly trunk, and is cold hardy. Variegated forms of this species are common in European gardens.	  
85	Weeping European Birch <i>Betula pendula</i>	Along the path behind the tennis courts, this Birch leans over the court and always looks to be weeping. The leaves are rhomboid in shape and turn yellow in the fall. The trunk develops dark triangular shapes where branches were.	 

Tree #	Common name/ Botanic name	Notes	
86	English Oak <i>Quercus robur</i>	Back on E. Highland Drive turn towards the Conservatory. On the south side of the Drive this Oak, a favored Seattle street tree, shows its short, dark green, compact leaves in a dense canopy. It is the Oak of Robin Hood's Sherwood Forest, and can live more than 400 years.	
87	Plume Sawara Cypress <i>Chamaecyparis pisifera 'Plumosa'</i>	'Sawara' is the Japanese name for this Falsecypress. This Cypress is at the back of the corner bed along E Highland Drive and Volunteer Park Road. The branches are flat sprays of feathery, needle-like leaves with a bluish-green color, a color particular to this cultivar. It has bluish, globose cones. Look for many others in the park.	
88	White Fir <i>Abies concolor</i>	Turning south and towards the lawn, on north the edge, this Fir has blue gray foliage like a Colorado Blue Spruce and a sparse canopy. Notice the needles curve upwards like a ribcage. The papery cones are 4 to 5 inches long, maturing from green to brown, with its cone scales falling away at maturity leaving just the axil spike.	
89	Kentucky Coffee Tree <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	In the grove on south edge of the field along with the Cedars is this unusual tree that thrives because it is very urban tolerant. It is so-called because the seeds were sometimes roasted and used as a coffee substitute. Look for its delightful flowers in spring.	
90	Western Redcedar <i>Thuja plicata</i>	This tree sits on the south side of the field in a grove. Its many low branches sweep to the ground and tip upwards at the end. Like others in the species, its scaly leaves are very fragrant. These trees like to be sited on the flood plains because they are shallow-rooted.	
91	Pacific Dogwood <i>Cornus nuttallii</i>	Cross through the Cedars, and on the north edge of the Bandstand lawn this PNW native is thriving. It is the tallest of our native Dogwoods, but it is susceptible to the fungal disease anthracnose that turns it flowers and leaves brown. The greenish flowers tipped in purple are followed by bright red berries.	



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 complete list of Seattle tree walks, visit <http://www.seattle.gov/trees>.