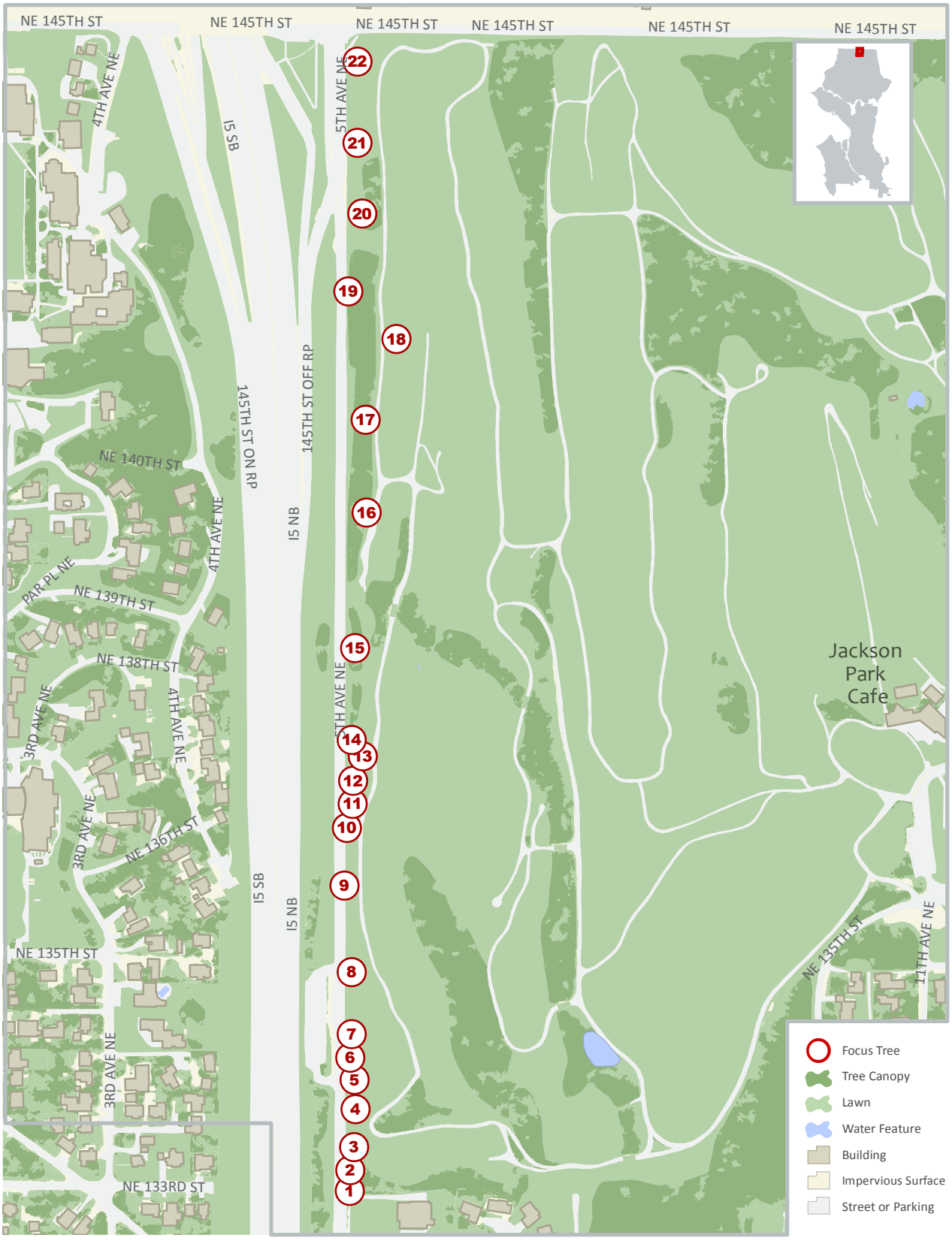
JACKSON PARK TREE HIKE (Leg 2)



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

Jackson Park Tree Hike (Leg 2 of 3)

Wasteland

5th avenue NE and the Southern boundary of the Park

Tree Number & Common name *Botanical name* Address	**Tree Descriptions** **Notes**	**Photos**
1. Pacific Madrone *Arbutus menziesii* At the SW corner of the park, just north of the mile post marker walking North parallel to 5th avenue NE on the park's western border.	On the left: arching outward is a sturdy Pacific Madrone. Native broadleaf evergreen with thin peeling red paper like bark. It has white flowers in spring and small fruits in the fall. Many Madrones are under stress from a fungus.	
2. English Holly *Ilex aquifolium* About 30 feet north of the Madrone, on the left the first of many English Hollys.	Not only is English Holly not a native; it is an invasive plant that crowds out natives. People have planted it for its ease of growth, bright red berries and evergreen leaves. But it causes trouble in the wild.	

3. Common or English Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* Just past the first Holly, 3 graceful trees line both sides of the path.	A pretty multi-stemmed tree with small white flowers in spring. Birds enjoys red berries in late summer. But, in King County, English hawthorn is classified as a Non-Regulated Noxious Weed and its control is recommended in natural areas that are being restored to native vegetation. Look for these around your neighborhood.	 
4. Western Red Cedar *Thuja plicata* About 120 feet north of the Hawthorns, and 20 feet north of the utility pole is a line of Western Red Cedars.	There are five in a row planted here. Dark green flat scaly leaves with small brown cones that open upward like cups. A very successful native conifer. They thrive in moist soil. Its wood is rot resistant with many uses. Native peoples made beautiful and useful garments and baskets from the bark. Look for this tree all over town wherever it has room to grow.	
5. Sitka Willow *Salix sitchensis* About 50 feet past the last Western Red Cedar, across from the Park and Ride lot, on the left, a humble tree.	A Pacific Northwest native, this willow has very soft furry hairs on the underside of its leaves. Moose, dear and beavers eat the leaves or bark. Bees seek its nectar. People used the bark for medicine and to make string. The branches are good for making baskets.	

6. Western White Pine *Pinus monticola* Across from the Park and Ride Lot, 100 feet north of the Sitka Willow.	5 needles per bundle, each up to 4 inches long, with white lines underneath. The cones are long and thin like a banana. They grow in the Rocky Mountains of British Columbia and Montana and along the Pacific Coast. Compare this cut off one with the big ones around the Golf Course Parking lot.	
7. Wild Cherry *Prunus species* On the left, across from the Park and Ride exit, 130 feet north of the Western White Pine.	Birds spread cherry seeds all over. Some of them sprout into big beautiful fruitful trees. Many cherry trees have this somewhat reddish bark with lenticels, small raised spots or bumps that allow gasses to pass through, allowing the tree to breathe.	 
8. Sweet Gum *Liquidambar styraciflua* Just 25 feet past the cherry tree, across from the Park and Ride exit, on the right just over the fence.	Native to southeastern United States. The leaf smells fragrant when crushed. Widely used urban street tree. Has spiked seed balls that hang throughout the winter. Good autumn color.	 

9. Big Leaf Maple *Acer macrophyllum* About 230 feet past the sweet gum tree, on the left, under the electric wires, mutilated	These giant native trees with their very big leaves have a hard time adjusting to modern urban life. Their roots push up sidewalks. Their branches interfere with the electric power lines. These particular trees are allowed to live but they get regularly mutilated to keep them shorter. The wood is a valuable commercial product.	 
10. Red Alder *Alnus rubra* 160 feet beyond the Big leaf Maple, also on the left.	The native Red Alder grows well here, especially near creeks as we'll see ahead. Their bark is relatively smooth. The leaves are saw-toothed and they usually have either catkins or small brown cones through the year. Like the previous, Big Leaf Maple, this Alder is growing too close to the power lines and gets regularly cut back.	 

11. Deodor Cedar *Cedrus deodora* 95 feet past the Red Alder, on the right, just past the row of Western Red Cedars, through the fence.	Native to the Himalayas, with somewhat droopy branches. Deodars are so beautiful that people plant them in any moderate climate that they will tolerate. This one may grow to be 100 feet tall. Look for them in your neighborhood.	
12. Douglas Fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii* 70 feet past the Deodar Cedar, on the left, rising high above the overhang**.**	Looks like it had the top cut off either from wind or lightning or cut off by people. Topping hurts the tree and can lead to death. The Native Douglas Fir is a hardy and common tree throughout the west and Seattle neighborhoods. Its lumber built the homes and buildings in our area and beyond.	 
13. Willow *Salix species* About 60 feet past the topped Douglas Fir, on the left, and about 10 feet off the path, in the ditch.	Long narrow leaves, bark with subtle vertical stripes, Willows love water. This spot has water even through the longest driest summers. Notice its water loving neighbors: the Western Red Cedar and the Red Alders. Note the shelf mushroom growing about 10 feet up its trunk.	 

14. Western Red Cedar *Thuja plicata* Just 10 feet north of the Willow, right next to the path.	Note the somewhat reddish stringy bark. People harvest Western Red Cedars for use as a rot resistant wood for decks, fencing, home siding, roofing shingles and outdoor furniture.	 
15. Red Alder *Alnus rubra* 280 feet past the Western Red Cedar, As we approach Thornton Creek and the bridge, we'll see several Alders.	These native Alders thrive along creeks. Note the relatively smooth bark, little seed cones or catkins that remain on the tree most of the year, and "eyes." Alder is used for plywood.	
16. Bridge over North Fork of Thornton Creek.	The North Fork of Thornton Creek starts a few miles northwest at Ronald Bog, near Meridian and NE 175, it winds its way to Lake Washington at Matthews Beach. Some of the way it flows in its natural stream bed. Much of its flow is channeled into underground pipes. It flows even through the driest summers. Active citizens and local governments are working to restore Thornton Creek's health and fish.	

17. Japanese Maple *Acer palmatum* After the bridge, continue for another 250 feet past a gate, on the left.	What is a nice tree doing in a place like this? And how did it grow here? Native to Japan, China and Korea. They have been cultivated in Western nations and worldwide since 1820. Note the little Rhododendron closer to the trail.	 
18. Large healthy Conifers At mile post 2, about 240 feet past the Japanese Maple	At mile post 2, Look through the fence to your right. Across the fairway, see the tall evergreen conifers. From this distance, we can see that these trees are thriving with ample sunshine and summer watering. Back on the trail, as we walk along, we can see to our left that the alders, Mountain Ash and willows struggle to compete for sunshine and nutrients with invasive plants like the holly, ivy, and blackberries.	
19. European Mountain Ash *Sorbus aucuparia* About 120 feet past the 2 mileposts. On the left.	Naturalized. White flowers, compound leaves, orange berries for the birds, relatively smooth trunks. There are many Mountain Ash along this stretch of the trail but none stand out among their neighbors. Note the English ivy climbing up its smooth bark. The ivy could smother it.	 

20. English Ivy *Hedera helix* Growing up Douglas Firs and Western Red Cedars. Another 400 feet past the Mountain Ash	Note here that ivy is climbing up the trunks and onto the branches of the Douglas Firs and Western Red Cedars. The ivy acts as a parasite, using the structure of the larger trees to reach sunlight. The ivy can smother the trees and kill them. The ivy evolved in a different ecosystem. It thrives here but kills native plants and flowers.	
21. Pacific Madrone *Arbutus menziesii* About 200 feet past the first ivy, look for the beautiful smooth red bark.	As the golf course is obscured and the traffic noise increases, we see more beautiful Pacific Madrones on the left and right. Pacific madrone can be used for furniture, flooring, turnings, paneling, veneer for hardwood plywood faces and core stock, pulpwood, and firewood. Rub your hands along its smooth inner bark.	
22. Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia* Near the intersection with the busy NE 145, there is a triangular grove of Honey Locust**.**	The Black Locust is native to the Southeastern US. The Black Locust has long sharp thorns, making it a beautiful but dangerous neighbor. It has pinnately compound leaves and brown seed pods. It is invasive.	 

This is the end of Leg 2 of the Jackson Park Perimeter Tree Walk. You may retrace your steps to go back to the starting point of Leg 2 or continue past there on the trail back to the parking lot and Golf course entrance. The Golf Course has a restaurant/snack bar and restrooms. If you continue east (right) along Ne 145 street, there is a coffee shop and grocery store, both with restrooms, on the corner of 15th avenue NE.

Like the Golf Course and the whole area, this leg of the trail was once virgin forest. It was a balanced ecosystem. When the forest was logged, most of the land became pastures, farms or homes. After logging, it looks like this patch was both neglected and repeatedly disturbed. Only the toughest plants grow here now. The natives, like the Pacific Madrone, Western Red Cedar, Western White Pine, Big Leaf Maple, Red Alder, Douglas Fir, and Willows must compete with newcomers. The newcomers include relatively benign species like Cherries, Sweet Gum, Asian Maples, and European Mountain Ash and Locusts, but also aggressive weed species like English Holly, English Ivy, English Hawthorns, Deadly Nightshade, Himalayan Blackberries, Thistles, Butterfly Bushes, Scotch Broom, Bindweed, Horsetails and even Japanese Knotweed. All on this little stretch of trail. It's a tough neighborhood for a local tree.

This leg of the trail needs help to get back into a natural balance.

Will the construction of the light rail along 5th avenue NE contribute to further decline or to a beautiful restoration?