

# JACKSON PARK TREE HIKE (Leg 3)



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](http://www.Seattle.gov/trees)

**Call:** 206-615-1668

**Email:** [treeambassador@seattle.gov](mailto:treeambassador@seattle.gov)

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## Jackson Park Trail (Leg 3 of 3)

### Tree Bark

NE 135th Street and 11th avenue NE - Entrance to Jackson Park Parking Lot

Tree Number & Common name  <i>Botanical name</i> Address	Tree Descriptions Notes	Photos
<p><b>1. Grand Fir</b> <i>Abies grandis</i></p> <p>As you just begin to enter the actual parking lot, across some asphalt and gravel leading to the right, there is a One-Way sign. Just by this sign.</p>	<p>This native Grand Fir looks fairly young in 2017. About 12 feet tall. See the dark green flat sprays of inch long needles. The needles have two white lines on the underside. Compare these needles with the Douglas Fir needles later.</p> <p>Like most younger barks, this is pretty smooth. It will become furrowed and scaly with age.</p>	
<p><b>2. Black Cottonwood</b> <i>Populus balsamifera</i></p> <p>Walk back towards the corner of NE 135th street and 11th avenue NE. The tallest tree on the left (east.)</p>	<p>Native to the Pacific Northwest, the Black Cottonwood is responsible for those big snow like seed pods that you notice every spring. They like moist soil and grow quickly. The thick brown bark is gray brown with vertical fissures.</p>	

<p><b>3. Austrian Pine</b> <i>Pinus nigra</i></p> <p>About 100 feet east of the cottonwoods, towards 15th avenue NE</p>	<p>The bark is lighter gray with hints of red. Vertical furrows form scaly plates Native to Europe, these trees are beautiful and survive in cities. Their needles grow in bundles of two.</p>	
<p><b>4. Western White Pine</b> <i>Pinus monticola</i></p> <p>Walk about 60 steps past the Austrian Pine. On the right, up near the street is a tall Pine</p>	<p>Native, to the Pacific Northwest, the Western White Pine has been an important lumber tree. It has long slender cones and rather long needles, bunched in groups of 5. The bark has interlaced cracks forming small checkered patterns. Note the younger bark further up is smoother.</p>	
<p><b>5. Douglas Fir</b> <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i></p> <p>35 feet beyond the Western White Pine, on the left near where the fence begins.</p>	<p>This common tree has inch long needles and unique cones with three tailed seeds. Note that this still young tree has gray, relatively smooth bark. But it is starting to develop thicker plates near the ground. Compare this with thicker more mature Douglas Firs later on, and with an even younger one coming up.</p>	

<p><b>6. Bigleaf Maple</b> <i>Acer macrophyllum</i></p> <p>30 feet past the Douglas Fir, on the right.</p>	<p>Big trees with big leaves, the Bigleaf Maple is native to moist moderate climate areas of the Pacific Northwest. The bark has shallow vertical stripes. It's a little red. Touch the bark. It's solid. Keep your eyes out for many more of these. Note, too, the bark of the young Douglas Fir growing at its base.</p>	
<p><b>7. Pacific Madrone</b> <i>Arbutus menziesii</i></p> <p>Walk down the path another 200 feet. Growing out of the Western Red Cedar. On your left.</p>	<p>The outer reddish shaggy bark is peeling off. The peeling reveals two more layers. First there is a tan colored layer, then the green. This broad leaved evergreen tree is another Northwest native. We'll see a few more on the trail.</p>	
<p><b>8. Shore Pine</b> <i>Pinus contorta ssp. contorta</i></p> <p>Walk about 400 feet down the hill. About 60 feet before the corner of 15th Ave NE, look over the fence.</p>	<p>Another Northwest native, the shore pine has needles in bundles of 2, about 2 inches long. It has cones about 1 and 1/2 to 2 inches long that stay on the tree for years. They may wait for after a hot fire to sprout. The bark is gray or darker, forming crinkly small potato chip like skin. It tends to grow crooked unlike its close relative, the lodgepole pine. The two confuse us by interbreeding. The common import, Scotts Pine, looks amazingly similar.</p>	

<p><b>9. Musashino Zelkova</b> <i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Musashino'</p> <p>At corner of NE 135th street and 15th avenue NE. There are two more recently transplanted Zelkovas on this block.</p>	<p>This newcomer on the trail was transplanted in early 2017 to replace a dead Little Leaf Linden.</p> <p>The young tree has a reddish smooth bark. The little lines are lenticels. They allow the exchange of gasses into and out of the tree.</p> <p>Zelkovas come from Japan and Korea. They hold up well in drought and pollution, making them an ideal street tree.</p>	
<p><b>10. Little Leaf Linden</b> <i>Tilia cordata</i></p> <p>Turn left (north) up 15th ave NE, following the sidewalk outside the golf course.</p>	<p>Stretching all along 15 NE are Little Leaf Lindens, native to Europe. Note that the bark has shallow vertical fissures. Note the moss growing on the bark, even an occasional small plant. And note the suckers that grow up from the base. Like all the other barks we see, go ahead and feel it with your hands.</p>	
<p>Walk past the Lindens about a quarter mile north on 15th Ave NE. Turn left back into the trail across from 13716 15th Ave NE.</p>		

<p><b>11. Red Alder</b> <i>Alnus rubra</i></p> <p>After turning back onto trail, walk in about 150 feet. By the first stair step, see a grove go tall thin trees with saw-toothed leaves.</p>	<p>The red alder has smooth bark for a somewhat mature tree. Note that it is grey, with lighter grey spots or lichens. The native Red Alder evolved to fit perfectly in moist areas along streams. It has not been able to evolve fast enough to resist humans that carve initials in its bark.</p>	
<p><b>12. Western Red Cedar</b> <i>Thuja plicata</i></p> <p>100 feet beyond the Alders, on the right. Past the 4th stair step as the ground levels.</p>	<p>There are some well-established Western Red Cedars here along with some newer transplants. Volunteers have been working hard with the city to reestablish native plants. Feel the reddish, fibrous, vertical, softer bark.</p>	
<p><b>13. Beaked Hazelnut</b> <i>Corylus cornuta</i></p> <p>Walk another 80 feet, look off the trail to your right to see the Hazelnut.</p>	<p>This multi stemmed shrubby tree grows edible hazelnuts, ready in late summer, early autumn. The squirrels are waiting. It grows naturally throughout much of North America.</p>	

<p><b>14. Pacific Dogwood</b> <i>Cornus nuttallii</i></p> <p>About 80 feet past Hazelnut, on the right</p>	<p>The Pacific Dogwood is another beautiful native with large springtime blossoms. It has little red orange clustered fruits in early autumn. The bark has some small flakes. It looks a bit reddish. This trunk is damaged at the base. Can it recover? Look to see if you can spot any other Pacific Dogwoods in the park. So far, we haven't.</p>	
<p><b>15. Arborvitae</b> <i>Thuja occidentalis</i></p> <p>100 feet past the Dogwood. On the right, growing along fence of the house.</p>	<p>This common landscape plant is native to North America but not the Pacific Northwest. It is a smaller close relative of the giant Western Red Cedar. If you get a chance to examine the little leaves closely, you'll see very pretty patterns.</p>	
<p><b>16. English Ivy</b> <i>Hedera helix</i></p> <p>On Douglas Fir 12 past the Arborvitae. On the left.</p>	<p>The ivy climbing up the Douglas Firs does look pretty. But the ivy is a parasite that chokes off sunlight and kills trees. It doesn't belong here. Friends of Jackson Park Trail pull up lots of it in a never-ending battle.</p>	

<p>About 50 feet past the ivy growing up the Douglas Fir, the trail turns right (north.) Follow it another 180 feet.</p>	<p>Look on the right to see two tall thick trees growing so close together that they seem to be one tree. But they are two separate trees, a Bigleaf Maple and a Western White Pine. Read below.</p>	
<p><b>17. Bigleaf Maple and Western White Pine growing together</b> <i>Acer macrophyllum</i> and <i>Pinus monticola</i></p>	<p>Compare and contrast these two beautiful neighbors growing from the same base. The Big Leaf Maple has shallow fissures running almost straight up and down like a hard corduroy. The Western White Pine is much rougher, much browner. It has vertical lines, too. But they are interrupted. Rub and push on both.</p>	
<p><b>18. Snags</b> 270 feet past the twins</p>	<p>There are two dead snags here. See the holes made by birds searching for insects. See the peeling bark. See the shelf mushrooms. These decaying snags play an important role in forest ecology. See there are also two Western Hemlock trees that are severely damaged but still surviving.</p>	

<p><b>19. Douglas Fir</b> <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i></p> <p>100 feet past the snags. Just before the stairs going down.</p>	<p>Note the much thicker corky bark on these more mature Douglas Firs. The thick bark allows Douglas Firs to withstand many of the natural forest fires that have burned through the west since the last ice age. The bark is so thick that it is supporting little mushrooms in December.</p>	
<p><b>20. Pacific Madrone</b> <i>Arbutus menziesii</i></p> <p>At bottom of stairs. Look for another on the left another 50 feet on.</p>	<p>Here is another Pacific Madrone that is more accessible to touch. Rub your hands or face over this but let the bark come off at its own pace. The Pacific Madrone is sensitive to pollutants and root disturbances. They are having trouble living in a city.</p>	
<p><b>21. Western Red Cedar</b> <i>Thuja plicata</i></p> <p>Another 130 feet past the stairway, at the crest of the hill is one of many Western Red Cedars.</p>	<p>Western Red Cedars are a very successful tree in the Pacific Northwest. Native people made extraordinarily beautiful baskets and robes from the bark, canoes from the logs and boxes from the wood.</p>	

<p><b>22. Apple tree</b> <i>Malus pumila</i></p> <p>Continuing down the hill, we step out of the forest into an urban apartment complex parking lot. There is an apple tree.</p>	<p>Who planted this apple tree here? When? Was this apartment complex parking lot someone's backyard years ago? The uncared-for tree does still produce a few apples.</p> <p>Note the lighter gray and relatively smooth bark.</p>	
<p><b>23. Scots Pine</b> <i>Pinus sylvestris</i></p> <p>Across the street from the apple tree, at the corner of the apartment building is a tall graceful Scots Pine.</p>	<p>These beautiful trees with the orangish bark grow across Northern Europe. They are a very popular planted tree in our area. They are very similar to the shore pine we saw earlier, not surprising, as they both evolved in similar conditions.</p>	
<p><b>24. London Plane</b> <i>Platanus x acerfolia</i></p> <p>Continue north. on 12th Ave NE, Along the side of the apartment houses is a line of 9 tall thick trees.</p>	<p>Look at the bark on these beautiful giants. They have a light brown and tan camouflage pattern. The London Plane Tree is one of the most popular street trees in the world. They grow in polluted and adverse conditions. They provide great shade. The leaf is similar to their maple parent.</p>	

<p>Directions: Continue north on 12th Ave NE. At the end of the line of London Plane trees, go back to the trail.</p>	<p>Walk towards the golf course to find the trail. Walk north through some more Alders and Western Red Cedars. Follow the fence back into the forest past the sign.</p>	
<p><b>25. Western Hemlock</b> <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i></p> <p>Walk up the hill about 190 feet past the sign. There are a few short-needled trees that look similar to the Douglas Firs.</p>	<p>There are three native Western Hemlocks here. Look at their needles, much shorter than the Douglas Firs. You may see some small cones still persisting on the trees. The thin bark is darker brown with vertical stripes. One of the Hemlocks is bent over towards the south with exposed roots. What caused this? It's the state tree of Washington.</p>	
<p><b>26. Douglas Fir</b> <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i></p> <p>About 75 feet further up the trail, when you can see the street.</p> <p>A nursery log</p>	<p>When you can see the street, you'll notice a fallen tree. It looks like a dead Douglas Fir. The forest will recycle this fallen here. And soon, the nursery log will give nourishment and moisture to seedlings sprouting on its decaying form, giving birth to new trees.</p>	

This concludes Jackson Park Tree Walk, Leg 3. We hope that you enjoyed this walk with trees. Remember that they give us oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, filter pollution from the air, absorb rainwater, provide places for birds and animals, and bring beauty to our neighborhood. Thank you, Trees.

The trees' bark acts like our skin. It keeps them from drying out. It keeps insects and parasites out. And it develops wrinkles over time. Each species of tree developed its own kind of bark to help it cope with

drought, fire, temperature extremes, limited growing seasons, sunlight, and interactions with other living organisms.

Where to go from here? If you continue onto NE 145th street, be careful and pay attention. Cars come by fast and the sidewalk is narrow. Be especially careful with children.

If you do follow NE 145th, you can reach 15th avenue NE shortly by walking right. There are bus stops, coffee shops, grocery stores, restaurants and a couple of fast food restaurants there

You could also just turn around and walk back on the trail to the starting place. You can enjoy the same trees again.

Haven't had enough nature? You could also carefully walk west on NE 145th to complete the entire Jackson Park Perimeter Trail Walk. In all, it's a little over two miles. There are Legs 1 and 2 of the Trail Walk, but you'd have to read them backwards.

Enjoy other tree walks on The City of Seattle Tree Ambassadors web page or volunteer to become a tree Ambassador.

Also check out the Friends of Jackson Park Trail Facebook Page. You could help improve this trail.

Thank you