SOUTH BALLARD TREE WALK

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:

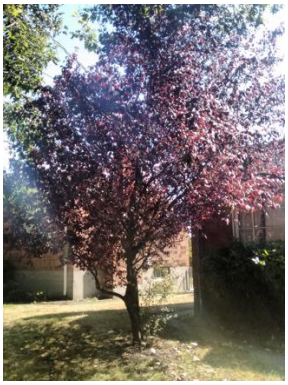
Visit: www.Seattle.gov/trees
Call: 206-615-1668
Email: treeambassador@seattle.gov
Follow Trees for Seattle on Facebook

South Ballard Tree Walk

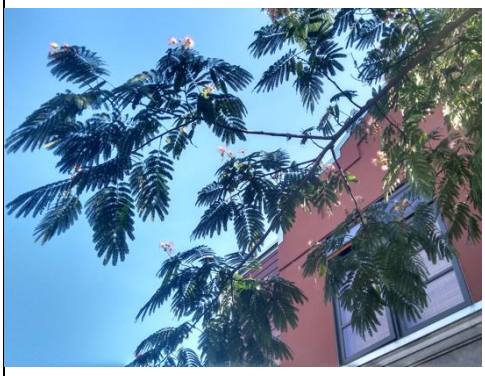
Common Trees of an Urban Neighborhood

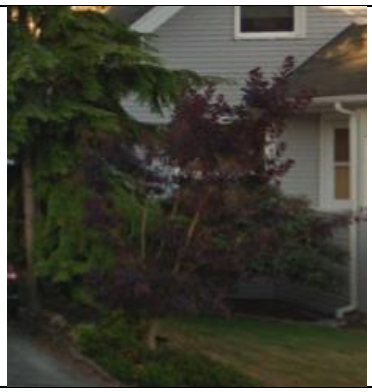
Begin at the Southeast corner of NW Market St and 15th Ave NW in Ballard.

Tree Number & Common name *Botanical name* Address	**Tree Descriptions** **Notes**	**Photos**
1. Norway Maple *Acer platanoides*	All along NW Market Street from Safeway east to 14th Ave NW. Distinctive maple-leaf shape, but distinguished from similar-looking Sugar maples by the samara, or "helicopter" seed. Norway maple seeds are flattened. Also, when a leaf is plucked, the base of the petiole (stalk) seeps a white, milky fluid. Invasive in Northeast USA.	
2. Red Oak *Quercus rubra*	All along NW Market Street from 14th Ave NW to 11th Ave NW. Native to Eastern N. America. In winter, recognizable by dark fissured & furrowed bark. Has a long, oval-shaped leaf with pointed lobes (leaf sections).	
3. Corkscrew Willow *Salix matsudana 'Tortuosa'*	Before crossing 11th Ave NW, turn towards the apartment building on your right and look at the far left corner. Corkscrew willows are distinguished by their winding branches & leaves. Introduced from China as a cultivar of the Chinese Willow for ornamental use.	

4. Purple Cherry Plum *Prunus cerasifera var. atropurpurea*	Continue walk and stop in front of 927 NW Market street (on the right). Rough bark distinguishes it from a purple beech. Most common variety of cherry plum, and most common purple tree in the area. It's the earliest flowering cherry species we have here.	
5. Crabapple *Malus* spp.	Cross 9th Ave NW and stop in front of the first street tree on your left. Same species as cultivated apples we eat – just smaller fruits (> 2 inches) and not as tasty. Fruits get redder in the fall/winter	
6. Golden Raintree *Koelreuteria paniculata*	Walk to 8th Ave NW, turn right, walk down to NW 54th St and look at the street tree on your left. Pinnately compound leaves – meaning many leaflets from the same stalk. It has cascading yellow flowers in summer, brown seed pods in autumn and dark grey/brown furrowed bark.	
7. Black locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*	Cross NW 54th St, turn right, stop in front of first street tree on your right. Pinnately compound leaves with bright yellow fall color. Trunk is furrowed with vertical grooves – almost looks like braided rope. It is in the legume family and has pea-pod shaped fruits.	

8. Fan Palm *Trachycarpus fortunei*	Walk until 833 NW 54th St, look towards clump of trees along the street. This palm named after Robert Fortune, a plant hunter. From East Asia, and one of few palms that can survive a Pacific Northwest climate.	
9. Blue Spruce *Picea pungens*	Continue west towards 8th Ave NW; cross both 8th Ave NW and NW 54th street (diagonal) and look in front yard of house on corner (902 NW 54th St). Native to Rocky Mountains. Scaly bark, needles are bluish green and square in cross-section. Look at cones (often on the ground) and see how scales are papery and notched at the end.	
10. European Birch *Betula pendula*	Walk to 11th Ave NW, turn right, walk up about half a block, looking at street trees on your left. Introduced from Europe and Russia. Bark has distinct dark triangles, especially towards base.	
11. Paper Birch *Betula papyrifera*	Interspersed with European Birch, above. Native to Washington north of Everett. Bark is white and papery, and will peel in horizontal strips.	(Trees furthest right in above picture.)

12. English oak *Quercus robur*	Walk back down 11th Ave NW towards NW 54th St, look at tree in the center of traffic circle. Native to Europe, the English oak is a common tree here in Seattle where it can be invasive. The acorns are a food source with wildlife. It looks a lot like our native Garry oak except that the English oak has a much shorter leaf petiole and the Garry oak has hairy new shoots while the English oak has smooth new shoots.	
13. Persian / Pink Silk Tree *Albizia julibrissin*	Continue down 11th Ave NW, crossing to the other side of the street, and stop halfway between NW 52nd St and NW 53rd St. This tree will be on your right and arching above you. Bi-pinnately compound leaves (leaflets growing out of 1st set of leaflets) that resemble ferns and a pink pom-pom-like flower.	
14. Himalayan Cedar *Cedrus deodara*	Walk through Gilman Playground, cross 9th Ave NW and stand on the northwest corner of 9th Ave NW and NW 53rd St. Needles are in bunches, and droop slightly from branches. A “true cedar”, this tree has upright female cones and “cheeto” shaped male cones. Can have a bluish-green color.	

15. Empress Tree *Paulownia fortunei*	Walk south on 9th Ave NW, turn right on NW 52nd St, and stop in front of the street tree at 938 NW 52nd St. Native to China, naturalized to Eastern USA. Large purple flowers appear before leaves. The fruit ('capsule') halves look like a boat or canoe.	
16. Smokebush *Cotinus coggygria*	Cross to stand in front of 945 NW 52nd St. Native Southern Europe to Southern China. Flowers have many branches/hairs that look like "smoke" – many colored cultivars available.	
17. European Birch *Betula pendula*	Walk down 11th Ave NW to NW 51st St, cross to the south side, stop in front of 929 NW 51st St. Same species we looked at earlier, just a great example of a different cultivar with deeply serrated leaves.	 
18. Poplar *Populus* species	Continue east and, after crossing 9th Ave NW, turn right and walk down to large tree at 4900 9th Ave NW. This is an especially large poplar, most likely a black poplar (*Populus nigra*). They can also be found growing along the Burke-Gilman trail in Fremont. Poplars can be identified with heart or triangle-shaped leaves, as well as a flat petiole. They sucker, or grow up new stems from the same root system near the parent tree.	

19. Linden / Basswood Tree *Tilia spp.*	Turn left on NW 49th St, walk one block to corner of 8th Ave NW and look at large tree on left. In spring & summer, easily recognizable by a huge bract (leaf-like flower part) attached to each flower cluster. Bees love this tree for its nectar in spring. Native to North America.	
20. Golden Chain *Laburnum anagyroides*	Turn left on 8th Ave NW, walk one block, turn left, walk half a block to 935 NW 50th St. Introduced from Europe as a small (~20 ft) ornamental. Fruit (legume or pea shaped pod) persists on the tree through the winter. Plant is poisonous!	
21. Giant Sequoia *Sequoiadendron giganteum*	Return to 8th Ave NW, turn left, walk up to NW 53rd St, look across 8th Ave NW at large evergreen. (You can cross for a closer look depending on traffic.) Native to California, fast-growing, perfectly conical shape (can observe better from across the street). Cones have segments that look like "Mick Jagger" lips