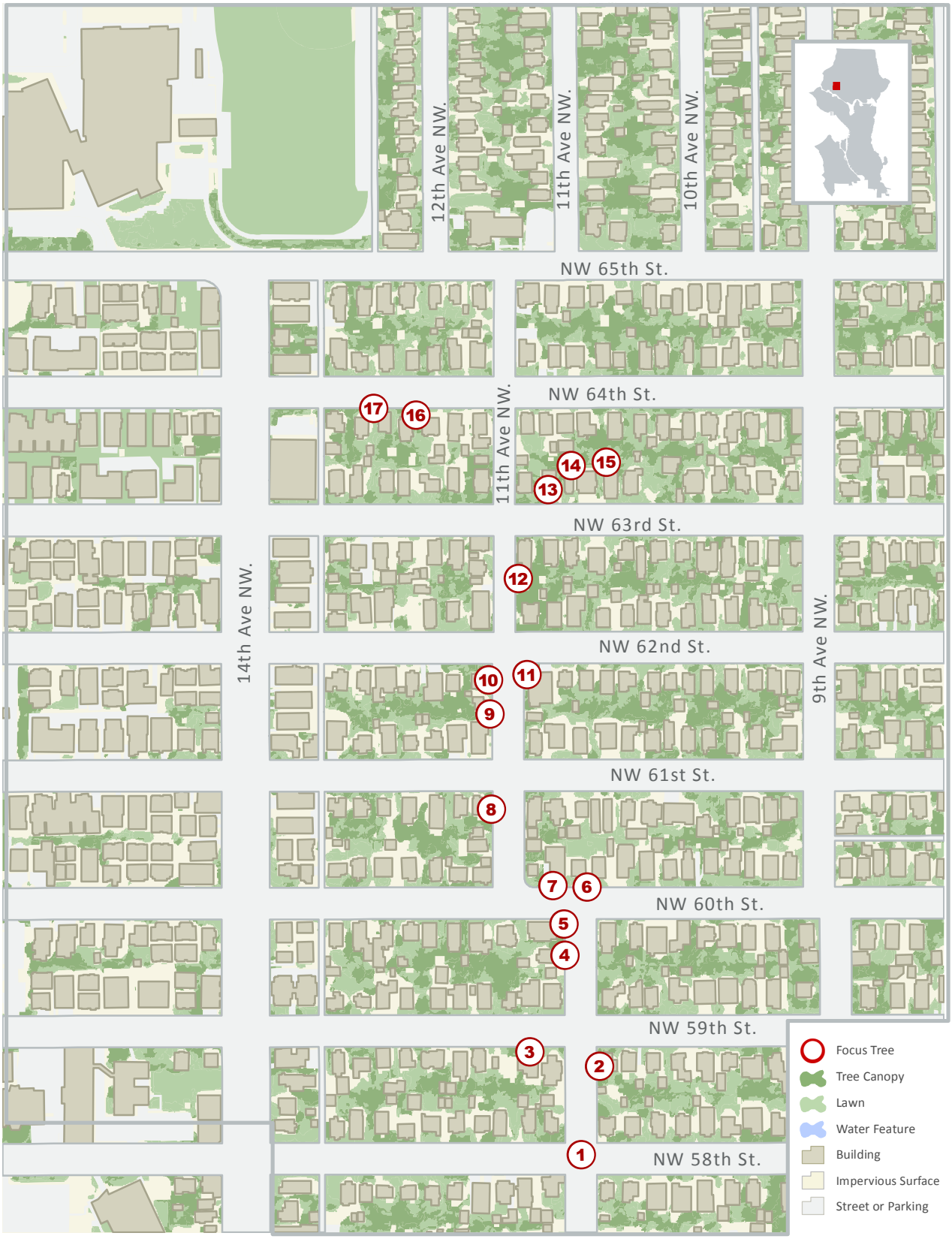
BALLARD SALMON TREE WALK



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

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Trees for Seattle
Your City of Seattle Tree Resource

Ballard Salmon Tree Walk

Behold an early century coniferous forest pre-urban watershed of western hemlock, Douglas fir, & western red cedar salmon bearing stream along 11th Ave NW from Ballard High School to Shilshole Bay. It is now a fresh water ship canal through Ballard Locks to the ocean. Urban trees serve to slow and clean rain water storm flow for healthy salmon & aquatic life, providing peace, shade, and health for city dwellers.

Walk begins 11th Ave NW/NW 58th Street & ends 11th Ave NW/NW 64 St

Tree Number & Common name *Botanical name*	**Tree Descriptions Notes**	**Photos**
1. Largeleaf Linden *Tilia platyphyllos* Traffic Circle	Also known as a basswood; this tree has fragrant blossoms that are frequented by bees. Often used to line streets in Europe and America. Notable features include: ovate to rounded leaves, 5/8 inch pale yellow flowers that form in clusters on several inch long bract, gray bark, and deciduous leaves.	
2. Fan Palm *Trachycarpus fortunei* 943 NW 59th St.	If one wants tropical look to one's yard! This palm is from China, but has no useful fruit as it's a house hugger. Several feet wide palm shape leaves spread out like an unfolded fan. The foot wide trunk is formed of fibrous matter where fan palm leaves are dropped off. It has leaves all year.	

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3. Empress Tree *Paulownia tomentosa* 1107 NW 59th St.	With large, bluish-purple flowers; the empress tree is similar to the catalpa tree. Originally from China/Korea, it is somewhat rare in Seattle. Other features include: large foot long ovate to heart shaped leaves, smooth bark, and deciduous leaves.	
4. Norway Maple *Acer platanoides* 5911 11th Ave NW	Common in Seattle and great in Montana towns with cold climate, the Norway maple boasts palmately lobed 6 inch leaves with 5 lobes ending in slender teeth. It has smooth gray bark, large spreading wing fruit seeds, and is deciduous.	
5. Western Red Cedar *Thuja plicata* 5917 11th Ave NW	Native tree to the Northwest and found in salmon bearing stream forests, this is a very useful tree with its bark and wood serving a long time. Its huge diameter stumps still exist around Seattle and it is considered a great spirit to Native people. Features include: reddish stringy bark, smooth scale needles in fan like shape, and ½ inch rosebud like cones.	
6. Quaking Aspen *Populus tremuloides* 942 NW 60th St.	Beavers and wildlife love aspen, with its trembling leaves that quiver in the breeze, flat sided petiole attaching leaves, lovely light gray smooth bark, and deciduous leaves.	

7. Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia* 954 NW 60th St.	With its fast growing, rugged furrowed trunk and fragrant white pea like flowers, the locust needs heat to leaf out in spring. It also sports a deciduous, elegant crown of yellowish-green foliage, pinnate with dozen or more smooth leaflets.	
8. Silver Birch *Betula pendula* 1103 NW 61st St.	A European derivation; this lovely birch is found weeping or drooping, and is not long lived, especially if it does not receive enough water. Ovate to triangular leaves are toothed on edges, with glossy dark green color found above. Born on pendulous twigs, fruit is found as a pendulous catkin. Bark is white with rugged cracks that come with age.	
9. White Oak *Quercus alba* 6111 11th Ave NW	The white oak is known for smoother tips on leaves compared to the red oak. Leaves are deeply cut with 2 to 4 lobes on each side. It is deciduous, with acorn fruit, pale gray bark that fissures with age, and it makes for beautiful and valuable wood.	
10. Douglas-fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii* 6111 11th Ave NW	Native tree of our salmon bearing stream watershed, this may be the most important timber tree in the US and in Washington. It grows huge and is long lived. Notice the point bract tip "mouse tails" between cone petals. Needles are an inch long, and flat with pointy tip arranged around twig.	

11. Atlas Cedar *Cedrus atlantica* 957 11th Ave NW	North African tree with gray greenish bluish foliage. So called Cedars of Lebanon in Seattle are likely Atlas cedars with coniferous needles that are slender on long shoots or dense whorls. Bark is dark and fissures with age. Upright cones break up before falling.	
12. Western Hemlock *Tsuga heterophylla* 957 NW 63rd St.	Another native tree of our salmon bearing stream watershed, it has a drooping top pointing Northeast. Growing tall and proud, this is our State tree with linear, unequally sized needles, ¾ inches long that spread to either side of the twigs. Note also the ½ to ¾ inch long egg shaped cones.	
13. Coast Redwood *Sequoia sempervirens* 956 NW 63rd St.	This Northern California native is huge and likes fog. It has soft durable wood and is similar to the giant sequoia but without the conical tapered shape. Needles are also a flattened shape compared to the rounded shape of the sequoia. Bark fissures with age.	
14. Ponderosa Pine *Pinus ponderosa* 946 NW 63rd St.	This is the state tree of Montana, with long needles, up to 10 inches in length. It is drought tolerant and highly valued for its soft pine wood. Its puzzle bark smells like vanilla (check it out when you're east of mountains). Needles group in clusters of 3 and its yellowish brown bark is thick for fire resistance with puzzle shaped plates.	

15. Douglas-fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii* 946 NW 63rd St.	Big forest trees for such tiny Ballard yards (see tree # 10). Douglas-firs often need pruning or even removal for safety, but they remain a great habitat for nesting bald eagles and other birds.	
16. Horse-chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* 1119 NW 64th St.	Note the large, palmately compound leaf (shaped like a big work horse hoof). Hard, spiny, rounded nuts are found in the fall with 3 glossy brown seeds inside. It also has gray scaly bark and flowers in upright panicles to 12 inches.	
17. Western Red Cedar *Thuja plicata* 1123 NW 64th St.	Can you see why cedar bark was made into rope and clothing, and how the tree made great canoes, houses and shingles? (see tree # 5)	

Prior to early century ship canal creation, Shilshole Bay was home to Native peoples with beautiful saltwater wetlands and an ocean abundant with life. Salmon moved up a small stream to spawn along the route of our tree walk following 11th Avenue. Headwaters were likely in the Ballard High School area. Today, 11th Ave NW Avenue Rain gardens between NW 57th ant NW 58th Street serve to infiltrate and slow rainfall storm runoff from streets, sidewalks, roofs, urban impervious areas. Rain gardens are somewhat like the original forest watershed in their function to slow, infiltrate, and transpire atmospheric rains to flow into the ocean in clean condition. Urban trees on soils are extremely valuable for our psychological relief from all the concrete and noise, and for the watershed functions of slowing and cleaning fresh water to protect our ocean life.