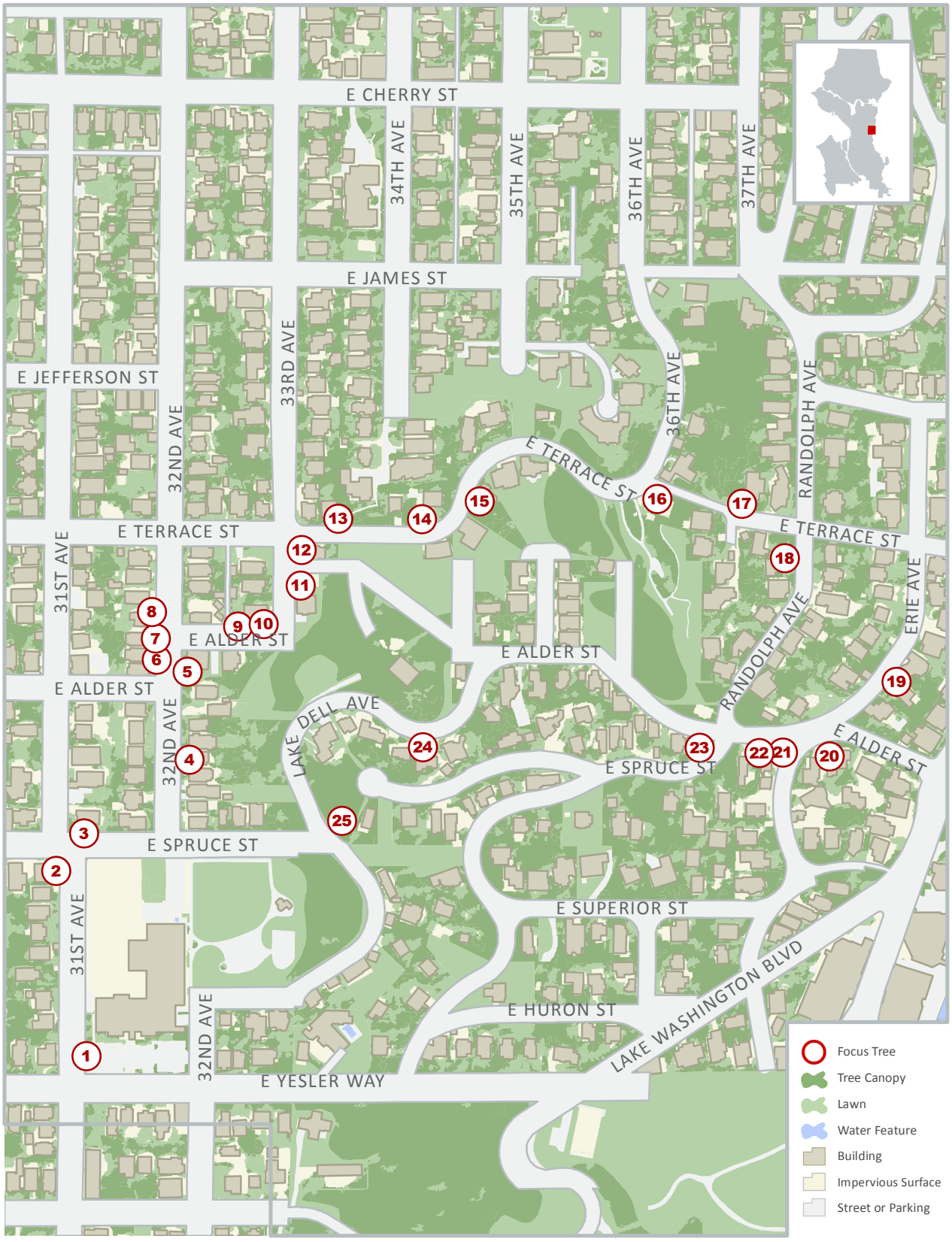
TREE WALK at LESCHI



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

Leschi Tree Walk

A Community of Diversity

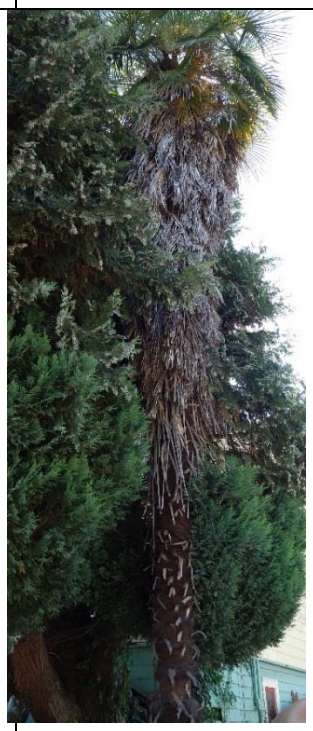
Start at Leschi Elementary School (135 32nd Ave, Seattle, WA 98122)

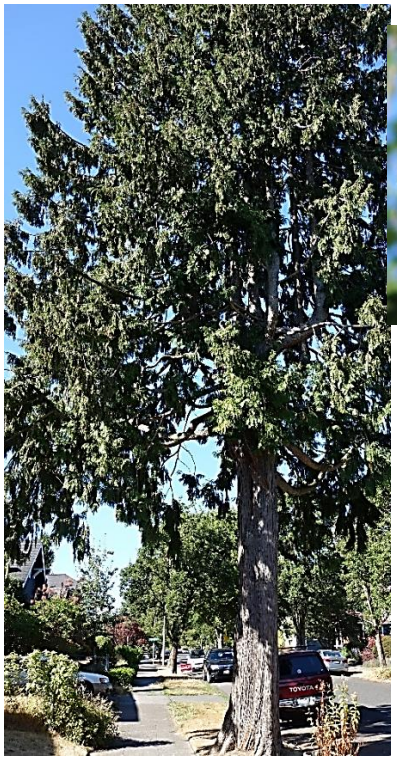
Tree Number & Common Name *Botanical Name* Location	**Tree Description**	**Photos**
1. Norway Maple *Acer platanoides* Multiple trees can be found along 31st Avenue, heading toward Spruce Street.	Native to eastern and central Europe and western Asia, during the 1950s-60s, the Norway Maple became popular as a street tree in the U.S. due to the large-scale loss of American Elms from Dutch Elm Disease. Its benefit as a street tree is shading canopy, pollution tolerance, and its ability to grow in poor, compacted soils. This is due to its shallow root structure, which benefits water quality but can be disruptive to sidewalks. As an invasive species, spreading to parks and other forested areas, its root structure robs other plants of moisture and allows weeds like English Ivy to prosper.	
2. Sour Gum *Nyssa sylvatica* This tree can be found on the northeast corner of 31st Avenue and E Spruce Street.	Native to eastern North America from southern Ontario south to central Florida and Mexico, the Sour Gum tree, also known a tupelo, is commonly cultivated as an ornamental street tree, due to fiery autumnal coloring. During its early years, the Sour Gum forms a large, deep taproot that makes it ideal for the urban forest and contributes to its long life.	

City of Seattle

Trees for Seattle
Your City of Seattle Tree Resource

3. English Holly *Ilex aquifolium* This tree can be found on the northeast corner of 31st Avenue and E Spruce Street. Weed of Concern	Native to the British Isles to southern and central Europe, English Holly is a popular ornamental tree in Seattle however, is a noted invasive plant and listed as a Weed of Concern in King County. English Holly can propagate by growing roots where stems hit the ground, but more commonly its seeds are spread by birds who eat its berries.	
4. European White Birch *Betula pendula* This tree can be found on the east side of 31st Avenue, halfway between E Spruce Street and E Alder Street.	Native to Europe and parts of Asia, the European White Birch is a hardy, pioneer species that has one of the widest natural distributions of any broadleaf in the world. This is in part to its light seeds, which are easily spread by the wind. Despite being invasive, its pollution tolerance makes it a great street tree for exposed areas – although its shallow roots can be damaging to sidewalks.	
5. Cedar of Lebanon *Cedrus libani* This tree can be found on 32nd Avenue, before the northeast corner of E Alder Street.	One of two true cedars on our walk, the Cedar of Lebanon is native to southwestern Asia and is the national emblem of Lebanon on both its flag and coat of arms. It is often planted as an ornamental tree in Seattle. This tree grows deep roots as it matures, is cold hardy, and provides shade under a broad canopy and flat top – making it, if properly planted, a positive member of our urban forest.	

6. Rocky Mountain Juniper *Juniperus communis* This tree can be found on the west side of 32nd Avenue, across from the northeast corner of E Alder Street.	Although native to Seattle, the Rocky Mountain Juniper's range extends from northernmost Mexico to British Columbia. Birds spread the tree's seeds after digesting the blue cones. This tree is often planted as a landscape accent or hedge for privacy, taking advantage of its fast-growing and dense branching limbs.		
7. Windmill Palm *Trachycarpus fortune* This tree can be found directly next to the Rocky Mountain Juniper, on the west side of 32nd Avenue, across from the northeast corner of E Alder Street.	Native to central China, south to northern Burma, and northern India, the Windmill Palm is a cold-hardy palm that's become commonly cultivated and locally naturalized in Seattle, where it often planted around Leschi as an ornamental tree. Elsewhere in the world, its burlap-like leaf sheath fiber is used for making rope and sacks. The tree's high pollution resistance and lack of dropped leaves and seeds make it a welcome addition to our urban forest.		

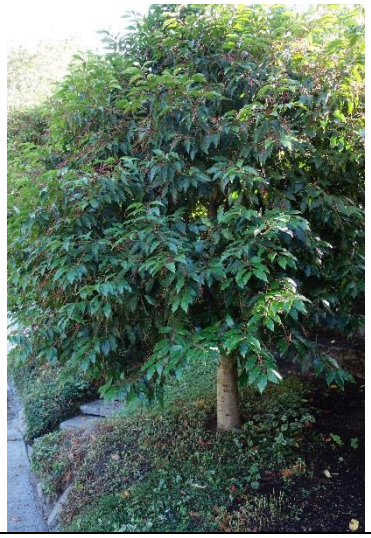
8. Western Red Cedar *Thuja plicata* This tree can be found north of the Juniper and Windmill Palm trees, toward the street, on the west side of 32nd Avenue, across from the northeast corner of E Alder Street.	Native to Pacific Northwest, the Western Red Cedar's peeling, cinnamon-colored trunk is a common, and welcome, sight in our urban forest. This tree grows tall and wide, providing excellent canopy cover; its spicy aroma is an equal indicator of its benefit to our air quality. In nature, this tree frequently reproduces from "nurse logs" developed from its fallen brethren (perhaps this is why the tree's dense root system lacks a well-defined tap root). However, because the consistently warmer and cleaner city streets allow the tree to grow quickly but produce less seeds, in Leschi, Western Red Cedars are generally planted.	
9. Ginkgo *Ginkgo biloba* These trees can be found toward the street on the north side of Alder Street, heading toward 33rd Avenue.	Although native to China, the Ginkgo has been cultivated in North America for over 200 years. Its golden autumn color make it a beautiful ornamental tree – however, its pollution and disease tolerance, shade, and ability to grow in confined soil spaces make it a great street tree as well. Note the lack of smell here – male trees lack the hyper allergenic, malodorous seeds that are found on female Ginkgos.	

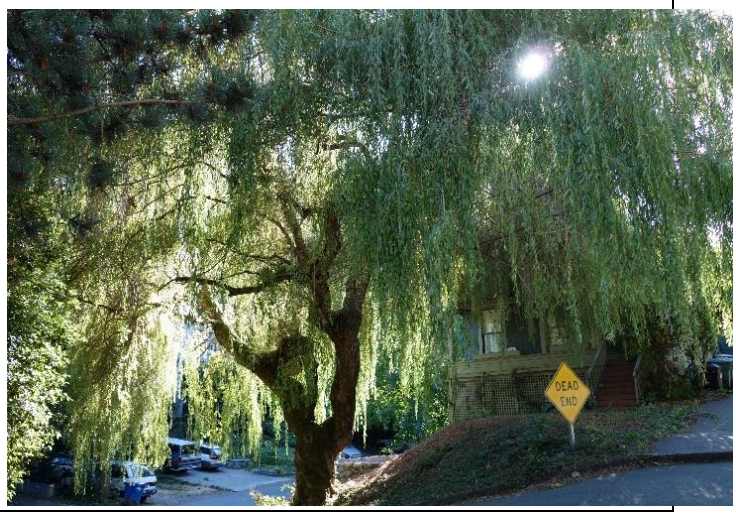
10. Pin Oak Quercus palustris You can find these trees behind a residential fence on the northern side of Alder Street, heading toward 33rd Avenue.	Native to eastern and central United States - most commonly found along Delaware and the lower Ohio River - the fast growing Pin Oak is equally at home in Leschi's parks and streets. Unlike many oaks, which have a deep taproot, this wetland tree develops a shallow, fibrous root system that allows it to grow easily in compacted soil, saving our sidewalks while benefiting our air quality and providing cooling shade.	
11. Atlas Cedar *Cedrus atlantica* You can find this street on the eastern side of 33rd Avenue, halfway between East Alder and East Terrace Streets.	The second true cedar of our walk, the Atlas Cedar was brought to the United States in 1845 from its namesake and natural habitat of the Atlas Mountains in northwest Africa. If left untouched, this tree will grow into a pyramidal shape up to 40 to 60 feet high – making it an ideal shade tree. Additionally, the aromatic oil the tree produces is a natural deterrent for insects.	

12. Southern Magnolia *Magnolia grandiflora* You can find these trees, starting on the southeastern corner of East Terrace Street and 33rd Avenue.	Native to the moist lowland forests of the southeastern United States, the South Magnolia is hardy enough to grow its beautiful flowers in the Pacific Northwest (albeit at a slower rate). Like the Pin Oak, this tree has a shallow root system that doesn't disturb our sidewalks. It can be found as both a street tree and an ornamental, its shiny green leaves an evergreen reminder that its fragrant, milk-colored flowers are only a spring-time away.	
13. American Mountain-ash *Pyrus Americana* You can find this tree on the northern slope of East Terrace Street, tucked between some Big Leaf Maples.	Native to eastern North America, the Red Mountain Ash has a vivid color for every season: its spring-time white, flat-topped flowers give way to clusters of red berries that stay through winter, while its green leaves turn golden in autumn. Unsurprisingly, this tree is used ornamentally in gardens in parks. However, its wide root system and natural habitat of mountain-sides make it ideal for controlling erosion on slopes, as shown here.	

14. Common Apple *Malus domestica* You can find this tree on the western bend of East Terrace Street.	Native to western Asia, the Common Apple tree spread throughout Europe before finding a home in pre-colonial North America, where it was later known as the "winter banana" and "melt in the mouth." Though not great for shade, the apple tree's fruit is a benefit unto itself and popular to cultivate among Seattle's tree lovers. Consider this, apple trees must cross-pollinate to develop fruit. Where is another apple tree nearby?	
15. Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* You can find this tree on the eastern side of East Terrace Street. Weed of Concern	Native to areas bordering the Black Sea in southwestern Asia and southeastern Europe, the Cherry Laurel is grown throughout Seattle as an ornamental screening plant for its dense, glossy evergreen leaves. In King County, Cherry Laurel is classified as a "weed of concern," due to birds spreading its seeds from residential areas to parks and other natural areas. It is considered a threat to native shrubs and canopy trees and is difficult to remove once matured due to its deep root structures. In addition, its leaves are poisonous.	

16. **Strawberry Tree** *Arbutus unedo* You can find this tree on the northern side of the stairwell heading down East Terrace Street.	Native to the Mediterranean and western Europe but growing particularly well in the cool and wet soils of Ireland and England, it's no surprise that the Strawberry Tree finds a place in Seattle's urban forest. This ornamental tree is a favorable alternative to the Cherry Laurel. In addition to its long, dense evergreen leaves providing a residential screen, its shape allows for a shading canopy. Furthermore, its fruit can be made into jam and wine – although it tastes more of fig than strawberry.	
17. **Lodgepole Pine** *Pinus contorta* You can find this tree directly at the end of the stairwell, on the northern side of E Terrace Street.	Native to western North America, the Lodgepole Pine grows well in a variety of soil conditions and elevations, but particularly in full sunlight, as evident by its location here. In addition to providing shade and improving air quality, this contorted subspecies of the Lodgepole Pine provides a unique ornamental addition to our urban forest.	

18. Portugal Laurel *Prunus lusitanica* These trees can be found tucked into the southwestern corner of E Terrace Street and Randolph Avenue.	Native to southwestern France, Spain, Portugal, and Morocco, the Portugal Laurel, like the Cherry Laurel, is grown as an ornamental shrub and is widely planted for screening in gardens. Although many consider it a better looking plant than the Cherry Laurel due to its smaller, serrated leaves, the Portugal Laurel is also invasive.	
19. Weeping Alaskan Cedar *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis pendula* This tree can be found on the eastern side of Erie Avenue, halfway down the block.	Native to moist bottomlands in the Pacific Northwest, the Alaskan Cedar can grow up to 90 feet tall in its native habitat and live up to 3,500 years. As an ornamental in our urban landscape, the weeping cultivar of this tree can spread to 15 feet across. It's true that despite this length, due to its weeping nature, the shading canopy cover is limited. However, this tree is still a great resource in improving our landscape's air and water quality.	
20. Vine Maple *Acer circinatum* These trees can be found on the southeastern corner of Erie Avenue and East Alder Street.	Native to western North America, the small Vine Maple is an adaptable, deeply lobed maple that provides the benefits of an screening shrub, the colorful variety of an ornamental, and a supportive root structure that provides erosion control and additional minerals to the plants around it. Perhaps this is why its prevalent in old growth stands outside of our urban forest.	

21. Cherry Plum *Prunus cerasifera* These trees can be found on the southwestern corner of Erie Avenue and East Alder Street.	Native to Europe and Asia, one could be forgiven for believing its native to Seattle, given its popularity and presence on streets and in backyards. Perhaps this is because this ornamental tree is one of the first to flower in spring, often starting in mid-February. As a street tree, the Cherry Plum has an extensive root system that contributes to water quality and allows it to tolerate many different soil types.	
22. Quaking Aspen *Populus tremuloides* These trees can be found on the southern side of East Alder Street.	The Quaking Aspen is the most widely distributed tree in western North America, being found from Canada to central Mexico. Tall and fast growing, this tree's aggressive and unique root system contributes to water quality, while its canopy cover provides excellent shade. The two trees here almost certainly share one root system.	
23. Weeping Willow *Salix babylonica* This tree can be found on the corner of E Spruce and Alder Streets.	Native to northern China, southwest Asia, and Europe, the Weeping Willow is the definitive shade tree in urban forest, growing a large and fast canopy that's only outmatched by its root system (which can spread out from the trunk up to three times the distance between the edge of the tree's foliage and its trunk). Although the reach of this tree's root system is contributes greatly to our water quality, it can also damage nearby sewer pipelines if appropriate root barriers are not established.	

24. **Japanese Maple** *Acer palmatum* These trees can be found on residential properties along Lake Dell Avenue.	Native to Japan, North Korea, South Korea, eastern Mongolia, and southeast Russia, the Japanese Maple has over 130 cultivars, several of which we've seen over the course of this walk. The beneficial aspects of all these varieties – in addition to its pleasant red and purple variations and numerous lobes – is its dense canopy cover and shallow root structure, which contributes to shade, improved water quality, and erosion control.	
25. **Big Leaf Maple** *Acer macrophyllum* These trees can be found along the northern slope of Lake Dell Avenue.	The Big Leaf Maple is Seattle's most common native tree in its urban forest. However, it's not the most likely to be newly planted along a residential street. This is due in part to the tree's tendency toward branch failure, which can pose a danger to residents and power lines. The other reason is the tree's fast-growing root system, which can disrupt underground sewer and water lines. Conversely, the large branches and wide lobes that make its namesake contribute to its excellent canopy cover, as evidenced by the shaded, steep climb to the end of our walk. Likewise, its root system is defining factor in the erosion control of the slope facing Lake Dell Avenue.	

End at Peppi's Playground, behind Leschi Elementary School.