TREE WALK at NORTH DELRIDGE

Cottage Grove

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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North Delridge Tree Walk

Begins in Greg Davis Park at the boulders.

Tree Number & Common name *Botanical name* Location	**Tree Descriptions** **Notes**	**Photos**
1. Heritage Cully River Birch *Betula nigra* 'Cully'	This grove of river birches is one of three groves in the Greg Davis Park and Cottage Grove Park (across the street), and the first of four birches along the walk. The river birch is distinguishable by its exfoliating reddish bark that will turn dark gray and deeply furrowed as it ages. Unlike the name suggests, the river birch does not need to live by a river. There used to be several homes at this location, however in the 1970's the City of Seattle "acquired" this land to expand the West Seattle Golf Course.	
2. Common Pear Tree *Pyrus communis*	A close cousin to the apple tree, pear trees are prized for their fruit and wood and can live up to 600 years. This pear tree was planted at least fifty years ago, but more likely about a hundred years ago, in the yard of the house that once stood here. Washington produces about 50% of the nation's pears.	
3. Douglas Fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii*	The Douglas fir will be just to the left of the foot bridge surrounded by fellow native trees, including western red cedars, alders, cottonwoods and maples. The trunk of this Douglas fir is slightly bent, most likely the result of effort to gain optimal position to the sun. The Douglas fir is Seattle's tallest native and most numerous conifer tree. Its best identified by its cones, which are said to resemble a dragon's forked tongue or the little hind feet and tail of a mouse. The cones are frequently found on the ground surrounding the tree.	

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4. Cottonwood *Populus trichocarpa*	Seattle's native deciduous behemoth, the cottonwood is a quick growing tree with heights up to 230 feet and trunks in excess of 10 feet in diameter. It is burdened by a short lifespan of under 250 years. Unlike the name implies, the wood of this tree is not cotton. Instead, its name is the result of seed pods that extrude a cotton-like fluff. In the spring, the fluff drops and a blanket of cotton coats the ground below. From 25th Ave, you can see the balloon tops of the cottonwoods that tower over the other trees of the green belt.	
5. California Redwood *Sequoia sempervirens*	The world's tallest tree at heights up to 400 feet, the redwood can live up to 4,000 years. Its native range is in the foggy coast of northern California and southern Oregon, but Seattle, with its abundance of wet and shaded areas, makes a perfect home for the California redwood.	
6. Common Horsechestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*	A deciduous tree with white flowers in the spring and spiked nuts in the summer. The horsechestnut seed (nut), bark, flower, and leaves are poisonous to humans when consumed and may result in death. However, when its poison (esculin) is removed from the seed, the resulting extract can be used to reduce some symptoms of poor blood circulation, such as varicose veins, pain, tiredness, itching, and water retention.	
7. Port Orford Cedar/ Lawson Cypress *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*	When standing underneath the foliage of this tree, you will be overwhelmed with the smell of this cedar. Growing best on the coast of northern California, it can reach up to 100 feet tall and 40 feet wide in a pyramidal form. While easily confused with the native western red cedar due to it similarity in form, they are easily distinguishable by the cones and foliage. The Port Orford cedar cones are round, about ½ inch across, and the underside of the foliage displays distinct white "X" markings, while the western red cedar cones are cylindrical, about ½ inch long, with leaves displaying a "butterfly" shape on the underside.	

8. Shore Pine *Pinus contorta 'contorta'*	Native to Seattle and commonly found in gardens, in part for its ability to thrive in a wide variety of soil conditions, along with its sprawling rounded form. Able to reach heights of 50 feet, the shore pine trunks are rarely straight. Its needles, two per bundle, are 1-3 inches long and appear flat with a subtle twist. Shore Pine is a close relative to the lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*), which has a much straighter trunk.	
9. European White Birch *Betula pendula*	European white birch is a popular tree planted in yards, in part because of its graceful structure and white bark which glistens in the winter sun. However, the bark blackens with age. When planted in yards, it can reach heights up to 50 feet, but when found in wild areas, they can reach heights up to 120 feet. In addition to the European white birch's appeal, its sap can be used for beverages and shampoo.	
10. Sierra Redwood/Giant Sequoia *Sequoiadendron giganteum*	With its distinguishable soft, reddish-brown bark, the Sierra redwood is the world's most massive tree able to grow up to 380 feet tall, with a trunk up to 35 feet in diameter. When planted in urban forests, great care should be taken when selecting its location, otherwise, it will outgrow its welcome. Fortunately, this Sierra redwood has ample room to grow, though nearby trees may become its casualties.	
11. Bigleaf Maple *Acer macrophyllum*	As the name suggests, the bigleaf maple has big leaves that can be up to 15 inches wide. Its branch structure forms a rounded canopy and in the fall, the leaves turn yellow, gold and brown. A native tree, it thrives in the cool moist area of Seattle, but is able to grow in dry or moist soil.	

12. Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*	The black locust is a close cousin to the honey locust with one primary difference: thorn. The black locust has thorns, while the honey locust is without. Its wood, one of the heaviest and hardest woods in North America, is a popular firewood because it burns slowly with little visible flame and smoke and has the ability to burn when wet. In addition to black locust's valuable wood, its edible flowers make a traditional Hungarian syrup used to flavor water.	
13. Autumn Blaze Maple *Acer freemanii* 'Autumn Blaze'	A hybrid tree that combines the most desirable features of the silver maple and red maple. Features retained from the silver maple include its silvery underside of the leaf and its deeply cut lobes, while the red maple contributes a reddish stem and brilliant fall color mixture of red, yellow, orange, and burgundy. It is a fast growing tree, up to 50 feet high and wide, and is on the Seattle Department of Transportation's approved street tree list.	
14. Corkscrew Willow *Salix matsudana*	It is commonplace to see purpleleaf plums on planting strips throughout Seattle, but in most cases they are a flowering variety, not a fruiting variety like this one is. This variation was most likely unintended due to a flaw in early cultivation techniques where seedlings were distributed prior to verifying if the desired trait was retained. Regardless, minus the purplish carpet imprints by our pawed friends, purpleleaf plum fruit makes a great jam.	
15.Thundercloud Purpleleaf Plum *Prunus cerasifera* 'Thundercloud'	It is commonplace to see purpleleaf plums on planting strips throughout Seattle, but in most cases they are a flowering variety, not a fruiting variety like this one is. This variation was most likely unintended due to a flaw in early cultivation techniques where seedlings were distributed prior to verifying if the desired trait was retained. Regardless, minus the purplish carpet imprints by our pawed friends, purpleleaf plum fruit makes a great jam.	

16. Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*	With its adaptability to a wide array of soil and temperate conditions, the Scots pine has one of the greatest ranges of all trees. Identifiable by its greyish-green needles, two per bundle, and orangey bark, it can grow up to 160 feet. In addition to being a popular wood for building and firewood, it is a popular Christmas tree and the inner bark can be eaten when ground-up.	
17. Paper Birch *Betula papyrifera*	As with the river birch seen previously in the walk, the paper birch also has exfoliating bark, although it is white, versus the river birch's reddish coloring. Beside the bark, another distinguishing characteristic between the two trees are the leaves. The paper birches' leaves are a noticeable darker shade of green.	
18. Japanese Red Pine *Pinus densiflora*	Planted about 20 years ago, this slow growing dwarf variety has been carefully manicured to create a great focal point for the yard. While some non-dwarf varieties can reach heights up to 100 feet, this pine will likely not grow above 12 feet. Japanese red pine is frequently confused with the Scots Pine, but the Japanese red pine needles are dark green, versus the greyish-green needles of the Scots pine.	
19. Norway Maple *Acer platanoides*	Unlike the name suggests, the Norway maple is rarely found in Norway. In Seattle, it has become naturalized and is considered invasive around green belts as it grows quickly and shades out native plants. Growing up to 75 feet tall and 40 feet wide, the deciduous foliage creates a dense canopy. Because of its tolerance to pollution, it is commonly found on planting strips.	

20. *Tree of Heaven* *Ailanthus altissima*	The cockroach of trees, the tree of Heaven is a highly adaptive and pollution tolerate invasive tree that is a noxious weed in 46 states, including Washington. This tree has wreaked havoc in large swaths of the country, most notably in Brooklyn, NY where the tree has been coined the "Tree of Brooklyn". Imported from China in the 1790's for its wood and tropical appearance, it quickly spread by freely reseeding and suckering (sending up new shots like bamboo). Additionally, it releases a toxin that can kill surrounding plants.	
21. Cutleaf Weeping Birch *Betula pendula* 'Dalecarlica'	Cultivated from the European White Birch, the cutleaf weeping birch can be easily identified by its deeply jagged leaves and drooping branches. The slender and pliable branches are sometimes used to create baskets and as a rope swing for children (though not advised due to safety concerns for both the child and the tree).	
22. Staghorn Sumac *Rhus typhina*	This staghorn sumac has a unique branch structure that twists as it stretches toward the sidewalk. The wood of staghorn sumacs is frequently used in inlays for wood furniture, and for walking sticks and napkin rings, while the flower can be dried and is commonly used as a spice for dips and rubs.	
23. Japanese Maple *Acer palmatum*	Possibly the most beloved of all trees, the Japanese maple's popularity has resulted in over 500 varieties and numerous books dedicated to just this tree. The graceful structure and small leaves of green, red, yellow, white, and purple are most known for their brilliant fall color. While many may associate Japanese maples as shorter trees, up to 20 or 30 feet, some Japanese maples can grow up to 60 feet.	