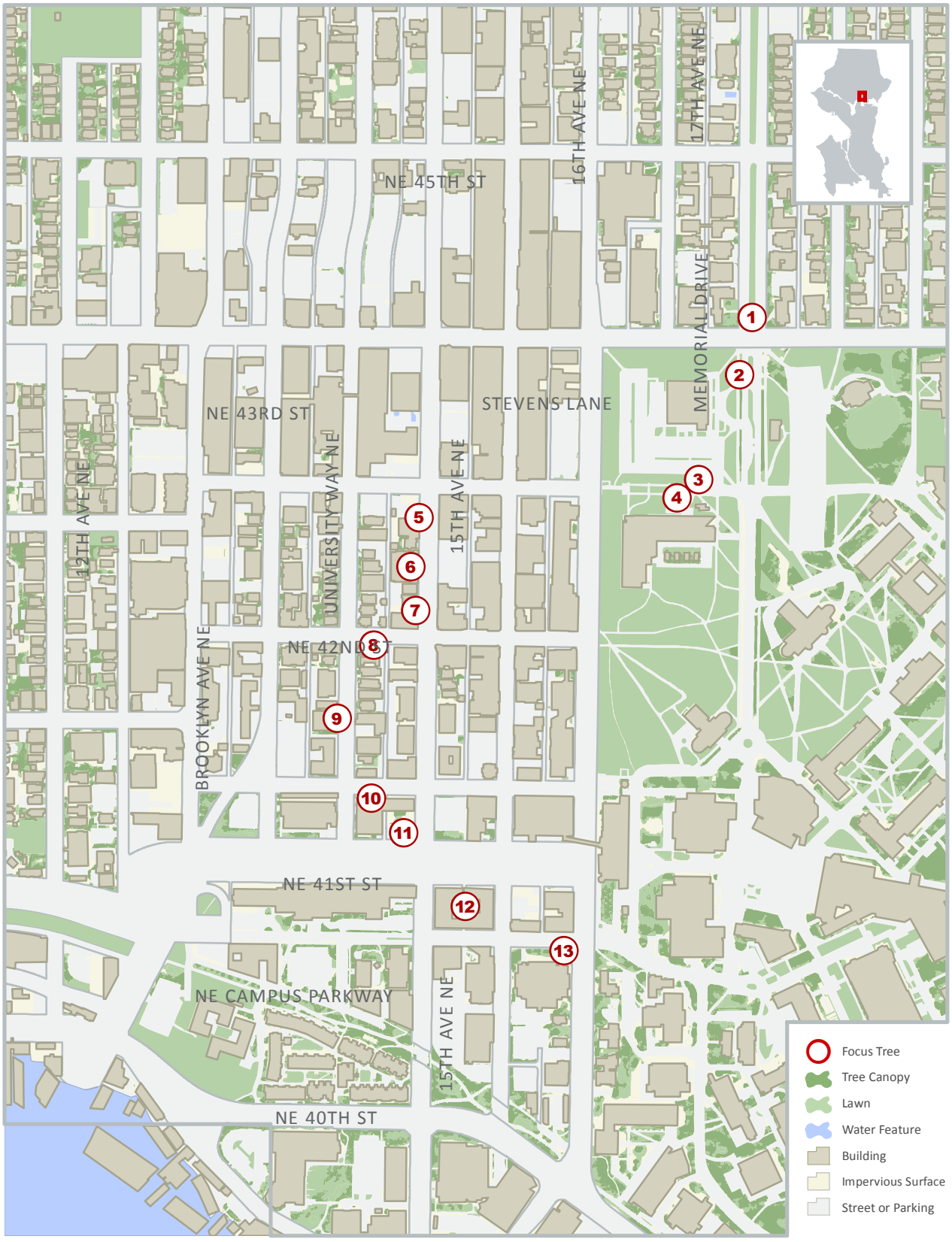
# UNIVERSITY DISTRICT TREE WALK



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.

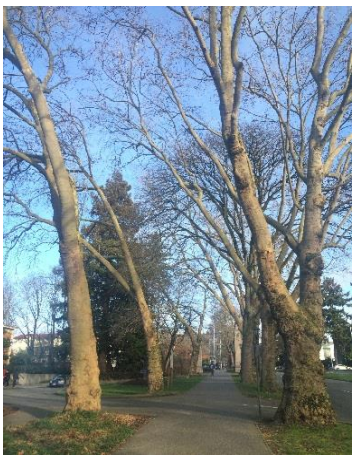
For more information on our work and how you can get involved:

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

# University District Tree Walk

## *How trees shape space: trees and the built environment*

Begin Tree Walk at the north entrance of campus near the purple UW statue

| **Tree Number & Common name**<br>*Botanical name*<br>Address | **Tree Descriptions**<br>**Notes** | **Photos** |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Horse Chestnut**<br>*Aesculus hippocastanum*<br><br>NE 45th St & 17th Ave NE | This alley of horse chestnut trees create a grand boulevard down fraternity row. The trees have palmately-compound leaves with 5-7 leaflets. The prickly fruit has a glossy brown seed and is often confused with a true chestnut. The center strip is maintained by Parks. Notice how the trees create a corridor for cars with a tree-lined perspective. | |
| **2. London Plane**<br>*Platanus x acerifolia*<br><br>Turn around and walk down Memorial Drive | Walk through this double allee of London Plane trees. These large and mature trees create a distinctive entrance to the campus of the University of Washington. They were planted in the early 1920s in memory of UW students and staff killed in World War I. They create an edge and a buffer for both cars and pedestrians on the sidewalk. London Plane trees are distinctive for their patchy bark, lobed leaves, and their fruit. |  |

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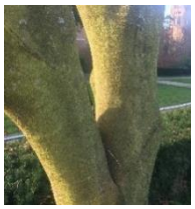
| **3. Yellowwood**<br>*Cladrastis kentukea*<br><br>Take a right down NE Stevens Lane | The scale of the right of way has decreased, and so has the height of the trees. This row of yellowwood trees fits in with the pedestrian scale. They will typically grow about 40 feet tall. They are native in the southeastern United States but are grown as ornamental trees which have white flowers in the summer. The fruit is a legume with four to six seeds in the bean pod. The Society of Municipal Arborists selected the Yellowwood as its Urban Tree of the Year for 2015. |  |
| **4. Blue Atlas Cedar**<br>*Cedrus atlantica* | This Atlas Cedar is the largest of the trees in the lane and serves as a landmark tree for the pedestrian scale walkway creating a point of interest along the path. Atlas cedars have large, round cones that sit on top of branches. They have short needles that are clustered into bundles. Their broad habit creates a sprawling canopy. | |
| **5. Lawson Cypress**<br>*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*<br><br>Walk down NE 43rd St and notice the lack of street trees. Continue on to Brooklyn Ave NE | This Lawson Cypress sits at the corner of the apartment building. It been protected during the construction of the light rail. Trees can help to filter out noises and pollutants. | |
| **6. European Birch**<br>*Betula pendula*<br><br>In the courtyard at 4243 Brooklyn Ave NE | This weeping European birch has a lovely shape and is the focal point in this courtyard of cottage-style apartments. The pendulum-like branches reinforce the architectural whimsy and create a visual screen for the parking lot across the street. | |

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| **7. Sawara cypress**<br>*Chamaecyparis pisifera*<br><br>In front of apartment building at 4205 Brooklyn Ave NE | This western red cedar is another tree that is on the corner of a building. This tree helps to define and frame the edges of the building and it gives the tenants a nice tree house effect. Notice the tree around the corner of the apartment building that is used in the same way. | |
| **8. Arborvitae**<br>*Thuja cupressaceae*<br><br>Take a right on NE 42nd St. The trees frame the Camini apartments. | The Italian cypresses frame the Camini apartments and reinforce the Mediterranean architectural details. It is native to the eastern Mediterranean region. They grow tall and narrow and are often planted in an ornamental row. | |
| **9. Western Red Cedar**<br>*Thuja plicata*<br><br>4144 12th Ave NE | This group of western red cedars fit the scale of surrounding blue apartments. Take note of the understory trees that create a pedestrian scale and work with the five story apartment building. Western red cedars often work well in urban environments because they are tall conifers with narrow canopies. | |

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| **10. London Plane**<br>*Platanus x acerifolia*<br><br>In front of 4123 12th Ave NE | We have seen this tree before, but this London Plane tree stands alone. It is much older than the surrounding landscaping and the nearby building. This tree is a heritage tree and was last measured with a diameter of 73 inches. This tree was discussed through the Early Design Guidance Meeting and beyond. It was stated that the tree at 75' tall should match or exceed the height of the building and that the building entry and façade should be designed in consideration of the tree in an effort to maximize its health. | |
| **11. American Elm**<br>*Ulmus Americana*<br><br>Walk through the breezeway under Elm Hall to get to the focal elm tree | This residence hall was planned around the elm tree. Through the planning process, the University evaluated the health of the tree which stands at 90 feet tall with a 48 inch diameter trunk. It is one of the top 10 largest American Elm trees in Seattle. Mahlum Architects of Seattle and Gustafson Guthrie Nichol landscape architects created dorms that take advantage of the summer shade and natural beauty of the Elm Tree. The hall is named after this tree: Elm Hall. | |
| **12. Paperbark Maple**<br>*Acer griseum*<br><br>In the courtyard of Alder Hall past District Market | This paper bark maple is in the courtyard of Alder Hall. Paper bark maples are often confused with birch trees at first glance because of their peeling bark. | |
| **13. Strawberry Tree**<br>*Arbutus unedo*<br><br>Turn around and walk down Memorial Drive | Strawberry trees are small evergreen trees. In the autumn, the tree fruits a red berry and is edible | |