TREES OF QUEEN ANNE 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
# Trees of Queen Anne Tree Walk

*Extraordinary trees in the North Queen Anne area!*

5th Avenue N & Republican Bus Stop (In front of Gates Foundation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree Number &amp; Common name</th>
<th>Tree Descriptions</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Photos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Red maples</strong>&lt;br&gt;Acer rubrum</td>
<td>The <em>Acer rubrum</em> or Red Maple is also known as Swamp Water or Soft Maple (Wikipedia). This beautiful tree is one of the most common deciduous trees according to the U.S. Forest Service. The Red Maple has brilliant red leaves during Autumn. Hardy in zones 3 to 9 one of the reasons the Red Maple is well represented throughout the Pacific Northwest and Seattle in particular (some would say a little too well represented in our fair city).</td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/150" alt="Red Maple" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start at 5th Ave N (Gates Foundation)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/150" alt="Red Maple" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **2. Scotch pine**<br>Pinus sylvestris | *Pinus sylvestris* have needles approximately 1 inch in length and are evergreen – retains its needles and its color year long. These two facts make them an excellent Christmas tree. (It’s never too early to talk about Christmas – now is it?) (The National Christmas Tree Association website.) Also Scotch Pines have an excellent survival rate and are easy to replant, which is easy to see here as they beautiful trees are planted next to the Seattle Center parking garage. | | ![Scotch Pine](https://via.placeholder.com/150) |
| 3. Himalayan birch  
*Betula utilis var. jacquemontii*  
Center of Valley St & 3rd Ave |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This wonderful Birch has the native range of West Himalaya in Nepal, hence the common name. They are typically found in the 3,000 to 4,000 feet range in these mountains. They also typically bloom April to May. Here’s an interesting fact according to the Missouri Botanical Garden’s website, yellowish brown blooms belong to the male tree while green blooms belong to the female. Himalayan birch prefers full sun to part shade but like medium to wet rain fall (that might explain why these trees are so many and look so heathy here in Seattle).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 4. Arborvitae  
*Thuja occidentalis*  
Near staircase on Aloha St & 3rd Ave N |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arborvitae means Tree of Life (Fact Monster website). This terrific little tree is an aromatic evergreen of the genus <em>Thuja</em> and the Cypress family. It is really a tree that I easily recognize as I worked for a very long time in a wonderful local family run Real Estate Company on Queen Anne and the Property Manager always selects this nifty tree as a hedge tree because of its attractive scale like leaves and its resistance to decay.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 5. Purple leaf plum
*Prunus cerasifera*

Next to arborvitae

There is tremendous diversity among Plum trees with this delightful Purple leaf plum being among the many different varieties. This Purple leaf plum has prolific flowering branches that are probably more ornamental than practical fruit bearing varieties. All plums though need some exposure to our winter cold to produce beautiful blooms such as shown here. ***Plums need honey bees to produce fruit and so are important tree for wild pollinators.***

### 6. American elm
*Ulmus Americana*

Across from purple leaf plum

*Ulmus americana* or American elm tree is also called white elm (US Museum website). American elms are known to be a very tall tree that can grow up to 80 feet. These elms’ truck divides near the base with several large limbs that reach outward. American elms are stress-tolerant and grow quickly. The branches can create a cathedral-like effect and so make for a beautiful in city or urban tree. Unhappily these wonderful trees have long been affected with Dutch elm disease that is caused by an Asian fungus spread by the elm bark beetle. Once these great trees lived to be 200 year or older now their survival rate is around 30 years.
7. Western redcedar
*Thuja plicata*

*Thuja plicata* or Western redcedar has a persistent, scale-like leaf that is arranged in decussate pairs with yellow-green on top and a distinctive butterfly shaped butterfly bloom on the underside (Virginia Tech Dendrology). The fruit of this wonderful tree are small woody cones approx. ½ inch long that have thin scales and younger twigs are flattened but older twigs are more round with slender flexible and reddish brown in color. The range in North America maybe expanding due to more plantings.

8. Black locust
*Robinia pseudoacacia*

*Robinia pseudoacacia* or Black locust has been planted extensively for its nitrogen fixing abilities and as a source for nectar for pollinators ***such as honey bees***. Black locust are very hardy that the only effective way to reduce the spread of young shoots is to burn or mow these young trees (the Wild Classroom).

9. Paperbark maple
*Acer griseum*

*Acer griseum* or Paperbark Maple is easily recognized by it peeling like bark. The mature Paperbark Maple can grow to be between 15 to 30 feet tall, however, this is a slow growing tree so it can take years to reach this height. The paperbark maple originally comes from China (per the Spruce website). The USDA places this wonderful tree in Zones 4-8. It is irregular or oval shape. It’s leaves have three (3) leaflets and can be around 3 – 8 inches long. The paperbark maple is one of the last to change into fall colors by. This wonderful tree also has the two-winged samaras that maples produce.
| **10. Colorado blue spruce**  
*Picea pungens*  
On Prospect St & 3rd Ave N (on property hill) | Colorado blue spruce on a personal family note, this gorgeous tree is rumored to be my father’s favorite tree of all time. And again, what’s not to love about this beautiful tree... The blue spruce is the state tree of Colorado and Utah and as a Christmas tree it is grown in all 50 states including Hawaii and Alaska. Decorating this handsome tree can be traced back to Classical Rome when these Romans decorated it for their winter festival called Saturnalia. This festival honored the god of agriculture – Saturnus. Also, during the Middle Ages, the blue spruce stood for paradise and was decked out with apples on December 24th each year. |
|---|---|
| **11. Japanese flowering cherry**  
*Prunus serrulata*  
Corner of Prospect St & 3rd Ave N | These Prunus serrulata or Japanese flowering cherry are so well maintained and cared for. It is clear that these trees are loved and prized for their beautiful flowers. They are carefully pruned so they don’t crowd the street or the sidewalk. These trees are very mature and it makes me happy to look at how much folks care for these cherry trees. They flower in mid spring and depending on the cultivar the flowers maybe different shades of white and pink with either single, semi-double or double blooms. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>12. Saucer magnolia</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Magnolia grandiflora</strong>&lt;br&gt;Near staircase of 3rd Ave N</th>
<th><em>Magnolia grandiflora</em> or the Saucer magnolia is the state flower for Louisiana and Mississippi (the Flower Expert website). While Magnolias are native to the eastern part of the US this beautiful tree is also cultivated as an ornamental flowering plant in Seattle. <em>Magnolia grandiflora</em> is part of a large genus that includes about 210 flowering plant species in the subfamily of Magnolioidae of the family Magnoliaceae. This evergreen beauty is of horticultural importance because even though it is a tropical evergreen it also does very well in our more temperate climate. Magnolias as a family are believed to be the earliest known flowering plant dating back to about 130 million years ago.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>13. Red Oak</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Quercus rubra</strong>&lt;br&gt;201 W Galer St</td>
<td><em>Quercus rubra</em> or Red Oak can grow to be a very tall tree as seen here. Red Oaks can reach to 90 feet at maturity. An interesting fact about this large and beautiful tree is that Red Oaks reproduce from both seeds and root sprouts. Also, they are not a tree to be planted in groups, one due to their height at maturity but also because they require space to grow. Red Oaks grow rapidly and live a long time. They may have life spans of 300 to 500 years although due to climate change and their need for space; many have much shorter life spans.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
14. Mountain hemlock
*Tsuga mertensiana*
Galer St & 2nd Ave N

*Tsuga mertensiana* or Mountain hemlock is a popular choice for Seattle yards because of its elegant even graceful shape (Seattle Times March 12th 2008 article). Mountain hemlock is an evergreen that grows narrow and upright with asymmetrical silvery blue-green needles growing densely on the slightly drooping branches make it a very pretty addition to everyone’s garden. Mountain hemlock have cones and are slow growing tree which makes it a terrific container tree. Folks that live in Condos or even apartments can plant this lovely tree too.

15. Lombardy poplar
*Populus nigra var. italica*
Warren Ave N & Garfield St

*Populus nigra* var. *italica* or Lombardy Poplar illustrates that trees come into and out of fashion too (an article by Christina D. Wood published by Havard.edu). In fact, Andrew Jackson in 1841 wrote that this tree was so popular that there didn’t need to be any description provided. Lombardy poplar is a very tall and rapidly growing tree. It is easily propagated from woody stem cuttings. Can be hardly up to Zone 9. It can grow to 100 feet tall. This significant tree was once very popular throughout the Northeast but now (at least in 1994) it is difficult to find any. However here we have this very tall tree on the tallest part of Queen Anne. So maybe it’s still in fashion to us.
| 16. **Windmill palm**  
*Trachycarpus fortunei*  
Garfield St & 1st Ave N |
|---|
| Planted off the sidewalk and close to this house is this Windmill palm trees. South Lake Union has a **Cabbage-palm Cordyline australis**  
On Minor Ave N and on Queen Anne we have this wonderful Windmill palm, which adds additional proof that indeed Seattle can support Palms. After all we are the USDA Zone 8a, we have good weather for growing palms as our typical Summer day averages 67 to 85 degrees. Palm Trees are in the botanical family that is closely related to Grass due to the Palm’s way of taking up water through a system of shallow roots. |

| 17. **Colorado blue spruce**  
*Picea pungens*  
2011 1st Ave N (Near the entrance of the building) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A personal family fan favorite tree. Legend has it has it that my father’s favorite tree was the Colorado Blue Spruce. And what’s not to love about this tree? With its attractive blue-green needles, symmetrical shape and low maintenance that grows well in sun or partial shade, all around a lovely coniferous tree. You can also see a cute Colorado blue spruce on Republican St in South Lake Union near the Row House Café.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**18. Giant sequoia**  
*Sequoiadendron giganteum*

Next to Colorado blue spruce  

*Sequoiadendron giganteum or Giant sequoia* can live up to 3,000 years old with branches up to 8 feet in diameter with bark that is up to 3 feet thick (treehugger natural science website). General Sherman is the name of the largest Giant sequoia that is a total of 52,508 cubic feet. Also, Giant Sequoias are the 3rd longest living tree, they are incredibly hardy but reproduce only by seeds that can remain in their cones for up to 20 years. These majestic trees like to grow from burnt bare soil and so may only produce one maturing offspring over its life span. I so enjoy seeing this beautiful tree in our Queen Anne neighborhood.

**19. Dawn redwood**  
*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

Warren Ave N & Howe St (South of East Queen Anne Playground)  

*Metasequoia glyptostroboides or Dawn redwood* is another tree that as a species been growing for a significant amount of time. In fact it is thought to been growing since the Triassic Period – around 230 million years ago (Arbor Day Foundation’s website). Dawn redwoods are fast growers. They can increase in size by more than 24’ in a single year and is hardy in zones 5-8. The Dawn redwood is a spreading canopy tree that can grow at maturity to a height of 70-100 feet. It also has some drought tolerance and can stand flooding. Dawn Redwoods have fine and feathery leaves, that are bright green in color with opposite arrangement and are flattened about 1 ½” long and 1/16” wide.
| **20. Western redcedar**  
*Thuja plicata* | Thuja plicata or Western red cedar has a persistent, scale-like leaf that is arranged in decussate pairs with yellow-green on top and a distinctive butterfly shaped butterfly bloom on the underside (Virginia Tech Dendrology website). The fruit of this wonderful tree are small woody cones approx. ½ inch long that have thin scales and when younger the twigs are flattened but older twigs are more round with slender flexible and reddish brown in color. The range is slightly expanding in North America due to more plantings. |
| 1716 2nd Ave N  
(near the parking lot of church) | |

| **21. Eucalyptus**  
*Eucalyptus spp.* | Eucalyptus spp. or Eucalyptus have flowers that have no petals. The blooms consist of hundreds of stamens emerging from a central cone-like bud (ambientbp blog). In addition they have uncommon leaf formations. Eucalyptus oil has been used for centuries as an antibacterial and antifungal agent in 17th century England and Australia. |
| 1708 2nd Ave N | |

| **22. River birch**  
*Betula nigra* | Betula nigra or River birch is one of my favorite of all time trees due to its bark. (Aborday.org blog) River birch once it matures it develops a cinnamon-color bark that curls and peels. Giving this tree, at least to me, an untidy appearance; but untidy in terms of a creative process. I view this tree as a good work in progress. River birch have brown and green catkins in April and May of each year and is resistant to most Borer type of insect infestations. ***Important to note that the catkins of this tree can be a good food source for wildlife.*** |
| 1610 2nd Ave N | |
### 23. English holly

*Illex aquifolium* or English holly is identified as a noxious weed on King County.gov/Noxious weeds in King County, Washington page. So why feature this tree during my walk? This particular English holly is beautifully maintained. In addition, I have fond memories of the two off setting English Hollys in my mother front walk leading to her home. Plus, you can use it for the upcoming holidays and robins (the bird) really like to eat the bright red berries.

---

### 24. Deodar cedar

*Cedrus deodara* or Deodar cedar is ‘the most graceful cedar’ according to Michael Dirr – Tree Expert on Arbor day blog. According to Michael this is so due to its “[e]legant, pendulous branches, attractive coloring, pleasing shape.” This graceful tree provides nesting sites for and food for birds, an aromatic oil that naturally deters insects. Makes an effective windscreen as it keeps its foliage year-round. It’s hardy in Seattle Zone and up to Zone 9. The Deodar cedar features bluish-green needles with sharp tips that are 1-2” inches long in clusters. These needles shed as new growth appears in late spring.

---

### 25. Staircase with ivy

This staircase coming down from Highland Drive and 2nd Ave N has several different trees. The branching pattern of these trees is irregular and random and creates a closed asymmetrical cover or canopy of trees. This canopy of trees offers shade and dramatic shape that is almost architectural in a sense. All is not perfect; however, as in the center of this beautiful canopy one can see the importance of keeping trees clear of ivy.
26. **Southern catalpa**  
*Catalpa bignonioides*  
Bottom of staircase on the left (in front of 1114 2nd Ave N)  

*Catalpa bignonioides* or Southern catalpa can grow up to 50 feet tall with a truck diameter between 2 to 3 feet. Southern catalpas grow quickly but have short life spans (gardenguides.com). The foliage of this lovely tree is usual in that it is shaped like a large heart. Each leaf grows in threes from a node that gives this grouping a whorled pattern. The leaves will turn a blackish color as they fall off in autumn. Southern catalpa is primarily used as an ornamental tree due to its cluster of leaves but are sometimes also used as a hedge for privacy in one’s yard.

27. **Hinoki cypress**  
*Chamaecyparis obtuse*  
909 2nd Ave N  

*Chamaecyparis obtuse* or Hinoki cypress has traditional been used in the art of bonsai (ilonasgarden.com). The leaves are a deep green and grow in a fan shape. It is an evergreen and so brightens a winter garden. Hinoki cypress is pest resistant and requires little maintenance; however, sunshine is very important as without sufficient light the lower branches will die.

---

We’ll meet in front of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on 5th Ave N where KC Metro Bus 3 or 4 stops. Or if folks want to you can take the Seattle Monorail from 5th Ave and Westlake (Downtown Seattle) and then walk across Seattle Center Campus and cross the street on 5th Ave N.

**Trees of Queen Anne: Up a hill and a down stair case Tree Walk – October 6th 2018 – Resources and Thoughts about Trees**

There are several important reasons why we should increase the number of trees in Seattle. Trees absorb water through their roots to help decrease the amount of water run-off in the rainy season, trees provide shade, make for a more pleasant urban environment and significantly flowers, grasses and trees give insects and birds critical habitat for stopover and provides food and homes for resident insects and birds such as the Anna’s Hummingbird.
These benefits and more are spelled out in a letter from City of Seattle Council Members Johnson, Herbold & O’Brien that lays out path forward on Tree Protection Legislation via the Urban Forestry Community News Letter of September 12th, 2018: “The benefits of tree canopies are numerous: a cleaner, more resilient environment, and a more beautiful and equitable city are among them. Management of trees is part of the complex challenge necessary to preserve these important benefits. In response, the Council’s PLUZ committee has discussed a framework which aims to create stronger stewardship of the trees we have, allow our canopy to keep pace with growth and greater density, and plant more trees in neighborhoods that lack them. ...”

One of the features on this Trees of Queen Anne Tree Walk is a tour of a lovely staircase covered with mature trees. The Trees for Seattle website use this link to read more about it: [https://www.seattle.gov/trees/canopycover.htm](https://www.seattle.gov/trees/canopycover.htm), provides information on Seattle’s Canopy Cover, and states Seattle’s goal of a 30% canopy cover by 2037. It also gives us appreciation for what percentage of trees are to be found specifically that: “72% of Seattle’s tree canopy is deciduous and 28% is coniferous. Parks’ Natural Areas is the only management unit with a majority of conifers (60%).”

There are many different trees on this Trees of Queen Anne Tree Walk both deciduous and evergreen. As noted in [Trees for Seattle September Newsletter](https://www.seattle.gov/trees/canopycover.htm) not all evergreen trees are conifers: “The word ‘conifer’ means cone-bearer’ and is commonly confused with the word ‘evergreen,’ which means the tree has foliage that remains green and functional throughout the year. Although there is overlap between these two classifications they do not mean the same thing”.

Some of these trees on this tree work are familiar to many Seattle neighborhoods and some are unique. We have examples of Scotch pines, Arborvitae, Plum, Western redcedar, Colorado blue spruce, Saucer magnolia but we also have mature Lombardy poplar, Windmill palm tree and eucalyptus. So many beautiful and wonderful trees to see and marvel at the wonderful variety on an Autumn’s morning.