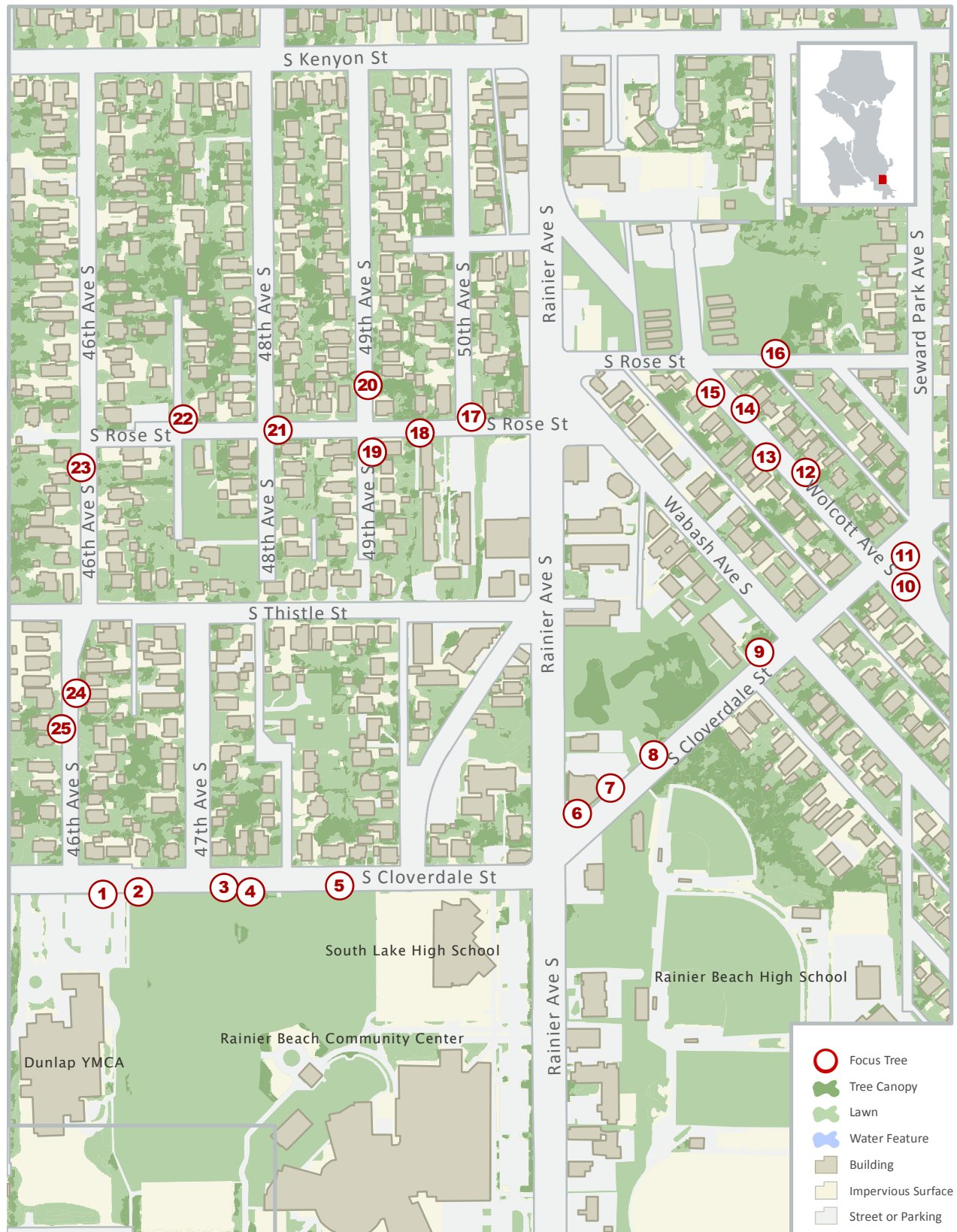


# RAINIER BEACH TREE WALK



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](http://www.Seattle.gov/trees)

**Call:** 206-615-1668





**Email:** [treeambassador@seattle.gov](mailto:treeambassador@seattle.gov)





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# Rainier Beach Tree Walk:









## Keys to Identifying Common Trees





Tree Walk begins at the Dunlap YMCA parking lot at 4525 S Cloverdale St. in Rainier Beach





| Tree # | Common name<br><i>Botanic name</i>                  | Walking Directions, Tree descriptions and notes   | Photos  |
|--------|---|---|---|
| 1      | <b>Atlas Cedar</b><br><i>Cedrus atlantica</i>       | <b>Begin the walk facing this big, lovely Atlas cedar.</b> Native to the Atlas Mountains of Algeria, these evergreen conifers can grow to be 100 ft tall. This tree has many wonderful features, including a wide branching habit and striking blue-colored needles arranged in short shoots, like little pom-poms, along the branch. ( <i>Note: "habit" refers to a tree's overall trunk and branch structure</i> ).   |    |
| 2      | <b>Western Hemlock</b><br><i>Tsuga heterophylla</i> | <b>Walk just a few paces east on Cloverdale to reach this young western hemlock specimen.</b> An integral species in Pacific Northwest forests, the western hemlock is the largest hemlock species. It can be easily identified by its needles which grow to be varying sizes and lengths ( <i>note: the word "heterophylla" means = different sized leaves</i> ).  |   |
| 3      | <b>Mugo Pine</b><br><i>Pinus mugo</i>               | <b>Continue east a few paces on Cloverdale, walking along the ball fields, near the baseball diamond you will find a mugo pine.</b> Its low, twisted and multi-stemmed habit is visually striking and sets it apart from many other pines. Native to mountainous regions of southwestern and central Europe, this species tends to be compact and hardy.  |  |
| 4      | <b>Scarlet Oak</b><br><i>Quercus coccinea</i>       | <b>Continue walking east on Cloverdale to find one of many scarlet oaks in the Rainier Beach area.</b> This tree is well-loved for its brilliant red fall color, a characteristic that sets it apart from other oaks. This specimen is planted near a similar oak species, pin oak. The two species are commonly confused but can be distinguished by their leaf-shape. Pin oaks tend to have wider leaves and turn yellow-brown in fall, where scarlet oaks have skinnier leaves and turn brilliant red in fall. |  |

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| 5 | <b>London Plane</b><br><i>Plantanus x acerifolia</i> | <p><b>A little further east on Cloverdale stands our last tree before crossing Rainier Ave,</b> the London plane is a favorite urban street tree in temperate cities around the world due to its high tolerance of pollution and root compaction. It is thought to be a hybrid of oriental plane and American sycamore trees. You can identify it by its knobby, roughly exfoliating bark and large, spikey seed balls which are about the size of a cherry.</p>   |    |
| 6 | <b>Scots Pine</b><br><i>Pinus sylvestris</i>         | <p><b>Walk to the corner of Cloverdale and Rainier Ave, carefully cross to the north side of the street and wait for the light to cross Rainier Ave, heading east, to continue walking down Cloverdale St.</b> On the northeastern corner of Rainier Ave and Cloverdale, 5108 S Cloverdale St, you will see a small stand of Scots pine. Originally native from western Europe to eastern Siberia, Scots pine is now considered naturalized in parts of North America. Also considered one of the most wide-spread pines in the world, it can be distinguished by its rough bark which, when mature, becomes flaky and bright orange. The Scots pine makes up 30% of the 32 million Christmas Trees sold in the US every year.</p> |   |
| 7 | <b>Common Juniper</b><br><i>Juniperus communis</i>   | <p><b>Continue a few paces east on Cloverdale, along the same planting strip as the Scots pine, to find this juniper specimen.</b> Juniper is very common in temperate regions in the Northern Hemisphere, it has one of the largest ranges of any woody plant, from the Arctic south through north America, Europe and Asia. Juniper's extremely potent berries are used as a seasoning and most famously, in the production of gin.</p>  |  |
| 8 | <b>Sweet Gum</b><br><i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>   | <p><b>A few paces further east on Cloverdale, you will find two large sweet gum trees.</b> One of the most common street trees in Seattle, sweet gums are prized for their star-shaped leaves and brilliant fall colors. Native to the southeastern United States and South America, sweet gum is a staple of southeastern US deciduous forests. It can be identified by its five-pointed leaves, spikey seed balls and sticky, clear resin which leaks from wounds in the tree's bark.</p>  |  |







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| 9  | <b>Garry Oak</b><br><i>Quercus garryana</i>        | <b>Walking further east along Cloverdale, stop before the corner of Wabash Ave at 5150 S Cloverdale St to find this large Garry Oak.</b> The Garry oak is the only oak native to northern Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. With a distinctive branching habit, large acorns and thick, irregularly shaped leaves, Garry oaks are a symbol of PNW prairies. Garry oaks rely on disturbances such as fire to avoid being shaded out by tall conifers. Historically, Pacific Northwest tribes would regularly burn prairies to keep them open for cultivation of camas and Garry oak acorns for food. |       |
| 10 | <b>Common Beech</b><br><i>Fagus sylvatica</i>      | <b>Carefully cross the street to the south side of Cloverdale and continue walking east to the corner of Cloverdale St and Wolcott Ave, to the triangle park.</b> Here you will find several young common beech trees. Beech can grow to be up to 160 ft tall with a nearly 10 ft wide trunk in their native forests. While these beeches are small, they bear the shiny, wavy leaves, smooth silver bark and spikey, four pronged seed husks that clearly identify beech trees.   |       |
| 11 | <b>Pacific Madrone</b><br><i>Arbutus menziesii</i> | <b>Directly to the left of the young beech trees, also in the triangle park,</b> look for two young Pacific madrone trees. You can identify them by their smooth, orange, and often peeling, bark. A native to the Washington coast, madrone is an evergreen tree known for growing on sheer cliffs in the San Juan Islands. It can be identified by its striking bark and its small white flower clusters in spring, which turn to orange-red fruit clusters in fall.   |   |
| 12 | <b>Black Locust</b><br><i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> | <b>From the park triangle, cross the street to the north side of Cloverdale and walk north on Wolcott Ave S. You will walk about ½ a block before reaching this black locust at 8335 Wolcott Ave S.</b> Located in a residential yard, this black locust tree is low and gnarled. Its ropey, vertically textured bark distinguishes this deciduous tree throughout the year. Many small pairs of soft oval leaves and frothy bunches of white flowers in spring are also identifiers for this deciduous tree.  |   |


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| 13 | <b>Mountain Ash</b><br><i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>                         | <p><b>Carefully cross Wolcott Ave and walk a few paces further north to find this mountain ash specimen in front of 8327 Wolcott Ave S.</b> Located in a private yard, this deciduous tree has beautiful shining gray bark often speckled with white. This tree also has many small pairs of oval leaves but they have jagged, toothed edges and showy bunches of bright red berries in fall.</p>  |    |
| 14 | <b>Douglas Fir</b><br><i>Psuedotsuga menziesii</i>                     | <p><b>Carefully cross back to the east side of Wolcott Ave to find two large, old Douglas fir trees in front of 8313 Wolcott Ave S.</b> Planted in the parking strip, these massive, evergreen conifers are the classic Pacific Northwest forest tree. The second tallest conifer in the world, they commonly live more than 500 years and occasionally up to 1,000 years. Douglas fir trees played an integral role in Seattle's history, making it a major world lumber exporter. A good way to identify Douglas Firs is their distinctive three-prong cone scale which as the story goes, look like mice hiding inside the cone with their hindquarters sticking out (tail and two legs).</p> |    |
| 15 | <b>Common Hawthorne</b><br><i>Crataegus monogyna</i>                   | <p><b>A little further down Wolcott Ave cross the street once more to find two Common Hawthorne trees in the parking strip of 8309 Wolcott Ave S.</b> The distinctly shaped, small leaves, sharp thorns and knotty, gnarled bark of this tree help to distinguish it. It's tiny flowers bloom in spring and range from white to pink, ripening to red berries in fall. Leaves, flowers and berries are all used in traditional herbalism to promote cardiac health. This tree is also listed as a King County "Weed of Concern".</p>   |  |
| 16 | <b>Black Cottonwood</b><br><i>Populus balsamifera ssp. trichocarpa</i> | <p><b>Turn right at the end of the block and take a quick detour down S Rose St, just to the street end, to observe this black cottonwood.</b> Native to the Pacific Northwest, black cottonwood trees are fast growing and very common in Seattle. Looking out over the skyline it is easy to spot these tall, columnar trees from a distance. In spring, you may see huge quantities of their seeds, covered in fluff, drifting through the breeze. A common way to identify these trees is by their glossy leaves which have a tear drop shape with plump bases and narrow tips as well as a distinctive odor.</p>  |  |

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| 17 | <b>Western Redcedar</b><br><i>Thuja plicata</i>      | <p><b>Turn around and walk west on S Rose St until you reach the intersection of Rose and Rainier Ave. Wait for the light to walk across the street and continue west on S Rose St.</b> At the corner of S Rose St and 50<sup>th</sup> Ave, 5002 S Rose St, you will find a large western redcedar. Not a true cedar, but actually belonging to the cypress family, these trees are native to Washington and were a staple for Pacific Coast tribes. Their soft, red, fibrous bark is an identifier and was historically used by tribes to make clothing, baskets and blankets. Another distinctive feature is their small tulip-shaped cones.</p> |    |
| 18 | <b>European White Birch</b><br><i>Betula pendula</i> | <p><b>Across Rose St and slightly further west, in the yard of the Seward Park Apartments, a lone white birch stands inside a chain link fence.</b> This deciduous tree is known for its distinctive bark and its tendency to create airy, dappled groves. The bark is white, marked by vertical, diamond shaped black scarring. It differs from other birches because its bark does not peel or shed. It can also be identified by its pendulous, drooping branches, which give it a weeping look.</p>  |    |
| 19 | <b>Tree of Heaven</b><br><i>Ailanthus altissima</i>  | <p><b>A few paces further west, just around the corner of S Rose St and 49<sup>th</sup> Ave S, a pair of tree of heaven trees grow along the private driveway of 4905 S Rose St.</b> It is important to note that these trees are extremely invasive and considered a noxious weed in many US states including Washington. It can be identified by its pairs of lance shaped leaves which can be mistaken for black walnut. However, unlike black walnut this tree produces no nuts and will often have reddish tinges to its leaf stems and seed clusters.</p>  |  |
| 20 | <b>Deodar Cedar</b><br><i>Cedrus deodara</i>         | <p><b>Turn back toward S Rose St (north), cross 49<sup>th</sup> Ave, and continue a few paces to find this deodar cedar in the backyard of 4902 S Rose St.</b> Very common in Seattle, with notable large specimens along the I-5 corridor south of the city, deodar or Himalayan cedar can grow up to 200 ft tall. This tree has a distinct habit, tending toward flat topped, widely swooping branches. The cones are also good identifiers; the females sit upright on the branches like chicken eggs nestled in the needles. The males are smaller, long and narrow and shed large amounts of pale yellow pollen in early autumn.</p>          |  |



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| 21 | <b>Lawson Cypress</b><br><i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i> | <p><b>Walk back to S Rose St and turn west (right) to continue walking along Rose St to the corner of 48<sup>th</sup> Ave S.</b> In the corner yard of 8304 48<sup>th</sup> Ave S you will find a large Lawson cypress. Native to Oregon and California, this cypress can be distinguished from its cousin, western redcedar, by its much smaller scale-like leaves and its round, soccer-ball-shaped, cones. The foliage of this tree also tends to be darker green-blue than the characteristically bright green-yellow western redcedar. (Note: “foliage” refers to a plant’s leaves).</p>                      |    |
| 22 | <b>American Arborvitae</b><br><i>Thuja occidentalis</i>  | <p><b>One block further west, across Rose St at 47<sup>th</sup> Ave, several columnar American arborvitae stand in the private yard of 4706 S Rose St.</b> These trees nearly create a wall along the west side of this property. Their upright column-like appearance is accentuated by vertical sprays of scale-like foliage. Similar to its sibling, western redcedar, this tree has bright, green foliage and tulip shaped cones, although its smaller scaled foliage and distinctive growth habit sets it apart from other cypress. Its twigs, leaves and sap are also said to have medicinal properties.</p> |   |
| 23 | <b>Blue Spruce</b><br><i>Picea pungens</i>               | <p><b>Continue to the end of S Rose St and turn left (south) on 46<sup>th</sup> Ave S. At the edge of the private yard of 8309 46<sup>th</sup> Ave S you will find a bright blue pine tree.</b> The aptly named blue spruce is native to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Its conical shape and striking blue color are great identifiers but it also has distinctive cones which tend to be a pale, sandy brown color and have soft papery scales. In traditional Navajo medicine, an infusion of blue spruce needles is used to treat colds and upset stomach.</p>   |  |
| 24 | <b>English Holly</b><br><i>Illex aquifolium</i>          | <p><b>Walk south (toward Cloverdale) on 46<sup>th</sup> Ave S, pass S Thistle St and cross to the east side of the street to find a bushy English holly in the front yard of 8418 46<sup>th</sup> Ave S.</b> This hardy holly species, recognized as a common Christmas decoration, is also invasive on the west coast of the US. It can be identified by its sharply prickled evergreen leaves, each with 6-8 spikes, and bunches of bright red or yellow fruit.</p>  |  |



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| 25 | <b>Red Alder</b><br><i>Alnus rubra</i> | <p><b>A few paces further south along 46<sup>th</sup> Ave, across the street from the holly, a large red alder stands in the front yard of 8429 46<sup>th</sup> Ave S.</b> Red alder is native to the Pacific Northwest, an essential species in freshwater eco-systems and a favorite food of beavers. This tree has many distinct identifiers, its bark which, when scrapped or bruised reveals a bright red interior. Jagged edges on its leaves and fruit which resemble tiny pine cones are also key identifiers.</p> |  |
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