

Tree Walk #2: Start at Blue Heron Park



Visit Blue Heron Park, featuring the lower reaches of McAleer Creek. Then loop through the Sheridan Heights and Sheridan Beach neighborhoods to see a varied palette of trees and views to Lake Washington.

DISTANCE: 1.6 MILES

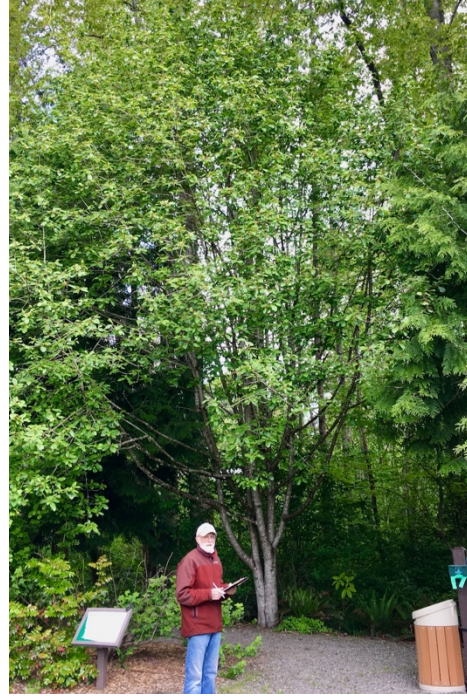
In the park, various trees can be studied:

A grove of young **black locust** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) fills the area at the east end between the parking area and McAleer Creek. A more mature stand was removed several years ago; these have regenerated from the roots. Note the finely divided, pinnately compound leaves.

There is a group of small **quaking aspen** (*Populus tremuloides* – N) between the street and the streamside slope. The original trees are spreading by sending out suckering roots, typical of this species.



A nicely shaped **cascara** (*Frangula purshiana* – N) can be seen behind the path NW of the recycle/trash-can cluster. Note the heavily veined leaf characteristic of this native understory tree.



Near the creek can be found several tall **black cottonwoods** (*Populus trichocarpa* – N), straight trunks with a profile narrow in youth, spreading in maturity. In spring, Lake Forest Park is first awash with the resinous scent of the buds, then adrift with the white cottony down of the seed-heads.



As you exit the park in the SW corner you may see the **goldenchain tree** (*Laburnum anagyroides*). Very showy with yellow pea-like flowers during a brief period in late spring, it is a small rather messy and unassuming tree the balance of the year.



Exiting the park, turn right and follow Hamlin Road NE up the hill...

At 16860 (r): pass a tree-scaled **rhododendron** (*Rhododendron* sp.) and behind it an **umbrella magnolia** (*Magnolia tripetala*).



At 17020 (r) near the sidewalk is a blue **atlas cedar** (*Cedrus atlantica*) with all of the lower limbs pruned off. Just beyond, behind an ancient and rotting cedar stump is a **western red cedar** (*Thuja plicata* – N).



Opposite the stump on left side is a large **horse chestnut** (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and a well-shaped **vine maple** (*Acer circinatum* – N). The uphill slope is dominated by **bigleaf maple** (*Acer macrophyllum* – N). Photos: horse chestnut.



Views to the north across McAleer Creek- mixed trees including many native conifers form the skyline...

At 17048 (r) several large **Lombardy poplars** (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') can be seen behind the house, in summer providing a favorite perch for ospreys to enjoy their fish dinners. These trees short-lived are currently dying off one by one.

At 17070 (r): near the house on the street side is a 15'-tall **sourwood** (*Oxydendrum arboreum*).

At 17083 (l): near the street is a grove of several large **red cedars**; more can be seen behind and on the right-hand side of the street.

Just a bit ahead, downslope from the fire hydrant between the driveways of 17106 and 17110 (r) is a large (20+") **western hemlock** (*Tsuga heterophylla* – N). Behind that is a large **coast redwood** (*Sequoia sempervirens*).

Turn left on 37th Avenue...look west across the lower valley of Brookside Creek above its confluence with McAleer Creek...

At 17050 (l) on the corner of the driveway is a trio of tall and narrow **shore pines** (*Pinus contorta* – N). Just beyond is a large **European white birch** (*Betula pendula*).



Across the street at 17023 (r) is a large **vine maple** near the street, tucked in below a **western hemlock**. This can be examined closely at eye-level. Note the differing lengths of needles on the branch, a characteristic of this species.



At 17036 (l) you pass a double-trunk **coast redwood** (on the left in the photo) alongside a Douglas fir of comparable stature (right).



At 17015 (r), standing next to the 'school bus stop ahead' sign is a 70-foot tall **tulip tree** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*).



Behind 17011 on the right is a forested slope of mid-sized **Douglas fir** (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* – N) with scattered **Pacific madrones** (*Arbutus menziesii* – N).

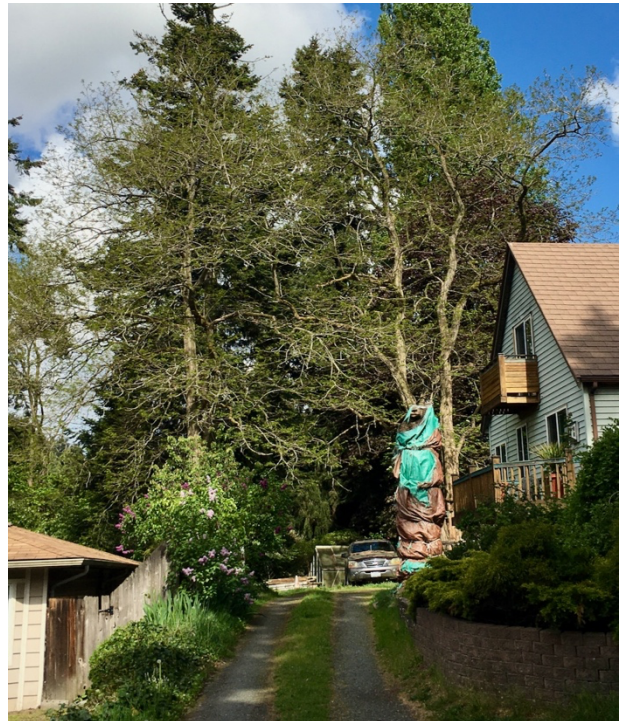
The front yard of 16746(I) features a small grove of nicely limbed-up **Douglas fir** under-planted with **vine maples**. Across the street are two **western white pines** (*Pinus monticola* – N) and an oddly shaped **Scots pine** (*Pinus sylvestris*) with its characteristic orangy-red bark.

Downhill to the left are scattered views to Lake Washington, the high ridgeline in Bothell, and the Cascade Mountains...

At 16540 (l) is a **purple-leaf plum** (*Prunus* cv. *Pissardi* or *Thundercloud* probably), useful for its foliage color and early spring bloom.



At 16529 (r) and neighboring house are several backyard **honey locusts** (*Gleditsia triacanthos*).



Further along, at 16520 (l) the pollarded tree in the front yard is a **dove tree** (*Davidia involucrata*).



At 16505 (r) There is an **Alaska yellow cedar** (*Callitropsis nootkatensis*) in the front yard. Adjacent are several smaller true firs.



Scan ahead and to the SW to the skyline ridge of Sheridan Heights, mostly defined by native conifers, with examples of deodar cedar and blue spruce...at the intersection with 165th Street, continue straight...

At 16292 (I) a large **red oak** (*Quercus rubra*) shades the planter strip.



Ahead in the planter strip, at the corner of 38th Avenue are three large **black locusts**.

Opposite at 16287 is a large purple leaf **Japanese maple** (*Acer palmatum*).



On reaching the intersection with 38th Avenue, turn left...

At 16420 (r), a group of mature **European white birch** frame the front of the house.



Retrace your path to the corner of 165th Street. Before you turn downhill to the right to continue the walk, look left up 37th to see a young **giant sequoia** (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) on the right (16275 37th) and two big **Norway maples** (*Acer platanoides*) on the left (16260 37th) ...



The older street trees along this block are heavily pruned **common hawthorns** (*Crataegus monogyna*). Several have been replaced in recent years. The first trees you see in the near parking strip are **katsuras** (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*). Across the street at the first house on the corner, the small trees in the planter strip are **paperbark maples** (*Acer griseum*).

Near the sidewalk is a young **ginkgo** (*Ginkgo biloba*) there is also a beautiful **Japanese maple** in the front yard east of the house.



At 3712 (I) the planter strip has another small **ginkgo**. Downhill is a newly planted **stewartia** (likely *Stewartia pseudocamellia*) and at 3718 (I) there is an older spreading **Japanese snowbell** (*Styrax japonica*).

At 3740 (I) are three large **Colorado spruce** (*Picea pungens*). Although this species often does poorly in our climate, these trees appear to be thriving.

At the corner of 39th Avenue, look right, up the hill to the large tree in the planter strip, which is an **American linden** or **basswood** (*Tilia americana*). At the intersection with Bothell Way, wait for the signal and continue straight ahead towards Lake Washington...



Just after the crosswalk, on the left a small **goldenchain tree** is pendant at eye level next to the sidewalk. Adjacent, in the planter strip are three lovely specimens of **crepe-myrtle** (*Lagerstroemia indica*). More can be seen across the street and in the next block.

Turn left on 41st Avenue. Enjoy the views of Lake Washington and the far shore. The bench sited on the far side of the street captures a stunning view of Mount Rainier to the southeast...

At 16529, three **birchbark cherries** (*Prunus serrula*) display their striking red-mahogany bark on the planter strip.



Just past 16703, a group of large deciduous trees arch over the pavement: **American elm** (*Ulmus americana*). Notice the pronounced asymmetry in the leaf base.



Beyond these trees on the right and as you continue along are tall **black cottonwoods**.

At 16727, turn right down a footpath to reach the Burke-Gilman Trail. Proceed left on the trail...

Compare again the large **black cottonwoods** along the left side of the trail with their non-native relative the **Lombardy poplars** a bit further along the trail at DePape Architects. At the near end, but the far corner of the DePape building, you can spot a **katsura** peeking out from the front entry.

Continue on the trail to the signalized pedestrian crossing at Bothell Way and return to your starting point in Blue Heron Park.