

Tree walk #3: Start at Horizon View Park

Loop through the Horizon View neighborhood, enjoying views of Mt. Rainier, Mt. Baker, the Cascades, and the Olympics from the highest point in the City. The walk features the native woodlands adjacent to the park and an interesting variety of trees planted in the surrounding neighborhood. Distance: 1.3 miles.

Start in the parking lot at the NE corner of the park. We will proceed counterclockwise on the path leading west.

At the entry to the parking lot is a large ‘field-grown’ **red alder** (*Alnus rubra* – N) on the right.



Walk west past a grove of **black locust** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). Look north to see if you can catch a glimpse of Mt. Baker through openings in the trees.



On the east side of the ball court is a large (36''+) **deodar cedar** (*Cedrus deodara*) on the left.



Just after the path turns to the left, there is a bushy hawthorn (*Crateagus monogyna*) to the right of the path. Note the persistent bright red fruits in season. This European species is becoming invasive in western WA.



As you continue along the west edge of the playfield, look right to the far slope of the small drainage, an upper branch of the Lyon Creek watershed. The slope is covered with a mix of native trees: **red alder**, **bigleaf maple** (*Acer macrophyllum* – N) and **Douglas fir** (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* - N). Along the north edge of the rough meadow on the right side of the path, **western red cedars** (*Thuja plicata* – N) have been planted as part of the park's ongoing restoration plan.

In the grassy meadow below the sidewalk three small **coast redwoods** (*Sequoia sempervirens*) were planted by Mayor Jeff Johnson and volunteers in 2017 (ca. 4' tall in 2020). Lower on the slope are several domestic **apple** (*Malus* sp.) trees of unknown varieties, and beyond them is a grove of four older (but still young) coast redwoods, now 50'+ tall.



Turn right at the trail junction and continue counterclockwise around the park. The paved trail ends and becomes a gravel path with a steep wooded drop-off on the right, eventually passing through a section of the water reservoir property and emerging onto 45th Avenue NE. A fine view of Mt. Rainier over the reservoir to the SE is visible in good weather.

As you emerge onto 45th Ave, on the left, behind the fence surrounding the reservoir are two pines. Note the two-needled fascicles and asymmetric cones.

At the first house on the right, two **Chinese fan palms** (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) can be seen in the front yard.



As you walk south, big views open to the west, across the drainages of Lyon and McAleer creeks, past the high ridge of Shoreline along 15th Ave NE to the Olympic Mountains. Turn around and look over the reservoir to see the Cascades on the eastern horizon. At the intersection of 195th St. NE, turn left.

At the corner on the reservoir side, note three small **Persian ironwood** (*Parottia persica*) trees. These and the three trees on the SE corner of the reservoir, were planted by Lake Forest Park Tree Board members in 2018.



Across 195th St. are two tall **lodgepole pines** (*Pinus contorta*) and an unidentified long-needled pine (*Pinus* sp.).



At the second block, at 4619 (R) a very large **black walnut** (*Juglans nigra*) spreads a gracious canopy over the front yard, likely dating to the 1920s when the adjacent (4629) home was established.



At 4629 (R) the front yard features a mature **Douglas fir** and equally large **western red cedar**.

Past the previous address, walk around the low fence on the right and onto the Tolt pipeline right-of-way. This pipeline feeds water to the reservoir for redistribution to those neighborhoods served by Seattle Public Utilities.

As you walk downhill one block and just before the fence on the street, on the right are specimens of **katsura** (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*), on the right in the photo, and **eastern dogwood** (*Cornus florida*) behind fences and a hedge.



As you come back onto the pavement, turn left uphill on 47th Ave NE. Please take care as there are blind corners and narrow shoulders.

At 19312 (r) on the lower corner near the street is an impressive **bigleaf maple** with a similarly scaled specimen across the street. On the same lot are a good-sized **Pacific madrone** (*Arbutus menziesii* – N) with peeling bark and several graceful **vine maples** (*Acer circinnatum* – N).



On the left at 19325, two varieties of **European beech** (*Fagus sylvatica*), one a weeping form. Across the street, the front and south property edges are defined by a row 14 **coast redwoods**.

Fagus sylvatica 'wild type'



Fagus sylvatica 'weeping'



Redwood 'hedge'



At the olive colored house, 19337 (L), a third large example of **European beech**, here a purple-leaved form. Also at the north edge of the same property are specimens of **eastern white pine** (*Pinus strobus*) and a **spruce** (*Picea* sp.).



At the next house on the same side of the street is a beautiful **saucer magnolia** (*Magnolia x soulangiana*), flowering in early April.



Just past the ‘schoolbus stop ahead’ sign (R) is a thicket of native **Scouler’s willow** (*Salix scouleri* –N).



Where 47th Ave NE jogs at the corner of 195th St., continue on 47th Ave NE.

One the SE corner of the reservoir at this junction are three young **Chinese fringe tree** (*Chionanthus retusus*) planted by the LFP Tree Board.

At 19504 (r) is perhaps the finest grove of the native **Pacific madrone** in LFP. Tucked in behind is a large **Douglas fir**. Next to the south side of the north entrance to the driveway is a specimen of **European beech**, which displays the smooth bark and simple leaf characteristic of the species. Not a tree, but worth admiring, is a yellow-flowering **barberry** (*Berberis* sp.) with large spines. North of the driveway is a nice specimen of **grand fir** (*Abies grandis*) and **lodgepole pine** (*Pinus contorta*).



At 19804 (r) there is a nice specimen of **American sweetgum** (*Liquidambar styraciflua*).



Reaching Horizon View Park again, cut over onto the path along the upper, eastern edge of the playfield.

Along the path are several **English oaks** (*Quercus rober*), **white mulberry** (*Morus alba*), and one **American sweetgum**.

Nearing the parking lot, you will see some native **shore pines** (*Pinus contorta* – N).



The loop walk ends here, but if you continue north on 47th Ave, several more interesting trees can be seen.

At 19852 (R): **scarlet oak** (*Quercus coccinea*), **English walnut** (*Juglans regia*), and a **white fir** (*Abies concolor*). At a distance this tree looks like the common Colorado blue spruce, but up close you can feel the needles are soft (fir) and not sharp (spruce).

At 19884 (R) is another large oak near the street, this time a **pin oak** (*Quercus palustris*).

At 19908 (R), a large **bigleaf maple**.