



Tree Walk #2: Start at Blue Heron Park

Visit Blue Heron Park, featuring a demonstration garden highlighting native and other plants which enhance wildlife habitat opportunities in home gardens. 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 **black locust** (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) fills the area at the east end between the parking area and McAleer Creek. Note the characteristic furrowed bark and the pinnately compound leaves. There is a small group of **quaking aspen** (*Populus tremuloides* (N)) between the street and the 'composting fence'. The initially planted larger trees are spreading by sending out suckering roots, typical of this species. Just behind the park sign is a multi-stemmed **bigleaf maple** (*Acer macrophyllum* (N)), resprouting from the base of an older tree. Next to that is a small blue **atlas cedar** (*Cedrus atlantica*), better specimens of which you will see later. A nicely shaped **cascara** (*Rhamnus pershiana* (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 seedheads. In contrast to the cottonwoods, look for two tall and very narrow (fastigate) **Lombardy poplars** (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') on the wetland flats in the NW part of the park. 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...

Across the street on the left are three **purple-leaf plums** (*Prunus* cv. *Pissardi* or *Thundercloud* probably), useful both for its foliage color and the very early spring blossoms.

At 16860 (r) pass a tree-scaled rhododendron and a **umbrella magnolia** (*Magnolia tripetala*).

At 17010 (r) in a row near the sidewalk are two blue **atlas** and a **deodar**

cedar (*Cedrus deodora*). This is a good chance to compare the foliage and habit of these two true cedars. Past them, behind an ancient and rotting cedar stump is a **western red cedar** (*Thuja plicata* (N)) and a very large **bigleaf maple**.

Opposite on left side behind the mailboxes for 17010 and 17020 you can see the pendant branches and small cones of **western hemlock** (*Tsuga heterophylla* (N)). Closer views of this native conifer are available later. The uphill slope is dominated by **bigleaf maple**.

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

At 17048 (r) three more large **Lombardy poplars** can be seen behind the house.

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

At 17080 (r) behind the blue-green fence and a variegated holly, you can see a wide-spreading **western dogwood** (*Cornus nuttallii* (N)) backdropped by maples.

At 17083 (l) near the street is a grove of seven 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 (r) is a large (20+") **western hemlock**.

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 **shore pines** (*Pinus contorta* (N)). Just beyond is a large **European white birch** (*Betula pendula*).

Across the street at 17023 (r), to the right of the driveway, is a large **vine maple** (*Acer circinatum* (N)) near the street.



At 17036 (l) you pass a double-trunk **coast redwood** (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and beyond that a small **western hemlock** can be examined closely at eye-level. Note the differing lengths of needles on the branch, a characteristic of this species.

At 17015 (r) standing next to the 'bus stop ahead' sign is a 60-foot tall **tulip tree** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*).

Behind 17011, left of the garage, is a forested slope of mid-sized **Douglas fir** (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (N)) with scattered **madronas** (*Arbutus menziesii* (N)).

The front yard of 16746(l) 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 16531/29 (r) you can spot two large **madronas** in rear yards. 16529 has a young **coast redwood** planted near the street.

At 16534 (l) the front yard has a **Japanese silk tree** (*Albizia julibrissen*) with feathery compound foliage and fluffy pincushion flowers in season.

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...

Looking SW and uphill, a large **western white pine** breaks the horizon. We'll see it up close in a minute.

At 16292 (l) 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**.

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

At 16420 (l) is the **western white pine** seen earlier from below.

At 16269 (r), a group of mature **European white birch** frame the front of the house.

Retrace your steps to the intersection with 37th Avenue and turn left, proceeding to...

At 16260 (l) there are two large purple leaved **Norway maples** (*Acer platanoides*) in the planter strip. Also, note the narrow grove of native conifers preserved between this home and the one to the north. This

provides proof that pockets of valuable native habitat can be preserved almost anywhere.

Retrace your path once more to the corner of 165th Street and turn downhill to the right...

At the first home on the right, there is a young **Japanese umbrella pine** (*Sciadopitys verticillata*) next to the front entry.

Across the street at the first house on the corner there is a beautiful **Japanese maple** (*Acer palmatum* or *japonicum* cultivar) in the front yard.

The street trees along this block are older, heavily pruned **common hawthorns** (*Crataegus monogyna*) except at 3718 (l) where instead there is a **Japanese snowbell** (*Styrax japonica*).

*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 from inside the fence 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*). 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** (*Circidiphyllum japonicum*) 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.