



Tree Walk #1: Start at City Hall

Visit Lyon Creek Waterfront Preserve, Lake Forest Park's only publicly-owned shoreline on Lake Washington. Then loop through a neighborhood featuring some of the oldest homes and gardens in the City. **DISTANCE: 1.4 MILES**

Look around the parking area in front of City Hall and the mall area. It's flat, unlike most of our city. This area at the edge of Lake Washington was originally a forested wetland at the confluence of Lyon and McAleer Creeks where they flowed into the lake. Outrage over construction of the mall under permits from King County set in motion the establishment of Lake Forest Park as an independent city government...

*Take the short sidewalk to the corner past the 9/11 memorial, passing beneath one of several regal **weeping willows** (*Salix babylonica*)...Cross the right turn lane to the small island at the light, walking beneath a young **pin oak** (*Quercus palustris*). Across Ballinger Way on the island, a much larger **pin oak** provides the canopy over the city entry sign...Cross Bothell Way with the light...Turn right briefly onto the Burke-Gilman Trail...*

Just past the benches is a grove of **London plane trees** (*Platanus x hybrida*).

Return to the corner, jogging right on Ballinger, then left onto Beach Drive...

Just inside the entry to the Civic Club, a 15 inch diameter **horsechestnut** (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) grows on the left side of the drive. On the right side are a couple of large **Oregon ash** (*Fraxinus latifolia* (N)). As you continue along Beach Drive, note on the right the tall **black cottonwood** (*Populus trichocarpa* (N)) behind the fence.

Turn right into the Lyon Creek Waterfront Preserve and stroll the path towards the water...

You will first pass beneath a large (30"+ dia.) **atlas cedar** (*Cedrus atlantica*), then will pass in quick succession a **Persian ironwood** (*Parrotia persica*) and a **vine maple** (*Acer circinatum* (N)). At the fence along the east edge of the park is a row of heavily pruned **western hemlock** (*Tsuga heterophylla* (N)). Continuing, on the right is a beautiful old weeping **Japanese maple** (*Acer japonicum*) and a 10 foot tall native **cascara** (*Rhamnus purshiana* (N)). At the beginning of the boardwalk is a 22" diameter tree, another **pin oak**. There is a grove of



small **red alders** (*Alnus rubra* (N)) along the left edge of the boardwalk. Two small **paper birch** (*Betula papyrifera* (N)) can be seen alongside the alders, with their characteristic white peeling bark.

Walk out onto the pier and enjoy the view of Lake Washington and the deltaic deposits at the mouth of Lyon Creek. Across the

water the Juanita crest has the classic Puget Sound skyline of spiky conifers dominated by Douglas fir... As you walk back through the park, note the many varieties of native shrubs and perennial plants installed by volunteers at the time of the park's dedication...Retrace your steps to Bothell Way and cross with the light to the City Hall corner, then head north along Ballinger Way...

In the lawn at City Hall (I): a young (4") red maple (*Acer rubrum*) with the reddish leaf stems typical of the species.

Adjacent to the police garage but on the right in the planter strip are a row of American sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). Here you can get a closeup look at the leaves and the persistent, spiky fruit capsules.

*At 175th Street, cross Ballinger Way to the SE corner...The street trees along this part of Ballinger Way are **green ash** (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)...Cross to the NE corner...*

At the corner, behind the white metal fence is a beautiful western dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii* (N)) with vine maples below. Just ahead (I) are an arborvitae (*Thuja* sp) and the native shrub hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* (N)), showing near tree-like dimensions.

20 feet beyond the beginning of the brick wall (I) is an evergreen tree with stringy, pendant foliage, a thread-leaf Sawara cypress (*Chamaecyparis pissifera filifera*). At the east corner of the same yard is a tall **western white pine** (*Pinus monticola* (N)).

At 4640 (l) set back in the lawn near the corner, you can see the top of a tall **tulip tree** (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) below an even larger **Douglas fir** (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (N)).

*At the intersection of 47th Avenue NE, stop and look east uphill to a slope of mature **Douglas fir** and **western red cedar** (*Thuja plicata* (N)), with two notably large **horsechestnuts**. Turn right onto 47th Avenue NE...*

Near the end of the street, before it goes downslope to meet Bothell Way, sit two of the "first eight" homes of Lake Forest Park. On the right is the home still known as the Wurdemann mansion, built in 1913-14. Across from it at 17404 is the home built in 1910-12 by Croxton Rion. Many of the trees on the Wurdemann parcel are relatively young, but several old specimens can be seen along the street frontage. Inside the first gate is a grove of **flowering pear** trees (*Pyrus* sp.), with glossy foliage and good seasonal flower and leaf color. Along the fence, there are two large true cedars with green foliage. These are most likely both **atlas cedar** (*Cedrus atlantica*) though they also display characteristics of the closely related cedar of Lebanon (*C. libani*). Behind them is a handsome purple leaf **beech** (*Fagus sylvatica*). Near the corner, also just inside the fence, is a conifer, **Japanese cedar** (*Cryptomeria japonica*). The frontage of the Rion home has little of arboreal interest, except for a 10" + **English walnut** (*Juglans regia*). The large back yard is notable though. The sunny open character, the old apple trees and grape arbor all reflect a once common Lake Forest Park landscape: home gardens dedicated to producing food for the family.

*Retrace your steps on 47th Avenue, where you can get a clearer look at the **tulip tree** in the yard of 4640...Continue north on 47th...*

At 4640 (l): a characteristic mid-size **European mountain ash** (*Sorbus aucuparia*), outside the fence, and beyond the driveway another large white pine.

At 17526 (r) surrounded by a chain-link fence: another of the "first eight" homes built in Lake Forest Park, this was the residence of A.H Reid, salesman and ultimately president of Ole Hanson & Company, the developer of the original tracts in Lake Forest Park. The Reid home appears to have been built in 1913, and sat on approximately five acres. The home and the core of that estate remain. While early pictures show the property largely cleared and devoted to home gardening, tall trees now line the street frontage: Douglas fir, red cedar and atlas cedar.

At 17533(l) the small tree in the front yard near the driveway is a **Franklin tree** (*Franklinia alatamaha*). Down the driveway is a large

paper birch (*Betula papyrifera* (N)) in the side yard.

At 17541 (l): a good example of **evergreen magnolia** (*Magnolia grandiflora*) and a large (36" +) blue **Atlas cedar** (*Cedrus atlantica*). Just past this tree at 17547 (l) is a **deodar cedar** (*Cedrus deodora*) which allows an easy comparison of the needles and growth habits of these two true cedar species.

Loop up around the street triangle at NE 178th Street to catch additional glimpses of the fine gardens now maintained on the old Reid estate. The small building adjacent to the street originally served as a sales office in the early years of development and then was the original schoolhouse for the young community...Continue north along 47th Avenue through more native conifers...

At 17565 (l): a handsome mature Japanese maple with reddish purple foliage.

*At 17579 (l) you cross a small unnamed tributary of Lyon Creek which drains the 184th Street corridor...Cross 178th Street NE to the far corner...Looking up the street, you can see a large **bignleaf maple** (*Acer macrophyllum* (N)) hanging over from the right and a row of **Lombardy poplars** (*Populus nigra* 'Italica') further on the left...Turn left down 178th Street...*

At the corner lot (r) you pass under two large (possibly hybrid) **American chestnut trees** (*Castanea dentata*). The larger is over 48" diameter and must date to the early years of this home built in 1917. Also in this yard, hanging over your head and the street is a **black walnut** (*Juglans nigra*). Across the street is a larger **European mountain ash**.

*Continue down 178th Street through a block dominated by natives- **Douglas fir**, **bignleaf maple** and **western red cedar**...Cross to the SE corner of the Ballinger Way intersection...*

The yard on the corner has an unusual purple-leaf **hazelnut** (*Corylus* sp.) and a **Japanese silk tree** (*Albizzia julibrissin*).

Walk south along the east side of Ballinger Way...

At 17576 (l): through the ivy archway can be seen a mature purple-leaf **Norway maple** (*Acer platanoides*). Next to the sidewalk below the wires is a **Cornelian cherry** (*Cornus mas*).

From here, continue to the corner and cross over Ballinger Way to return to your starting point.