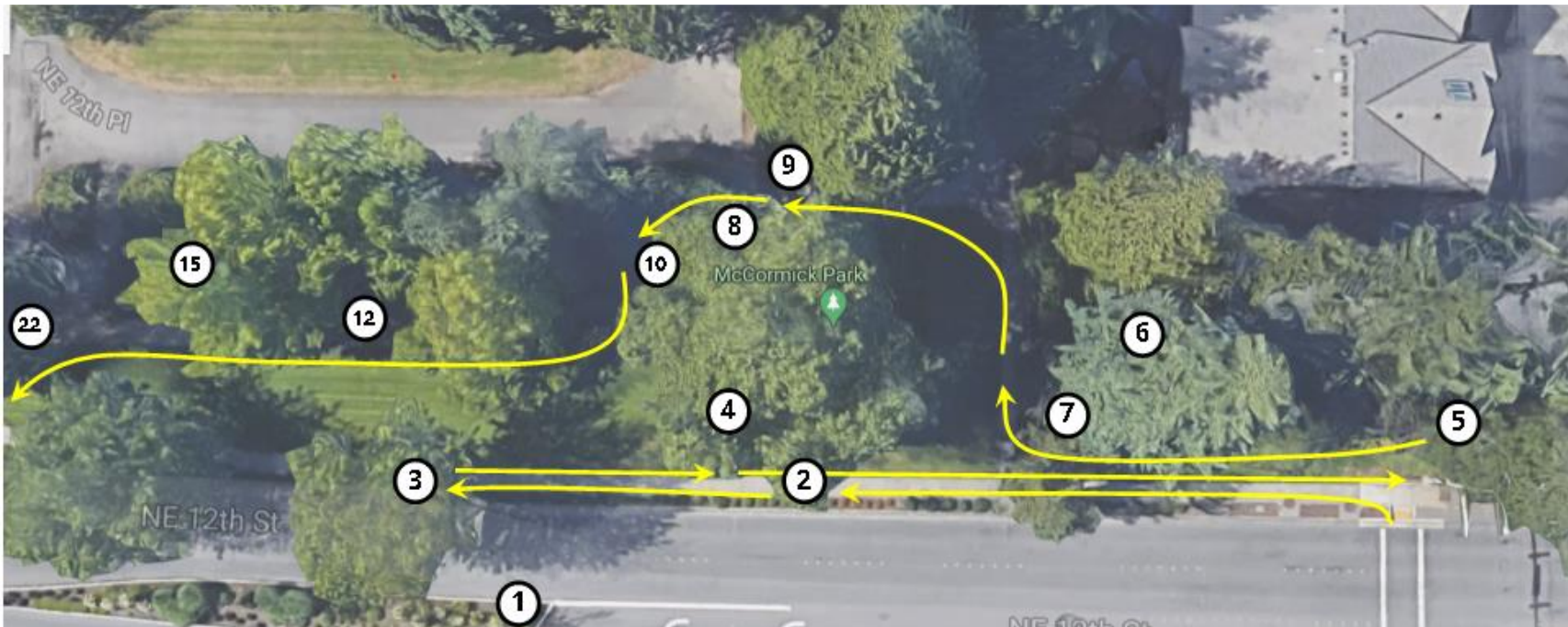


Created by Karen Voorhees

Starting point: McCormick Park SE Entrance (North of Bellevue Library – intersection of 110th and 12th)



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If there was ever a park that was set up beautifully for the ability to walk independently in two different directions, it is McCormick Park. (see photos – two directions walk, azaleas, rhododendrons). They also provide needed shade.



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History

The history of the rhododendrons in this park: we have here more varieties of rhododendrons than any other park in Bellevue. These were part of the original history of Bellevue, coming from the Winters House blueberry farm area in South Bellevue. EHC (Eastside Heritage Center) said these “rhodies” are Ostbo rhodies, and the park has their apricot rhodie too. Not only are the colors amazing, but they bloom at different times throughout the entire summer. Whoever planted them, and all the plants and trees in this park, was very thoughtful about where and how to plant so something is always blooming year-round.

Ostbo was a world-renowned grower and breeder of rhodies who took over the fields from the Winters family

Apricot Rhodie History - Seeds Raised by Endre Ostbo

Prior to 1935 Ostbo had joined the Rhododendron Association, based in London, England, and in 1937 Ostbo started his own



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nursery in Bellevue, Washington. Ostbo developed an interest in hybridization, initially with plants grown from seed that came from England, then with plants from his own crosses. Through the time "several thousand seedlings have been raised and several hundred have bloomed" and have received numerous awards. One of the seedlings that Ostbo circulated was 'Apricot #5'. It was registered by the International Registration Authority (or International Cultivation Registration Authority) in 1958 under the name of 'Edward Dunn' and received a Pioneering Award from the American Rhododendron Society the same year.

About Tree Tours

This tree tour was developed by Bellevue's Neighborhood Tree Ambassador volunteers. The goal of the Neighborhood Tree Ambassador program is to help build community support for trees in Bellevue.

Trees are an important part of our community because they provide significant health and environmental benefits. Trees:

- Remove pollutants from the air and water
- Reduce stress and improve focus
- Lower air temperature
- Pull greenhouse gases from the atmosphere
- Reduce flooding and erosion caused by rain

Bellevue has a goal to achieve a 40% tree canopy across the entire city. As of 2017, we are at 37%. Around two-thirds of Bellevue's existing tree canopy is in residential areas. By preserving and planting trees in residential areas, Bellevue's community members can make a big difference in helping to reach the 40% tree canopy goal.

For more information about trees in Bellevue or the Neighborhood Tree Ambassador program, please visit BellevueWA.gov/trees.


If you have questions or would like to share feedback about this tour, please email trees@bellevuewa.gov.



McCormick Park Tree Tour

Time: 15 min



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1.	<p>Standing at NE 12th and 110th Ave facing north</p> <p>Red Maple (<i>Acer Rubrum</i> 'Bowhall')</p>	<p>This is the view of McCormick Park directly opposite the north side of the library on NE 12th street across the park with Bowhall red maple in the center median strip of the road.</p> <p>Did you know that recent findings of scientists found that trees may improve driving safety?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One study found a 46% decrease in crash rates across urban arterial and highway sites after landscape improvements were installed.¹ • Another study found that placing trees and planters in urban arterial roadsides reduced mid-block crashes by 5% to 20%.² <p>There are 5 red maples in the median here. (<i>Acer Rubrum</i> 'Bowhall')</p>	
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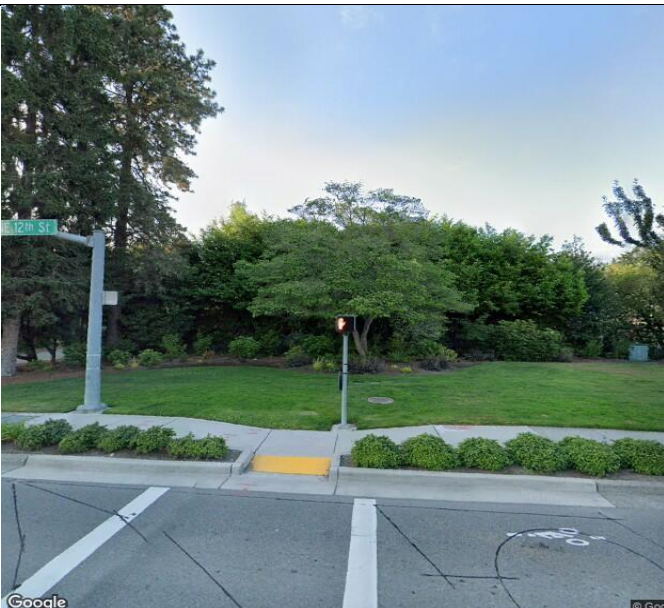

¹ Naderi, J.R. 2003. Landscape Design in the Clear Zone: Effect of Landscape Variables on Pedestrian Health and Driver Safety. *Transportation Research Record* 1851:119-130.


² Mok, J.-H., H.C. Landphair, and J.R. Naderi. 2006. Landscape Improvement Impacts on Roadside Safety in Texas. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 78:263-274.


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2.	Adirondack Crabapple (<i>Malus</i> 'Adirondack')	<p>Adjacent to McCormick Loop Trail do you notice the 5 crab apple trees?</p> <p>It is a flowering tree with upright branches outlined by dark green foliage. The upright form makes this tree excellent in highly formal garden settings and where space is limited.</p> <p>In spring, red buds open to white blossoms tinged with pink followed by small, persistent red fruits. It is one of the most profusely flowered of all crabapple cultivars.</p>	
3.	Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i> spp.)	<p>Next to crab apples, you might have recognized the red maples. We have here series of crab apples and red maples.</p>	


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4.	<p>McCormick Park</p> <p>London Plane (<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>)</p>	<p>Now using a crosswalk from Ashwood Playfield trail enter the McCormick Park trail.</p> <p>This is the view of McCormick Park with a big London Plane, behind a nice round stone bench near a cedar.</p> <p>This London tree is likely 150 years old, perhaps even older. The age was determined using apps. Many of the evergreen trees in this park are similar ages. You can find these apps and do your own measurements.</p> <p>The London Plane tree is a lovely, large deciduous tree. This tree is historic in Bellevue.</p> <p>Leaves are thick, superficially maple-like, broad and palmately lobed. In the spring, young leaves are coated with minute, fine, stiff hairs that wear off by late summer. Both the yellow male and reddish female flowers grow on the same tree.</p> <p>Do you notice two hanging fruits in the photograph? This is a clue: One fruit indicates American Sycamore and two or more it is London Plane. These trees have a small fruit that has come to symbolize the sycamore family. "Buttonballs" are about the size of a Swedish meatball and take about six months to mature. Green in the spring, they turn brown in the fall and stay on the tree into the winter. Fruits contain hundreds of seed nutlets (achenes), each with soft</p>	 
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	<p>fluff tucked inside the ball, perfectly engineered for seed dispersal.</p> <p>Although called London Plane, this tree is not native to England. In fact, it is not native to anywhere, because it is a hybrid of two trees – the American Sycamore and the Oriental Planetree – from opposite sides of the globe. Its name reflects the fact that it was widely planted in London during the Industrial Revolution because of its high tolerance for air pollution. Today it is found all over London, including Kensington Gardens. The seedballs found on the London Plane are a favorite of red-tailed hawks, juncos, purple finches, goldfinches, and squirrels. Cavity-nesting birds such as flycatchers and owls will sometimes nest inside the nearly hollow trunks of older trees. Some bird species including house finches, warblers and Nuttall woodpeckers depend on the high canopy of trees for nesting sites, and to forage for insects like aphids.</p> <p>The wood is fine-grained, hard, tough, and almost impossible to split. Pioneers used it to make wheels for ox carts. Today it is used for furniture, architectural millwork, and many other purposes.</p> <p>History and lore: The main character in Handel’s opera Xerxes makes a fool of himself in the opening act, pouring out his love as he sings to a plane tree in the aria “Ombra mai fu,” (“never</p>	
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		sweeter was the shade of any dear and lovable plant.”) That may seem a bit excessive, but plane trees do have many fine characteristics to recommend them, including shade and longevity.											
5.	<p>McCormick Park at the intersection of 110th & NE 12th</p> <p>Yellow Birch (<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>)</p>	<p>Yellow birch is a broadleaf deciduous tree, that grows up to 60-80 feet with wide spreading branches with drooping tips. Bark is thin and reddish-brown when young, becoming yellow with thin papery shreds, not easily peeled, with age separating into ragged-edged plates. Leaves are oblong-ovate shape, with slender tip, double toothed margin, 9-11 pairs of veins each vein ending in a tooth.</p> <p>It is close in appearance to sweet birch - few pointers that can help:</p> <table><tr><td>Yellow</td><td>Sweet Birch</td></tr><tr><td>Buds: Hairy, pressed against twig</td><td>Mostly hairless, diverging from twig</td></tr><tr><td>Cone scales: Hairy</td><td>Hairless</td></tr><tr><td>Moderate wintergreen flavor</td><td>Strong wintergreen flavor</td></tr><tr><td>Bark: Reddish brown, becoming dull yellow</td><td>Dark cherry red to blackish, then grayish</td></tr></table> <p>Uses: Furniture, plywood, extract of birch for flavoring of leather oil, birch-tar extracted from</p>	Yellow	Sweet Birch	Buds: Hairy, pressed against twig	Mostly hairless, diverging from twig	Cone scales: Hairy	Hairless	Moderate wintergreen flavor	Strong wintergreen flavor	Bark: Reddish brown, becoming dull yellow	Dark cherry red to blackish, then grayish	 <p>immature cones, late summer</p>
Yellow	Sweet Birch												
Buds: Hairy, pressed against twig	Mostly hairless, diverging from twig												
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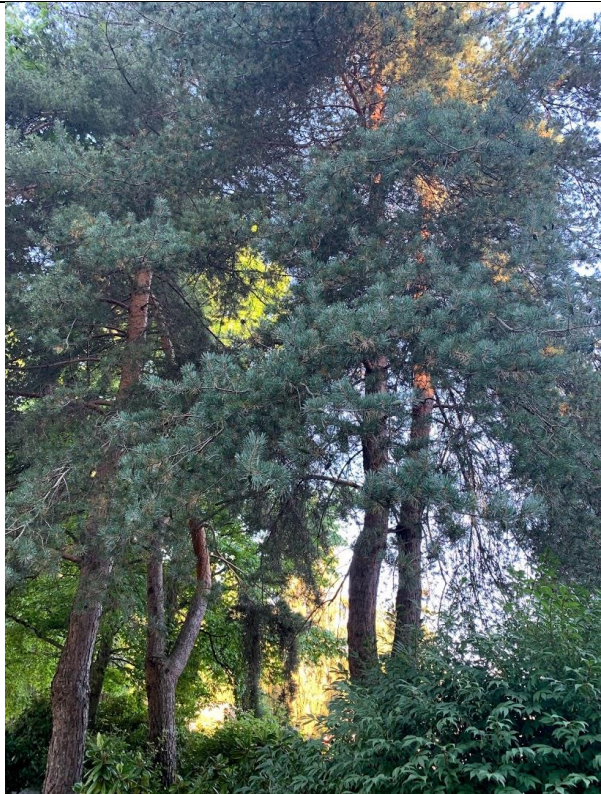

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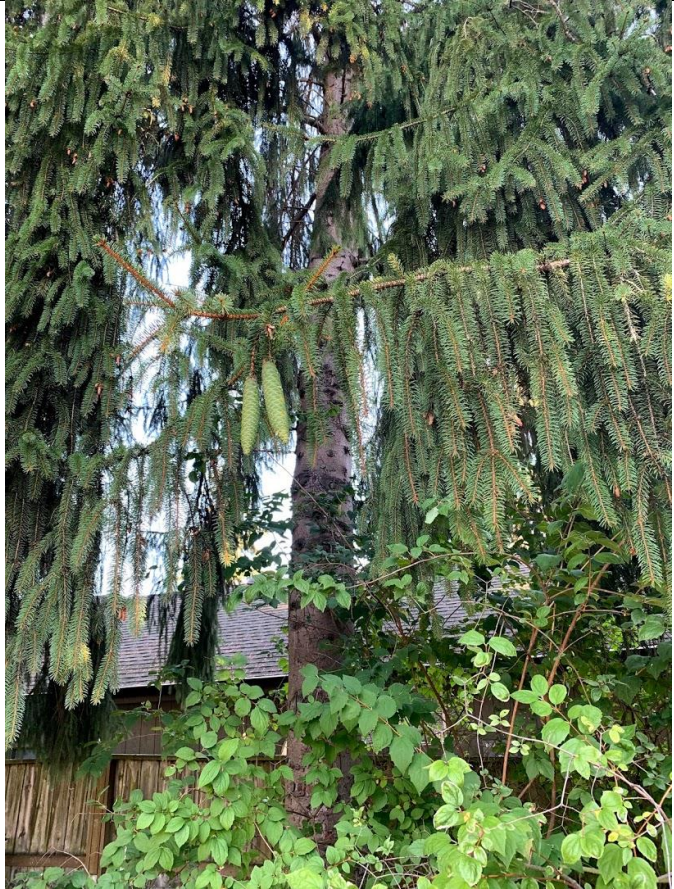
		<p>birch bark is waterproof, it is used as glue as well as for medicinal purposes.</p>	 
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6.	Western Redcedar (<i>Thuja plicata</i>)	<p>After seeing London Plane if you look back you will see a redcedar with a nice platform to sit around and enjoy reding a book.</p> <p>Western redcedar is a coniferous, evergreen tree, growing to 200 feet, with a narrow, pyramidal, buttressed base. They usually maintain their lower branches, unlike many other conifers. Branches are horizontal or drooping but turning upward at the end, especially the lower branches. The leaves are scale-like, shiny dark green, with white markings ("butterfly" pattern) called stomata on the underside of each tiny scale. Cones elliptical, clustered, and upright, sharply pointed, and shaped like wooden roses.</p> <p>Western redcedar has been called the 'cornerstone of northwest coast indigenous culture.' Its wood is easily split and rot resistant and was used to make important cultural items including, dugout canoes, paddles, house planks, baskets, spears, arrow shafts, and many other implements. The bark was stripped from trees in the spring, hung up to dry, and then beaten until it separated into layers ready for making baskets, ropes, and mates. Bark was harvested sustainably, in a way that keeps the tree alive. Redcedar was considered an excellent fuel, especially for drying fish, because it burns with little smoke.</p>	
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7.	<p>Scots Pine (<i>Pinus Sylvestris</i> ssp.)</p>	<p>Next to redcedar do you see a series of conifers?</p> <p>If you look closely the outer bark on some of these trees is completely peeled off and exposed to inner color of the bark. We were able to capture photos of some young green cones to show you. The key to identify this tree is to look closely at the needles and their structure.</p> <p>The Scots pine is a coniferous, evergreen tree, pyramidal in youth, branches spreading, lower ones soon dying; with age becoming wide spreading, flat-topped, or rounded. Bark is orangish or orange brown in upper branches, flaky. Needles blue-green, 2 per bundle, stiff, twisted, well defined lines of stomatal on the outer side. Cones are asymmetrical, 2.5-7 cm long, with a short stalk.</p> <p>This Scots pine has several cultivars, the one we have here is an upright type.</p> <p>Do you see the cone with its beautiful color and needles with beautiful blue green color?</p> <p>The attributes which we described above helps to appreciate the beauty of several conifers that we have such as firs, pines, cedars, etc.</p>	 
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8.	Norway Spruce (<i>Picea abies</i>)	<p>Next to sycamore there is a maple tree. Can you identify what that tree is? You have seen them before in the library, on 10th and 12th st also. (Some of them are cultivars of red maple). Here you see red maple, and behind that, a series of conifers. Some of them are listed here, rest you can identify yourself.</p> <p>Can you see how big this cone is? They are the largest cone of any spruce.</p> <p>They are coniferous, evergreen trees, 40-60 feet tall, pyramidal with drooping secondary branches, stiff when young more, graceful later. However, at maturity it may thin and open, which some consider "unsightly".</p> <p>Norway spruce have bright to dark green needles, stiff and sharply pointed, 12-25 mm long, arranged all around the stem, 4-sided with stomatal lines on each side.</p> <p>Cones hang down, cylindrical, 15 cm long by about 4 cm wide, light brown at maturity.</p>	
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9.	Cedars (<i>Cedrus</i>)	<p>Right there are true cedars</p> <p>Uses: Shakes, Shingles, Decking, Interior and exterior siding, fencing, wood chips for medicals masks and gowns.</p>	 
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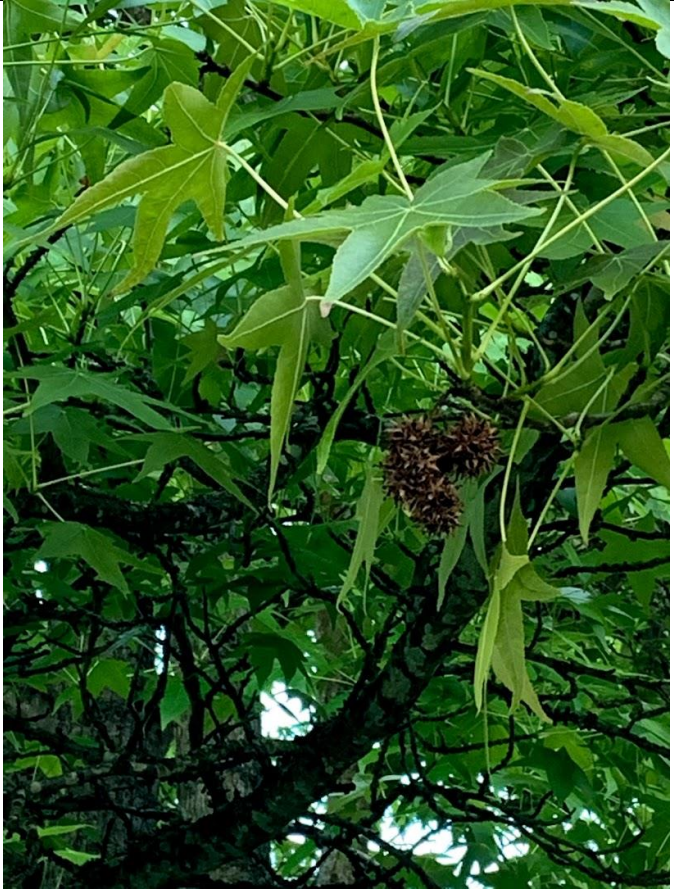
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10.	Red Japanese Maple (<i>Acer palmatum</i> ssp.)	<p>The combination of sycamore and Japanese maple looks beautiful.</p> <p>A broadleaf deciduous tree, a semi-dwarf, dense, twiggy canopy. Similar to 'Bloodgood', but it is denser. Leaves are dark red-purple and holds this color into the middle of summer and has red fall color.</p>	
11.		<p>Ashfield from McCormick Park: See all the red maples, flowering pear, and other trees in the heart of downtown.</p>	

12.	Vine Maple (<i>Acer circinatum</i>)	<p>Now we are seeing beautiful undergrowth plants</p> <p>Vine maples are broadleaf deciduous trees or large shrubs, 10-20 feet tall, multi-stemmed, shrubby, spreading, sprawling, and vine-like in forest shade but bushy and dense in the sun. Leaves are opposite, simple, with shallow, almost circular lobes in outline, 6-12 cm across, and heart-shaped at base. In sun develops red, orange, and yellow fall colors.</p> <p>It flowers in the spring in clusters of 3-6, perfect or staminate (male), long stalk, sepals deep red, petals greenish white, 6-10 stamens. Fruits are 4 cm long, wings horizontally spread, deep red at maturity.</p> <p>Considered to be the most useful native tree for the landscape in the Pacific Northwest.</p>		
13.	Geranium (<i>geranium rotundifolium</i>)	<p>Fairly common in the plains in spring as undergrowth in shady spots.</p> <p>This is type of geranium is a low growing, diffuse annual. Stems are glandular, hairy, and slender. Leaves are round and lobed, 10-40 mm broad, with 5-7 segments; and have toothed lobes. Stipules (base of leaf stalk) is 1.5-3.5 mm long, and wedge shaped. Flowers 6-7 mm broad, sepals 3.5-4.5 mm long, and hairy. Petals 5-7 mm long, filaments 2.5 mm long, and gradually dilated towards the base</p>		



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14.	Mock Orange (<i>Philadelphus spp.</i>)	<p>Mock orange is a genus of about 60 species of shrubs from 3–20 ft tall.</p> <p>They are named "mock orange" in reference to their flowers, which in wild species look somewhat similar to those of oranges and lemons at first glance, and smell of orange flowers and jasmine, though it is not related at all to jasmine or citrus. The connection of the two shrubs lies in their introduction from Ottoman gardens to Europe.</p> <p>The leaves are opposite, simple, with serrated margins, from 0.5-6 inches long. The flowers are white, with four petals and sepals, and sweet scented. The fruit is a small capsule, containing numerous small seeds.</p>	
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15.	American Sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>)	<p>A broadleaf deciduous tree, 60-75+ feet high, American sweetgum trees have a pyramidal to oblong crown. Stems are rounded to somewhat angled, often developing corky wings.</p> <p>It has alternate, simple leaves with blades 7-19 cm long and 5-16 cm wide. They are star-shaped, finely serrate lobes, deep glossy green above, paler below and without hairs; when bruised they exude a pleasant resinous fragrance; petioles are 6-10 cm long, almost as long as the blade. Leaves are held late, and fall color changes from yellow to purple sometimes to red. Fruit (capsules) aggregate to form a woody, mace-like cluster, about 3 cm across, green at first then brown when mature, persist into winter, surface openings release winged seeds, as many as 50 or more per fruit.</p> <p>Why the name of this tree is sweetgum? When the bark of sweetgum trees is peeled or injured a brownish yellow sap collects, this hardens into a gum or resin-like solid. In the pharmaceutical industry, this trade material is known as liquid-amber, or copalm balm, or storax.</p> <p>Native peoples used it for various teas and medicines to treat dysentery and diarrhea. It is reported to be excellent for healing wounds.</p>	
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		The wood is used in carpentry, plywood, and as a hardwood.	
16.	Spindles (<i>Euonymus</i> <i>spp.</i>)	<p>An upright narrow shrub or tree reaching 12 to 25 feet high and 10 to 20 feet wide becoming more rounded with age.</p> <p>The leaves are opposite and simple ovoid, 2–5 cm long with a finely serrated margin. Flowers are inconspicuous yellow green with four petals. This plant has attractive, showy pink to reddish capsules (fruit) that open to reveal orange seeds. Birds are attracted to the fruit and tend to spread them freely.</p> <p>The wood of some species was used for the making of spindles for spinning wool.</p> <p>Many species are used for medicinal purposes.</p>	

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17.	Meadowsweet (<i>Spiraea</i> <i>spp.</i>)	<p>Meadowsweet or steeplebushes, is a genus of about 80 to 100 species of shrubs. These are hardy, deciduous-leaved shrubs.</p> <p>The leaves are simple and are arranged in a spiraling, alternate fashion, are narrowly oval and about 3 in long. The leaf margins are toothed and stipules are absent. Small flowers are clustered together, each is fivefold, and has many stamens.</p> <p><i>Spiraea</i> contain salicylates. The word "aspirin" was coined by adding a- (for acetylation) to spirin, from the German Spirsäure, a reference to <i>Spiraea</i>. Native American groups had various medicinal uses for local <i>Spiraea</i> species.</p>	
18.	Oakleaf Hydrangea (<i>Hydrangea</i> <i>quercifolia</i>)	<p>Oakleaf Hydrangea is a deciduous shrub that may grow to 8 feet.</p> <p>It has 4 to 12-inch oakleaf-shaped leaves that are fuzzy when young. The leaves turn red or purple in the late fall. A pyramidal cluster of white blooms matures in the late spring and summer, turning purple with time. Tiny, dry seeds mature in the fall.</p>	


19.	Privets (<i>Ligustrum</i> <i>spp.</i>)	<p>It has good winter hardiness and formerly was the most popular species of privet grown for hedging in northern areas.</p> <p>It has dark green oval leaves and small, tubular, white flowers. Flowers bloom at the stem tips in June, very fragrant and they give way to globe-shaped, glossy drupes. They ripen to black in fall and persist throughout winter. Fruit clusters are the best ornamental feature of this species. A plant produces thousands of fruits, most of which are eaten by birds.</p> <p>Privets are used in traditional herbal medicine. The decoction of privet leaves or bark is used to treat diarrhea, stomach ulcers, etc.... Apparently, the bitter property of this tea is useful for improving appetite and digestion in chemotherapy patients.</p> <p>*Some privet species are known to be toxic.</p>	
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20.	<p>Barberry (<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>)</p>	<p>Barberry is a deciduous shrub with a very dense, rounded form and thorns. Foliage is green to purplish in summer and red in fall.</p> <p>Leaves alternate, but appear in clusters, simple, obovate to oblong, small, variable in size, with a narrow base.</p>		
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21.	Beautyberry (<i>Callicarpa</i>)	<p>There are several kinds of them in this park (the one close to traffic light is purple). You can notice them prominently during wintertime with beautiful visual display of these berries.</p> <p>American beautyberry is a fast-growing perennial shrub native to the southeastern US while Bodinier's beautyberry is native to our area. The two are very similar, growing five to eight feet tall and almost as wide with drooping branches. The elliptical to ovate shaped leaves have an opposite arrangement with saw toothed margins. The underside of the leaves covered with wooly like hairs. The stems are slender, gray to reddish brown, and four sided. In late spring to early summer, inconspicuous flowers of blue, violet, pink, are arranged in clusters on the stems between the leaves. In August or September, clusters of small purple to blue berries or drupes encircle the woody stems. Each small berry in the cluster contains two to four seeds.</p> <p>Uses: The roots, leaves, and branches were used by various Native American tribes for medicinal purposes to treat malarial fevers, rheumatism, and other diseases. In the early 20th century, farmers would crush the leaves and place them under the harnesses of horses and mules to repel mosquitoes. The farmers rubbed the crushed leaves on themselves to repel mosquitoes and biting bugs.</p>	
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		<p>Four chemicals isolated from <i>Callicarpa</i> have been shown to act as repellents: The use of callicarpenal has been patented by the as a mosquito repellent.</p> <p>Wildlife: The fruit is high in moisture content and is an important food source for more than forty species of songbirds including the American Robin. The berries last well into the winter and are an important survival food for other animals, though they will not eat them until other sources are depleted.</p>	
22.	Lodgepole Pine (<i>Pinus contorta</i>)	<p>Conifer, evergreen, rather small, rounded crown shrub, or a slender conical tree. Needles occur in bunches of two and twist in a spiral with sharp points.</p> <p>Cones are egg shaped and they may fall after seed is dropped or stay closed for years. Its cones are protected by a seal of pitch that requires fire or heat to release the seeds. This allows seeds to stay on the tree or on the ground for many years until fire disturbance provides suitable growing conditions.</p> <p>The wood from lodgepole pine was used as poles for lodges, homes, and buildings. Indigenous peoples stripped off long ribbons of the inner bark and eat it fresh in the spring, sometimes with sugar. The pitch was used as a base for many</p>	



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		medicines. Lodgepole pine is excellent for lumber, plywood, and paneling.	
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