

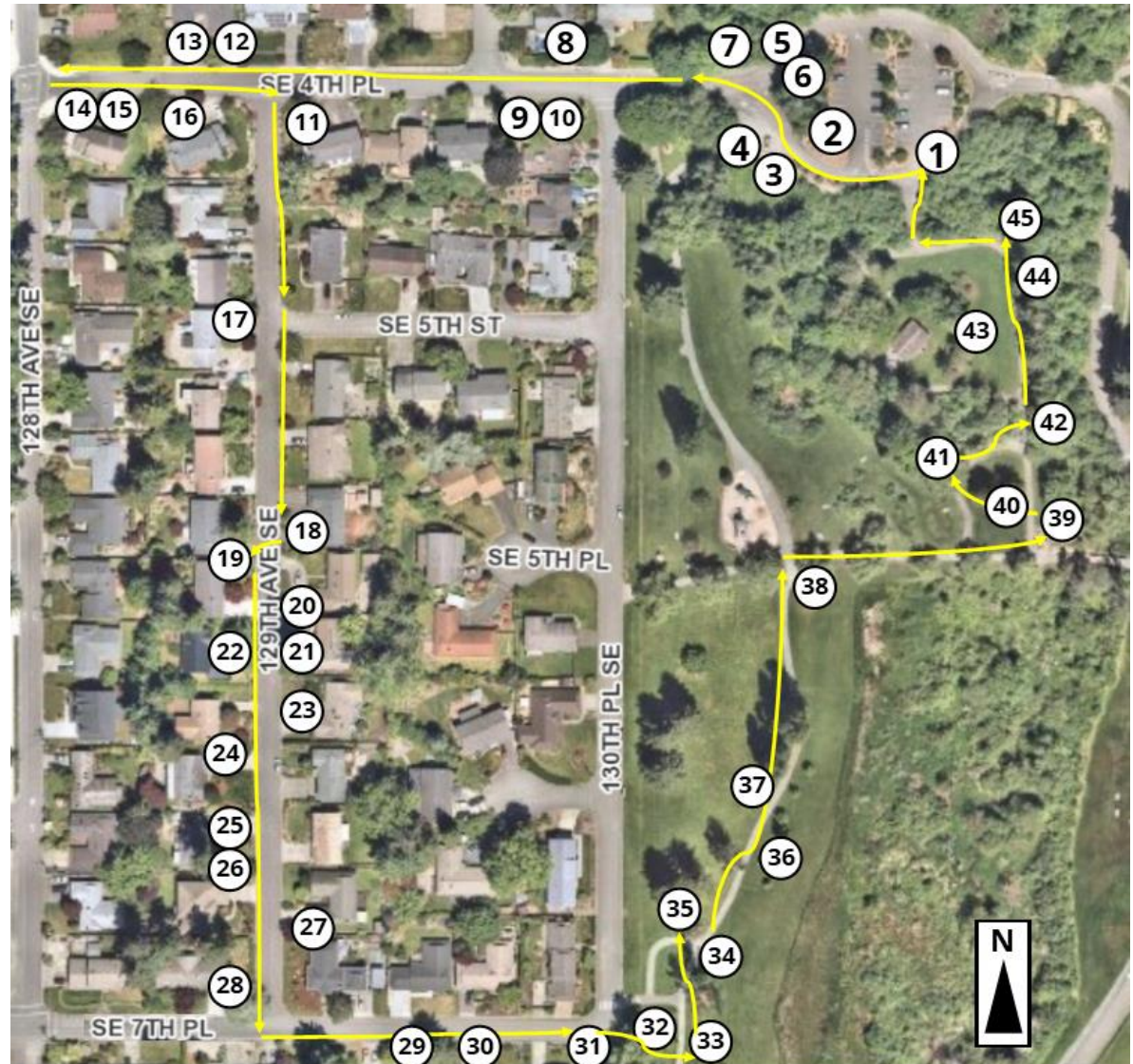
Self-Guided Neighborhood Tree Tour

Created by Steve Williams

Neighborhood: Wilburton - Kelsey Creek Farm Park and SE 4th Pl. – 129th Ave SE – SE 7th Pl.

Starting point: Kelsey Creek Park Parking Lot

Welcome to Kelsey Creek Park and its adjoining neighborhood. This short $\frac{3}{4}$ mile walk will introduce you to 40 different trees in less than an hour. We hope that you will be impressed by both their beauty and diversity. Trees provide us with so many benefits: shade to cool our streets and our planet; food for birds, animals and us; oxygen that we all need to breathe; and water retention that helps prevent flooding. All that plus color, texture, variety and beauty in our city and in our yards. As you walk, think about which of the trees that you see you might want to plant in your own yard, or ask our city to plant on public property. The City of Bellevue has a goal of increasing the city's tree canopy to 40% by 2050 – That's about 3,000 new trees to be planted. Think about where those new trees might go, and about how it will beautify and cool our city in the years to come.





BELLEVUE NEIGHBORHOOD TREE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

This walk starts at the parking lot and goes up SE 4th Place into the neighborhood. Follow the arrows to numbers 1- 45. Refer to the map often and look for the trees in the photographs to match the numbered stops. Be very careful when crossing the roads, and walk near the curb where there are no sidewalks. (This is a quiet and friendly neighborhood, but you will need to watch and listen for moving cars). Please respect the resident's property and privacy; but if you do have the chance, let them know that you enjoy their trees, and appreciate the way they keep up their yards. The only uphill is on SE 4th Place - then it is downhill on 129th and back to the park on SE 7th Place. You will return to the parking lot on trails in the west-side of the park, but there are many other trails to walk, trees to see, farm animals to visit, and more things to do at Kelsey Creek Farm Park.

Please Come Again!



BELLEVUE NEIGHBORHOOD TREE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

This tree tour was developed by one of 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.



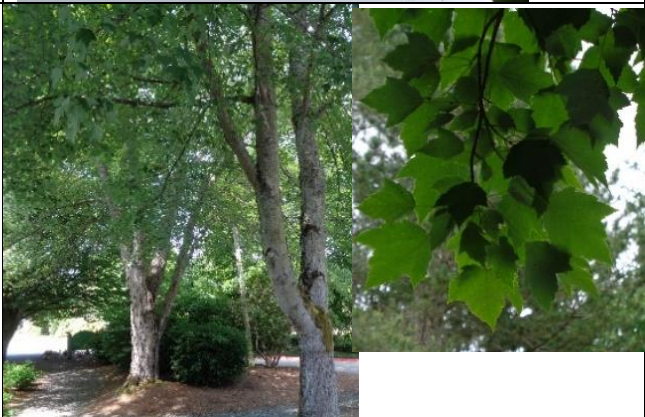
If you have questions or would like to share feedback about this tour, please email trees@bellevuewa.gov.






Stop #	Landmark	Discussion	Photo
1 South side of parking lot	Kelsey Creek Farm Park	Take the trail to the right of the signs, alongside the road.	
2 In parking lot planter strip to your right	Sitka Spruce Grove	Notice the drooping branches and dense, spiky needles. This tree is famous for its light, strong wood and long tan scaled cones. It is often used in airplane construction and was said not to splinter or break when hit by gun-fire in WWI. (Boeing Aircraft got its start making bi planes with NW spruce).	
2a To your left, next to the gravel trail	Scouler Willow	Notice that the leaves are spoon shaped and widest beyond the middle; smooth and dark green above, and light gray with reddish hairs below. Willows love water and often form thickets that become habitat for insects, birds, small animals and deer.	





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3 Just past the lawn area	Vine Maple	A low growing spreading tree with arching branches, said by some to resemble a walk under ancient grape arbors. The leaves are soft, mid-green and have seven to nine points. In the fall they will turn gold if the tree lives in shade, or bright red if it lives in sun.	
3a	Sweetgum	This tree is fast becoming a city favorite. 'Liquidambar' is its other common name – a reference to the striking mass of fall color produced. Spiky seed balls hang on the trees in winter (similar to Plane trees). Note that these leaves are deeply lobed and five-pointed, and that the seed balls are also more sharply pointed.	
4 Walk between these two trunks on the trail to the right and cross the road to #5	Red Maple	Also known as scarlet maple, there are many forms available. These are fast growers to an average height of 40' and are popular as park and border trees. Good masses of fall color. Leaves have only 3 lobes and are small, making winter clean-up easier.	





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5 Just behind the "Fire Lane" curb	Red Alder	A pioneer tree after fire or land clearing, Red Alder has nitrogen-fixing roots. Leaves and branches that are dropped quickly turn to forest soil; and the short stature and 60 year life span opens space for lots of other trees and plants. (An important source of firewood, it was always used by natives for smoking fish).		
6	Red Alder Leaf and Cones			
7	Bigleaf Maple	One of our most common big trees. Can grow to 130' tall with a spreading dome nearly that wide. Strong limbs support mosses; and licorice ferns anchor themselves in the furrowed bark high up on the trunks. Both become homes for all sorts of birds, insects and wildlife. Winged seeds and small seedlings are an important food source for squirrels, deer, and other animals.		




8	Juniper	There are over 100 juniper types offered by nurseries – most are cultivated varieties bred to be land-scape shrubs like this one. (Original juniper trees could be tall, heavy-trunked and live for thousands of years). Note the prickly, scale-like leaflets and gray-blue berry-like cones.	
9 Across the street	Western hemlock	Noted for its drooped leader and lacy branches, this is our 'State Tree.' It has more needles per branch than Douglas Fir and was therefore expected to be the climax tree of our forests. (All evergreens do photo-synthesize and continue to grow year-round). Hemlock cones are small and form on branch tips. Natives laid boughs in streams to collect herring fish eggs.	 
10	Yellow cedar (pair)	Also known as Alaskan Cedar; this is the preferred wood for totem poles and masks because of its tight grain and ease in carving. The branches have a heavy droop to shed snow and frequent rains. The leaf scales are more yellow-green than Red Cedar, and the small (1/2") round cones have sharp points on each of 4 to 6 cone scales.	




11 Across the street at 129 th and SE 4 th Place	Lodgepole Pine	Needles in pairs; small brown cones. These are sun loving trees that can tolerate dry soils and hot summers. The Shore Pine, Austrian and Corsican Pines are all close relatives with similar looks and habits. Birds seem to love them because of open perches and all the insects that can be found on the branches.	
12	Black Maple (known as 'Fassen's Black'- for the man who developed it).	There are at least eleven different varieties of <i>Acer Platanoides</i> . All of them have five lobed leaves that are large, 4"- 7" wide. Most of the varietal distinctions are because of color changes as the leaves age. These are popular street trees, and Bellevue has planted many in road medians and along sidewalks. It is fun to note the color changes throughout the year.	
13	Pink Dogwood	As with apples & cherries, many varieties of dogwood have been developed. This flowering Pink Dogwood (<i>c. nuttali</i>) is a very popular land-scape tree in the northwest. The tree accepts pruning for form and size, and drops its leaves in the winter, highlighting branch patterns. The <i>c. florida</i> Dogwood is noted for its large white flower bracts and is being planted now by the city in rows as a street tree.	




14	Red Horse Chestnut	A large, dramatic tree with compound leaves (five to seven leaflets each). In our area, most Chestnuts will have upright clusters of white flowers, but this one is the red variety (<i>Aesculus x carnea</i>) with beautiful red & orange flowers. Large, shiny 'nuts' are en-cased in a spiny cover and are mildly toxic. (fun to find – but not to eat)!	
15	Cherry	There are so many varieties of wild and domestic cherry that it is hard to decide which one this is. Look for the horizontal banding on the bark, and leaves with toothed edges and long, pointed tips. Our native “Bitter Cherry” looks like this except that in the woods they grow tall and narrow. (the leaves are food for yellow Tiger Swallowtail butterflies).	
16	Japanese Maple	Small maple trees have been developed into many different 'cultivars' or varieties by Japanese gardeners over the centuries. This one appears to be 'bloodleaf dissectum' because of the deep purple color and the many narrow lobes of each leaf. A great accent tree for an entryway or garden corner.	




17	Street view	Big landmark trees define the neighborhood, but in the foreground left is a Crabapple , and on the right is a Weeping Cherry – noted for its drooping branches and horizontally striped bark.	 
18 Left side in driveway island	Grand fir	A true fir with upright cones, this one is noted for its flat ranks of bright green, round-tipped needles. Tall narrow growth that can reach over 200'. Winged seeds are a staple in the diet of many forest birds and animals.	
19 On the right	California Redwood	A California 'giant' <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i> can reach heights of 350' and have a lifespan well over 1,000 years. Because of its size and density, each tree becomes an eco-system in itself, supporting all sorts of creatures and producing oxygen for whole neighborhoods.	




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20 On the left	Colorado Blue Spruce	Spruce trees are known for having sharp, prickly needles. Colorado Blue Spruce is also famous for its light blue color and narrow upright form, making it popular with garden designers, and as a unique Christmas Tree.		
21	Giant Sequoia	Another California 'giant'. Sequoias often live to 1,500 years or more and can reach heights of 150' to 250'. They are noted for their massive trunks and narrow pyramidal form. In neighborhoods they become 'land-mark trees'. The city is planting more and more of them because of the oxygen they provide and their ability to tolerate a warming climate.		
22	Larch	Bundles of narrow three-sided needles are held on raised buds along each small branch. Green in spring and summer, they turn showy yellow in fall and sometimes drop off completely in the winter. This tree has been topped because of the power lines, forcing the heavy, spreading branches.		




23	Arborvitae	Small evergreen trees related to Red Cedar (Thuja Family), but cultivated and used frequently as a tall, dense wall of shrubs. May require 'hedge pruning' to limit width & height. Can be damaged by drought and heavy snow or ice.	
24	Paper Birch	Landscapers know of 27 different birch varieties. This one is famous for its bright white, peeling bark. Most birches have small green leaves with 'toothed' edges and pointed tips. Often, the branches also droop to shed water. Hanging male and female 'catkins' ripen to shed tiny winged seeds in the winter or spring.	
25	White Dogwood	As with apples & cherries, many varieties of dogwood have been developed. This flowering Pink Dogwood (<i>c. nuttali</i>) is a very popular landscape tree in the north-west. The tree accepts pruning for form and size, and drops its leaves in the winter, highlighting branch patterns. The <i>c. florida</i> Dogwood is noted for its large white flower bracts and is being planted now by the city in rows as a street tree.	





26	Hawthorn	Hawthorns are noted for their white flower clusters, small lobed leaves and branches with thorns. The wood is tough and strong, it is good for tool handles. The berries are very popular with birds, especially prior to migration time.	
27 On east side of street	Prunus Prunus (Flowering Plum)	Flowering stone-fruit trees are grouped under this title. This one appears to be a flowering plum, noted for its profusion of light pink to white blossoms and deep purple leaves. (little or no fruit produced). Another great 'contrast' tree for the yard or garden.	
28	Atlas cedar	Large, stately tree originated in the Atlas mountains of Morocco. Slow growing, but can reach 120' with large spreading limbs. Short, light blue needles contrast nicely with our NW evergreens. Sapsucker birds drill rows of holes and return daily to collect sugary sap and trapped insects.	


29 On south side of street – walk next to curb	Magnolia	Known as the U.S. Southern Magnolia or 'Bull Bay.' This tree is famous for its large (8"), creamy white, fragrant flowers. The glossy leaves are also large and distinctive. Older ones turn a bright yellow, creating a contrasting display under the plant when they fall to the ground.	
30	Douglas Fir	Our most common evergreen tree, and actually not a true fir because its cones hang down rather than up. 'Doug. Fir' grows quickly to heights of 80' to 200' and is used world-wide for lumber and construction. The thick bark on older trees protects them from forest fires, leading to life-spans of 800 years or more.	
31	Apple	This small apple has been espaliered (pruned and tied to a wire frame) for ease in harvesting and service as a wall or hedge. Only 'miniature' varieties can be used in this way.	

32 Cross the street and walk directly to the trunk-then cross the path below to #33	London Plane	Big, deciduous trees with strong limbs and trunks. Flaking bark creates interesting mottled patterns that are attractive even in winter. Hanging nut 'balls' have a 'furry' cover and often stay on in winter giving the tree a decorated effect.	
33	California Black Oak	Older trees will have dark, furrowed bark and bright yellow-orange leaves on the fall. The deeply lobed bristly-pointed leaves are distinctive. Acorns provide food for wildlife. Trees can reach 80' height.	
34	White (Silver) Poplar with Lombardy Poplar at left	Also known locally as 'Silver Poplar' because of its striking white bark, and leaves that show flashing white undersides when flickering in the wind. (Compare this tree to the Lombardy Poplar next to it).	

35	Water Birch	This is a common tree of low wetlands. It is distinguished by its furrowed, dark edged bark. They do suffer in hot, drought summers, as is shown by the dead top on this one. (Leaf, catkin & twig drop can be a problem for homeowners).		
36	Norway Maple	There are at least eleven different varieties of <i>Acer Platanoides</i> . All of them have five lobed leaves that are large, 4"- 7" wide. Most of the varietal distinctions are because of color changes as the leaves age. These are popular street trees, and Bellevue has planted many in road medians and along sidewalks. It is fun to note the color changes throughout the year.		
37	Lombardy Poplar	These fast growing, tall trees were often planted by farmers to serve as wind-brakes and to provide shade and firewood on the open plains. They like wet soil, but can spread roots far and wide seeking it if the rains are light.		

38	London Plane Tree	Also known as Sycamore and planted in rows along streets and paths for shade. Big, deciduous trees with strong limbs and trunks. Flaking bark creates interesting mottled patterns that are attractive even in winter. Hanging nut 'balls' have a 'furry' cover and often stay on in winter giving the tree a decorated effect.	
39 Behind restrooms near creek	Green Ash	Single trunk trees with dense foliage, each 10" leaf having four to eight opposed leaflets and a single terminal, longer leaflet. The winged, single seeds are held in clusters and resemble canoe paddles. Does well in wet soils.	
40	Spruce and Sweetgum	Compare the bark and leaves of these two trees. Sitka Spruce is noted for flaking, scaly bark. (Spruce cones are long and scaly too). Sweetgum trees have spiky seed ball hanging on long stems. Look up – you may be able to see a few.	

41	Pacific Willow	Distinctive, 5" narrow pointed leaves, shiny green above, whitish below. Loves water. Can grow to 50' and form thickets. Yellowish catkins sometimes 4" long in spring.		
42 Just prior to footbridge	Vine Maple	Note the palm shaped leaves with many points. (Think of your palm with your fingers stretched out in all directions). That is called a "palmate" leaf type.		
43 To your left across the lawn	Red Cedar	The 'tree of life' for northwest natives, cedar has a straight tight grain and splits easily into shakes, shingles and planks. The inner bark could be made into thin strips and woven into hats, skirts, rain capes and even rope. Large logs were hollowed out and carved into strong, lightweight canoes.	 	

44	Spruce and Fir fronds	Touch and compare the hanging spruce fronds with the soft horizontal fir boughs. Spruce needles are stiff and sharp. Fir needles are soft; this year's growth is light green at the end of the frond (last years is dark green).	
45	Big Leaf Maple	One of our most common big trees. Can grow to 130' tall with a spreading dome nearly that wide. Strong limbs support mosses; and licorice ferns anchor themselves in the furrowed bark high up on the trunks. Both become homes for all sorts of birds, insects and wildlife. Winged seeds and small seedlings are an important food source for squirrels, deer, and other animals.	