



Harney Heights Neighborhood Tree Tour

Our urban forest comprises all trees, shrubs, and other vegetation within the City of Vancouver. Along with the Columbia River, trees are one of Vancouver's most prominent natural features. Vancouver's trees are not merely beautiful; the urban forest is critical to the healthful functioning of the city and greatly improves the quality of life for all residents. Use this guide to learn about some of the many trees that add to the charm of central Vancouver.

1: Silver Birch - N.E. corner of Idaho & 13th intersection

Native to Eurasia, this specimen of the 'Laciniata' variety displays deeply incised leaves and weeping branches. Many non-native birches in the area have been impacted by bronze birch borer insects but some varieties native to the continent like the 'Dura Heat' and 'Heritage' river birches have shown the best resistance.

2: Mixed Species - W. perimeter of M.L. King Elementary

Lining Boise St. are various oaks, maples, and Kentucky coffeetrees planted in 2004 and 2009 by King students. As they mature, these large-form shade trees will cool the street, slow traffic, and remove air pollutants.

3: Variegated Box Elder - 1110 Ogden Av., front yard

This unusual variety offers delightful pink and white new growth in spring and handsome green and beige foliage in summer. Box elders are known to self-seed easily and should be planted away from natural areas.

4: London Planetrees & Douglas-Fir - Idaho Ct. median

Planetrees are hybrids between two sycamore species discovered in London in 1645. They are commonly planted for their tolerance to heat, drought, and soil compaction. Behind the two planetrees is a Douglas-fir, an easily-recognizable Pacific Northwest tree which provides many crucial benefits to humans and wildlife.

5: Turkish Hazel - 5111 Idaho, front yard

The largest species of the hazels, these trees' shade and fibrous roots make them a great choice along streets. These specimens were installed at the recent annual Friends of Trees neighborhood planting event.

6: Honeylocust - 4505 E. 15th, front yard W. of driveway

Native to the Midwest, these are among the last trees to leaf out in spring. This mature individual exemplifies its rounded shape and speckled shade. Seedless and thornless varieties are commonly available to plant.

7: Port-Orford-Cedar - 4005 E. 15th, front yard E. of house

This species native to southwest Oregon and northwest California displays a slender, dense, and glaucous, or blue-green, canopy that distinguishes it from other native cedars. Indigenous peoples used the branches as brooms and timber to construct sweat lodges, stools, and headrests. Due to disease and logging, this tree is severely threatened in its native range.



8: Northern Catalpa - 3708 E. 14th, front yard

Giant heart-shaped leaves, white, fragrant, and showy flowers, and a twisting trunk and branches make this a strong, unique, and popular tree. Native to small pockets in the Midwest, it is now planted across the country.

9: Norway Spruce - 3506 E. McLoughlin, side yard along 14th

Actually native to Eurasia, this tree has naturalized itself in North America, meaning it can reproduce on its own by seed. Fast growth and tolerance of soil variations make it a popular tree for windbreaks and elegant landscape accents. The dense branching pattern provides important winter shelter to wildlife.

10: Scarlet Oak - 3403 E. McLoughlin, front yard

Enormous oaks line McLoughlin throughout the neighborhood, dating back to the World War II years when a permanent 500-unit subdivision called Harney Hill was constructed to house workers, extending from present-day Grand Boulevard to approximately Idaho Street.

11: Pin Oak - 3011 E. McLoughlin, front yard

Pin oaks, scarlet oaks, and northern red oaks belong to the same family native to eastern North America. One of the faster-growing oaks, the single straight trunk and dense horizontal branching make this species stand out.

12: Coast Redwood - 1310 Harney Heights Ln., S.E. of driveway

This tree is a keystone species in its native ecosystem along the northern California and southern Oregon coast, where it thrives in year-round moist conditions to reach heights of over 300 feet. It represents the largest and one of the longest-lived trees in the world.

13: Tuliptree - 3506 E. 11th, front yard

Another formidable continentally native tree, this species is among the largest of the deciduous hardwoods. The name comes from its large yellow-orange flowers appearing in late spring, attracting many pollinators.

14: Noble Fir - S.W. corner of E. 11th & 13th intersection

This species is the largest true fir in North America. Tall and narrow, its glaucous foliage and upright-growing cones make this unique among other native conifers.

15: Mixed Species - St. Helens Park

While the park dates to 1960 when the St. Helens Terrace subdivision replaced Vancouver Housing Authority lands east of Harney Hill, its oldest trees weren't planted until the early 1970s. In 2008 volunteers from the NAACP planted nearly 40 additional trees. Neighbors today continue a long tradition of stewarding the park.