

The Trees of Fernhill Park

- NE Ainsworth and 37th Avenue
- Tree Map and Walk Directions
- Tree Characteristics



Portland Parks & Recreation City Nature – Urban Forestry

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www.portlandparks.org

Street tree planting, pruning and removal permits, general street tree information, tree cutting ordinances, park tree care, and emergency tree response.

Additional Tree Resources

International Society of Arboriculture

www.treesaregood.org 503-874-8263

Local Chapter of ISA www.pnwisa.org

Database of certified arborist, information about pruning trees and general tree care.

Bureau of Development Services 503-823-7526

Trees on private property that are being, or could be, developed.

Portland General Electric 503-736-5460

PacifiCorps 888-221-7070

Trees and power line conflicts.

Friends of Trees 503-282-8846

Community and natural area tree planting programs.

Portland Code Enforcement 503-823-7306

Vegetation encroaching sidewalks, public right of ways, or driveways; visibility concerns at places other than intersections.

Traffic Safety Livability Hot Line 503-823-7233

Visibility concerns at intersections and traffic signs.

For more information on tree care go to www.portlandparks.org. There you will find street tree selection help, neighborhood tree walks, Portland Heritage Trees web page, and pruning information. If you are interested in learning more about tree care, Portland Parks & Recreation offers hands on tree care classes throughout the year. Go to our web page, or call 503-823-1650 for class times and locations.

Fernhill Park Tree Walk designed and written by Portland Parks & Recreation Neighborhood Tree Steward Volunteer Jim Gersbach.



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



www.PortlandParks.org
Commissioner Nick Fish
Director Zari Santner

Tree Descriptions

1. **Cornelian cherry** (*Cornus mas*). Despite the name, this is a member of the dogwood family. It is native to Europe and western Asia. Blooming in late winter, it is one of the few trees with yellow flowers. In late summer, birds are attracted to the bright red fruits.

2. **Colorado blue spruce** (*Picea pungens* forma *glauca*). The state tree of both Colorado and Utah, this conifer is widely planted across the country for its bluish color and drought tolerance.

3. **Lacebark pine** (*Pinus bungeana*). Rare in the USA, the lacebark pine is noted for its handsome, exfoliating whitish and grayish-green bark. A slow-growing native of northern China.

4. **Incense cedar** (*Calocedrus decurrens*). Heat and drought tolerant, the incense cedar grows from California and Nevada north to Oregon, where it tends to be more columnar. Also known as the pencil cedar because its wood is made into pencils.

5. **Northern red oak** (*Quercus rubra*). The most commonly planted oak in Portland, this fast-growing tree's acorns are important food for squirrels, jays and other wildlife.

6. **London plane tree** (*Platanus x acerifolia*). A cross between a European and American sycamore, the London plane tree became popular in cities in the 19th century because it survived sulphur dioxide pollution from coal burning.

7. **Japanese red pine** (*Pinus densiflora*). Cultivated for centuries in Japan as a bonsai subject, this pine was introduced to gardens outside Asia in 1854. The beautiful orange bark makes it a popular with landscapers.

8. **Deodar cedar** (*Cedrus deodara*). This fast-growing evergreen is a valuable timber tree in the Himalayas from Afghanistan to western Nepal. Touch the needles. They are surprisingly soft.



9. **Oregon myrtle** (*Umbellularia californica*). Related to the bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*), this tree's evergreen leaves contain volatile oils that give off a strong, heady smell when crushed. Native to southwest Oregon and California.

10. **Western red cedar** (*Thuja plicata*). Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest used this tree's timber for everything:

longhouses to furniture and canoes, and the bark fibers for clothing, blankets and even diapers. Now commonly cut down for fencewood because of its rot resistance.

11. **European beech** (*Fagus sylvatica* var. *purpurea*). Smooth, gray bark in maturity resembles an elephant's hide. This long-lived European tree grows well even in shade.



12. **Oregon white oak** (*Quercus garryana*). This stately native oak grows slowly but lives for centuries. Adapted to Oregon's summer droughts, it can fall prey to disease if watered during hot weather.

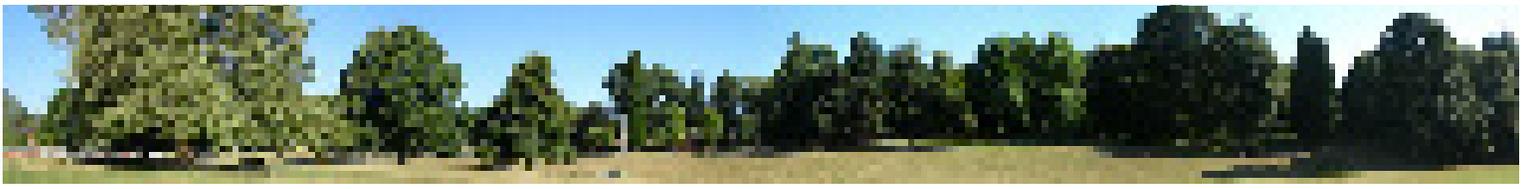
13. **Willow oak** (*Quercus phellos*). This tree's long, narrow leaves make it hard to recognize as an oak until acorns appear in autumn. Native to the eastern USA, it has yellow fall color.

13a. **Pin oak** (*Quercus palustris*). This oak has a central leader with many knotty lateral branches coming out of the trunk. The leaves are very deeply lobed.

14. **Coastal redwood** (*Sequoia sempervirens*). Growing in a narrow coastal band from southwestern Oregon to central California, this survivor from earlier ages has rich red-brown, fibrous bark that protects it from fires. One of the few conifers to sprout from the stump. Typically lives 500 to 700 years, with some specimens over 2,000 years old recorded.

15. **Katsura** (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*). This is one of the only trees Americans know by its Japanese name. Katsuras are one of the first trees to leaf out in spring and to lose their leaves in October. After turning yellow or a soft apricot, the round leaves reportedly smell faintly like cinnamon or brown sugar. Leaves often grow straight from the trunk and major branches.

16. **Bigleaf maple** (*Acer macrophyllum*). This native maple has the largest leaves of any maple, up to a foot across. Fruit (double samara), large, 4 cm long, hangs down in bunches. Foliage yellow to gold or brown in fall.



Tree Walk Directions

Start off NE 37th Avenue at the west side of the tennis courts by the Fernhill Park sign. The small tree near the sign is a cornelian cherry (1). Turn north (left) and walk around the northern end of the court past a Colorado blue spruce (2). Turn south and walk halfway down the east side of the tennis court to a lacebark pine (3).

Walk east toward the restrooms. The tall, upright conifer is an incense cedar (4). Just to the north of it is a northern red oak (5). From the incense cedar, walk north (uphill) toward two trees with cream-colored, smooth bark flaking off in patches. These are London plane trees (6). Once at the plane trees, look to the east (right). The orange-barked pine you'll see is a Japanese red pine (7).

Continue straight ahead uphill (north) to a park bench. Standing at the park bench you'll see to the northwest (ahead and to the left) a deodar cedar (8) with drooping branches and soft needles. Walk north and slightly to the east (right) up to the round, broadleaved tree – it's an Oregon myrtle (9), known to Californians as a California bay. Growing all around the myrtle are western red cedars (10). They have a pyramid shape. Now walk past the Oregon myrtle and walk northeast from it. You'll be heading toward a purple-leaved European beech (11). This is a considerably taller tree than the purple-leaved flowering plums, several of which grow in the vicinity. From the purple beech, walk due north toward NE Holman Street.

Near the intersection with NE 39th and Holman is a massive Oregon white oak (12) with four trunks growing from the same base. Walk east (right) from the Oregon white oak. On your right will be two unusual oaks with long, narrow leaves. These are willowleaf oaks (13). To the southeast (further inside the park) are two more easily identifiable North American oaks – a northern red oak with big leaves, and further east from it and slightly south are two very tall pin oaks (13a), with more delicate foliage.

From the pin oaks continue walking due east until you come to a row of five tall conifers with reddish bark and flat needles. These are coastal redwoods (14). Walk to the easternmost redwood and turn south (right). NE 40th will now be on your left. On your right will be a

deep valley or dell. Walk south to through a grove of graceful Old World cedars.

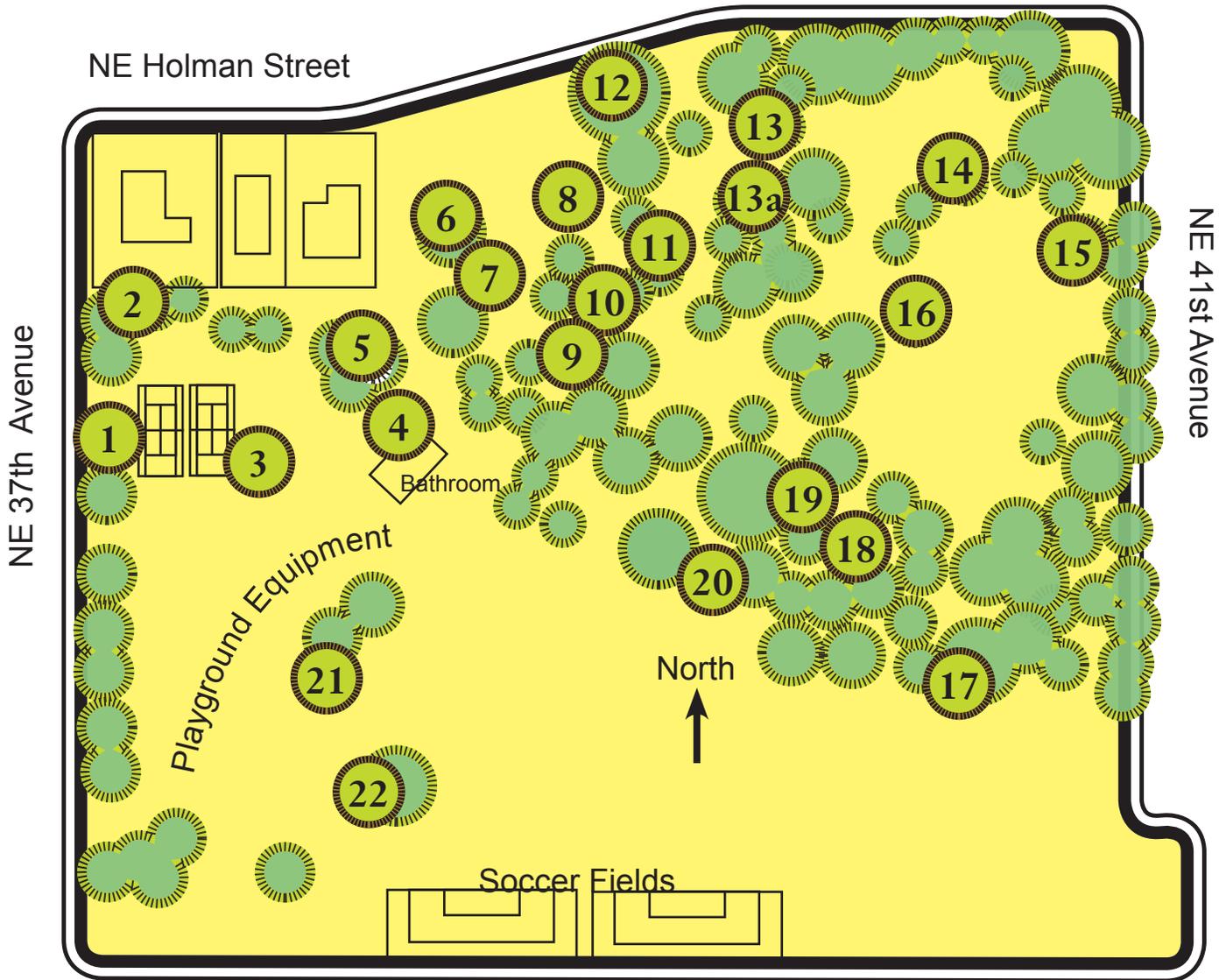
Continue walking south past the sign for Ainsworth Street. About 30 feet ahead and to your right growing at the bottom of a low spot is a katsura tree (15) with round leaves. Walk from the katsura west (right) keeping the higher wooded land on your right. Walk west past Oregon white oaks on your right.

At the base of an old bigleaf maple (16) with three trunks (a fourth broke off), turn to the right and walk uphill due north to three trees with dark green, rounded leaves with a prominent drip point at the tip. These are littleleaf lindens (17), widely planted as street trees. From the lindens, continue due north to the top of the hill until you come to a soft-needled larch (18). Larches are deciduous, so in winter the tree will have bare branches. Fall color is yellow. Look to your left (to the west) and slightly to the north and you'll note a mid-sized tree with gray bark mottled with flaking orange patches. This is a Japanese zelkova (19).

Turn your back to the zelkova and walk due west (toward the restrooms and NE 37th). You'll walk through more Oregon white oak and then come to a European hornbeam (20). A second one is slightly ahead and to the south. Note the "muscular" trunk and broad spread. Most of the hornbeams planted on Portland streets are an upright form much narrower than these two.

Continue past the European hornbeam toward the restroom. Walk through the pines (note the orange-barked Japanese red pine). When you've cleared the pines and have the restroom directly ahead of you, turn to your left and walk southwest toward the playground. Just to the east of the swings are two broadleaved trees with toothed leaf edges. These are chestnut trees (21). Look for long, cream-colored flowers in early summer or prickly husks in fall.

Finally, the three conifers due north of the chestnuts are Port Orford cedars (22). Note their thick foliage and droopy tops. It is amazing these trees have not yet been infected by the deadly root-rot fungus killing these cedars all over the Northwest.



Tree Descriptions continued

17. **Linden** (*Tilia cordata*). Although the littleleaf linden's small flowers in June aren't showy, they are intoxicatingly sweet. The honey-scented aroma attracts bees and parkgoers. Although the leaves of this European native (known as a "lime tree" to the English) don't look small, they are not as large as those of the American lindens, or basswoods as they are also called.

18. **Larch** (*Larix* sp.). Most conifers keep their needles but not the larches. The soft needles on species from Europe, North America and Asia turn yellow or orange before falling in autumn.

19. **Zelkova** (*Zelkova serrata*). In American cultivation since the Civil War, this native of Japan, Korea and Manchuria has been planted more frequently in recent years as a replacement for American elms killed by Dutch elm disease. Note the gray bark with flaking orange patches.

20. **European hornbeam** (*Carpinus betulus*). The strong, heavy wood of this European tree was used for wagon spokes and axles. Disease and pest resistant, hornbeams tolerate clay soils.

21. **Chestnut** (*Castanea* sp.). Long-lived Asian chestnut trees are resistant to the blight which has wiped out the American chestnut in the eastern half of the United States. Watch out underfoot for the prickly husks guarding the chestnuts.

22. **Port Orford cedar** (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*). An introduced Asian fungus called *Phytophthora lateralis* is slowly killing off this conifer, which is native to southwestern Oregon but widely planted as a hedge because of its thick foliage.