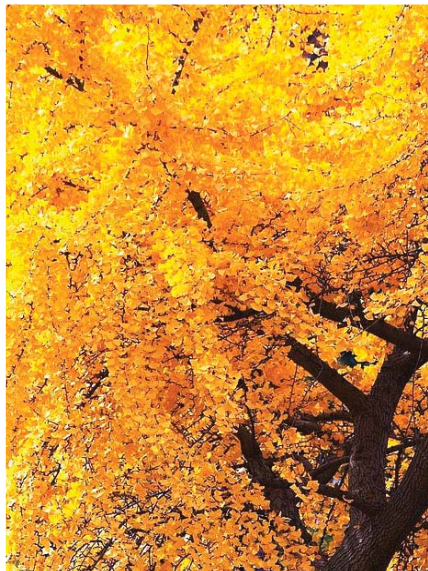
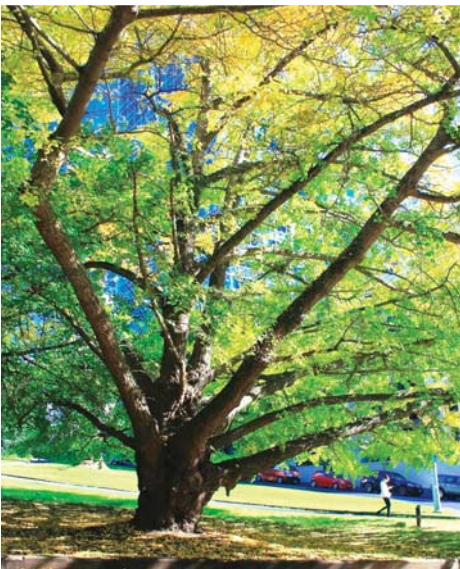
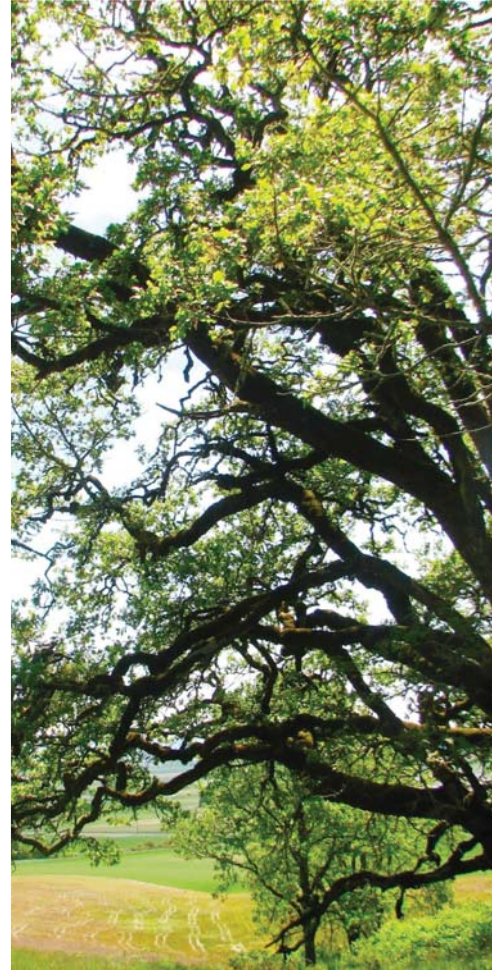




PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



Da Vinci Middle School Tree Walk

LEARNING LANDSCAPES



Da Vinci Middle School Tree Walk 2015 Learning Landscapes

Site data collected in Summer 2014.

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Cover photos (from top left to bottom right):

- 1) Western redcedar cones.
- 2) *Ginkgo biloba* at Da Vinci Middle School.
- 3) The branches and foliage of an Oregon white oak.
- 4) Ginkgos like this one can thrive in urban conditions.
- 5) A closeup of an incense cedar's awl-like leaves.
- 6) Students plant trees at Da Vinci Middle School.
- 7) The bright autumn leaves of a large ginkgo.
- 8) Camas lilies bloom in an Oregon white oak savannah.

ver. 1/30/2015

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Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Director Mike Abbaté

The Learning Landscapes Program



Da Vinci Middle School

The Da Vinci Middle School Learning Landscape was initiated in November 2010, and the collection includes 26 trees. This tree walk identifies trees planted as part of the Learning Landscape as well as other interesting specimens at the school.

What is a Learning Landscape?

A Learning Landscape is a collection of trees planted and cared for at a school by students, volunteers, and Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) Urban Forestry staff. Learning Landscapes offer an outdoor educational experience for students, as well as environmental and aesthetic benefits to the school and surrounding neighborhood. Learning Landscapes contain diverse tree species. They are designed to teach students about biology and urban forestry issues, but can also be used to teach geography, writing, history and math, and to develop leadership skills.

Community Involvement

Community-building is crucial to the success of Learning Landscapes. PP&R works with Urban Forestry Neighborhood Tree Stewards, teachers, parents, students, and community members to design, plant, establish and maintain these school arboreta. PP&R facilitates this collaboration by working with the school district, neighborhood, students and teachers to create landscapes that meet the need of the individual school community.

By involving students and neighbors in the tree planting, the community has ownership of the trees and a tangible connection to their school.

Tree Planting Experience

Learning Landscapes are planted by the school's students under the mentorship of middle or high school students and volunteers. On planting day, tree planting leaders teach students the benefits of urban trees, form and function of trees, and tree planting techniques. This leadership aspect of Learning Landscapes gives older students and volunteers the opportunity to connect with their peers, build confidence, and develop public speaking skills. Involving students and neighbors in the tree planting fosters community ownership of the trees and builds a tangible connection between school and neighborhood. This helps ensure a high tree survival rate by reducing vandalism and encouraging ongoing stewardship of the school's trees.

Continued Hands-on Learning Opportunities

Once planted, Learning Landscapes are used by teachers and parents for service and leadership projects. Students and teachers continue to build projects around the trees with opportunities to water, prune, weed and mulch. These dynamic landscapes change year after year, depending on student and teacher interests, as new trees are planted and added to the collection.

How can I get involved?

Visit <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/learninglandscapes> for volunteer opportunities, to view more maps, and to learn how to plan a Learning Landscape in your community.

Da Vinci Middle School Tree Walk



Learning Landscapes

<http://portlandoregon.gov/parks/learninglandscapes>

100 Feet



- Learning Landscapes tree
- other tree

Da Vinci Middle School Tree Walk

Tree #	Common Name	Scientific Name
1	western red-cedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>
2	incense cedar	<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>
3	Oregon white oak	<i>Quercus garryana</i>
4-12	ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
13	incense cedar	<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>
14-16	ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
17	Oregon white oak	<i>Quercus garryana</i>
18-26	ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
27	maple	<i>Acer spp.</i>

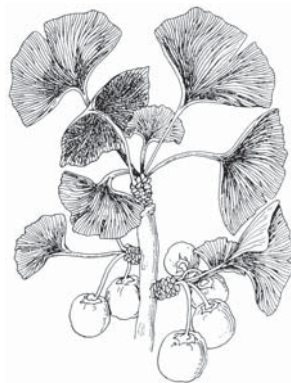
Tree Facts, A to Z

ginkgo, *Ginkgo biloba*

Origin: Asia - China

Ginkgo is a pyramidal to rounded deciduous tree growing up to about 100' tall. The bark has vertical scales, becoming deeply furrowed in maturity. The branches are alternate with leaves emerging from prominent ½" long nodes along the stem.

Each node displays a whorl of approximately 5-7 fan-shaped leaves that flow upwards or towards the ground, giving the ginkgo its nickname "maidenhair tree." There are separate male and female trees. The female tree produces edible fruit about ¾" long, which have been described as "nature's stink bomb," with an assaulting stench often compared to rancid butter, funky cheese, wet dog, or vomit due to the butyric acid in the fruit. Only one species of ginkgo



tree remains in this ancient tree family that dominated forests millions of years ago. The tree was at one point thought to be extinct, and it is rumored that Chinese monks saved some of the last ginkgo trees from a large fire. Ginkgos are often planted in cities for their unique features and hardiness to urban conditions.

incense cedar, *Calocedrus decurrens*

Origin: North America – from Oregon south into California and northern Baja California in Mexico.

Evergreen conifer with single straight trunk and capable of reaching 185'. Usually densely branched, columnar in form (broader in nature but with narrow forms common). The needles are held in flattened sprays. Golden-yellow pollen is shed in winter and early spring. Oblong cones have 3 alternating pairs of scales with a bump just below the tip. Bark is smooth on young trees but becomes fibrous and reddish-brown with age. Highly decay-resistant wood is light, soft and fragrant, giving rise to the tree's common name in English. Primarily used to make pencils but also used in the Far West to make fenceposts or shingles. Trees can live 350 to 500 years. Only two other species in *Calocedrus* are known – both in Asia.



maple, *Acer spp.*

Origin: found across Europe, northern Africa and North America, with most species concentrated in Asia

There are many species of maples and interspecific hybrids, as well as a dizzying array of cultivars. These can be particularly difficult to identify due to the number of possibilities. This tree is identifiable in the *Acer* genus but there is uncertainty as to which species it is.



Oregon white oak, *Quercus garryana*

Origin: North America - southern British Columbia, Canada through Washington and Oregon west of the Cascades and northern California

Oregon white oak is a deciduous tree growing up to 90' tall. Branches are dense and wide, with limbs of solitary trees reaching to the ground. The leaves (3–6" long) are thick and shiny with rounded lobes. A distinguishing feature is the presence of galls on the underside of leaves or small twigs. The galls are the home of little wasps that lay their eggs inside oak leaves. The fruit of the Oregon white oak is an acorn about 1" long that protrudes from a narrow cap. These trees prefer open grassland habitats where they cannot be shaded out by other species. Oregon white oak was once one of the predominant trees in the Willamette Valley, but has declined to only 1% of its original range due to land development for farms and cities, and a reduction in wildfires. The tree's nickname, Garry oak, is after Nicholas Garry, the secretary of Hudson's Bay Company who helped botanist David Douglas.



western redcedar, *Thuja plicata*

Origin: North America - British Columbia, Canada south through Washington, Oregon, northern Idaho and northwest Montana south to northern California; also in the Alaska Panhandle

Western red-cedar can grow up to 200' tall and greater than 10' in diameter. This evergreen has flat, waxy, scale-like leaves that resemble the pattern of ferns. On the underside of the leaves is a white chalk-colored pattern of "X" shaped marks. The branches usually hang down from the trunk in a hook-like fashion. The bark is dark brown, fibrous, and peels off easily in small strips. The cones (about ½" long) form at the tips of the scale-like leaves and open upon maturity. Western redcedar has been used for outbuildings and sheds because the wood is resistant to rot. Native Americans used the wood for canoes and totem poles. The bark can be harvested and was used for blankets, clothing, ropes, nets and even baby diapers. Western red-cedar is the official provincial tree of British Columbia.



