



Parkside & Parkway East 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 northeast Vancouver.

1: Callery Pears - S. side of 34th just E. of 148th

This species is commonly planted for its initial symmetry but often eventually develops structural defects. Residents can properly prune street trees adjacent to their homes early on to avoid long-term maintenance issues.

2: Japanese Zelkovas - 15206 NE 34th, front yard

A good street or yard tree, the zelkova is tolerant to drought and air pollution. The appealing vase-shaped form keeps branches away from ground-level activity while providing valuable shade and beauty in the summertime. The textured bark provides winter interest.

3: Magnolias - E. side of 152nd just S. of 36th

Just past the zelkovas along the fence are three young trees recently installed at the annual Friends of Trees planting event. As they mature they will provide shade to the yard and southwest side of the house, making the nearby area more usable and reducing cooling costs.

4: Black Cottonwoods - 15515 NE 37th, front & back yard

One of the largest native deciduous trees in Vancouver, the cottonwood is most common near water. The foliage gives off a pleasant scent in the spring, followed by a flurry of cotton-like seeds that float in the breeze.

5: Douglas-Firs - S. side of 37th btwn. 157th & 159th, backyards

This quintessential Pacific Northwest conifer is extremely common but each specimen provides crucial services to humans, wildlife, and the environment. This row of Douglas-firs used to be the south edge of a grove extending north to 39th and was preserved when the Garrity Manor subdivision was built in the late 1980s.

6: Red Maples - Intersection of 159th & 36th

The three identical trees on each intersection corner are a commonly-planted species native to the eastern US. Aptly named, this tree has year-round red color, with buds in winter, flowers in spring, leafstalks in summer, and brilliant foliage in autumn.

7: Noble Fir & Blue Atlas Cedar - 15715 NE 34th, backyard

Behind the house and living room window is a noble fir, the largest true fir in North America. An alpine species, it does not perform ideally in Vancouver. Right of the house along the flaglot driveway is the blue Atlas cedar, a native of Morocco, exhibiting a bold, pyramidal form with sparkling silvery blue foliage.



8: European Hornbeam - 15506 NE 32nd, front yard

With its densely textured foliage and tidy ovate form, the hornbeam is widely adaptable in landscapes with uses like privacy screens, street trees, and artistic accents. It requires little maintenance while providing those nearby with ample shade and greenery.

9: English Oak - 3005 NE 154th, front yard

Similar in leaf appearance to the Oregon white oak but lacking the majestic spreading with age, this broadly columnar tree is more adaptable to urban spaces while still offering the elegance and strength for which oaks are well-known.

10: Cascaras, Black Hawthorns - N. side of 31st just E. of 151st

Planted as street trees by Friends of Trees, these are two native species appropriate for small planting strips and are becoming increasingly planted around the region for their urban resilience and wildlife benefits.

11: Apple - 2920 NE 148th, south of house along street

This tree predates the Guinn family who settled on this parcel in 1942, likely making it the oldest fruit tree in the area. Since then the Guinns have added many more trees and shrubs, each with a unique story connecting us to the pastoral way of life of our neighborhood's past.

12: Giant Sequoia - 3108 NE 143rd, front yard

Large evergreen trees in the Edelweiss subdivision, built in the early 1970s, set a serene tone and have been a source of neighborhood pride for decades. Giant sequoias are among the oldest living beings on Earth. This awe-inspiring specimen has been a notable landmark and is one of the largest trees in the neighborhood.

13: Colorado Blue Spruces - 3311 NE 143rd, front yard

This popular species comes in many varieties and forms, two of which are visible here. The dense branches symmetrically taper to form great landscape focal points.

14: Monkey Puzzle - 3508 NE 143rd, front yard left of house

This unique tree native to South America is endangered due to logging, forest fires, and grazing. It is considered a living fossil due to the age of the species. An early observer noted, "It would puzzle a monkey to climb that", which gave it its common name.

15: Douglas-Firs & Mixed Species - Diamond Park

Diamond Park was acquired by the County in 1991 and developed in 2000 by the City, with upgrades in 2017. This magnificent grove of evergreen trees was preserved and extends westward into the Edelweiss subdivision. Volunteers planted additional trees in 2005.