Trees of the Water Flume Line Trail



The Water Flume Line Trail in Tacoma from S 47th St to S Tacoma Way & 80th St Ct SW follows the path of an old wooden flume that carried water from Spanaway Lake into the city in the early 1900s. You can see traces of its heritage as you pass a Tacoma Water pump house about halfway down. The trail has a diverse group of young and mature trees, starting with the impressive canopy of South Park and winding through Garry oak stands and recent plantings.

As you travel along the trail, see if you can spot all 13 species of trees described below.

Directions: Start your tree tour near the Asia Pacific Cultural Center at the northeast corner of South Park. Follow the path from S 47th St until it pops out on S Tacoma Way just before 80th St Ct SW. Total distance is 2.4 miles one way.

Tree #	Common Name (Botanical Name)	Characteristics and Random Facts	Pho	otos
1	Douglas fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii)	Mature Size: 60'H x 20'W Native Range: W Coast North America, BC to California Urban Tolerance: Drought and heat The state tree of Oregon. One of the world's most important and valuable timber trees. Forked-cone bracts distinguish this tree from all other conifers. Cones are said to look like little mice are hanging out.		
2	Oregon "Garry" white oak (Quercus garryana)	Mature Size: 60'H x 40'W Native Range: W Coast North America, SW BC to N California Urban Tolerance: Drought Garry oak is the only native oak species in Washington. Garry oak forests support a diverse landscape and the variety of habitats allows many more species to live in this area than would be possible in evergreen forest alone.		
3	English elm (Ulmus minor 'Atinia')	Mature Size: 70'H x 50'W Native Range: Originated in Italy, found across Europe All English elm are thought to be clones from a single tree in Italy. Once the most common tree in the English countryside, much of the world's mature English elms have been wiped out by Dutch elm disease.		
4	Colorado blue spruce (<i>Picea pungens</i>)	Mature Size: 40'H x 20'W Native Range: Rocky Mountains Urban Tolerance: Cold, drought, wind The most widely planted spruce in the United States. Has a distinct blue hue that makes it stand out.		
5	Ponderosa pine (Pinus ponderosa)	Mature Size: 75'H x 25'W Native Range: Western North America Urban Tolerance: Alkaline soils, drought, road salts The bark emits a sweet smell that resembles vanilla. The Scottish botanist David Douglas named this pine for its ponderous (heavy) wood. The ponderosa pine provided canoes for Lewis and Clark after they crossed the Rockies.		
6	Japanese false cypress (Chamaecyparis pisifera)	Mature Size: 50'H x 20'W Native Range: Central Japan Urban Tolerance: Insects and disease Important timber species in Japan, it can reach 150ft tall with a 6-ft trunk diameter in its native range. In cultivation, it's mostly used as an ornamental tree in landscaping.		

Tree #	Common Name (Botanical Name)	Characteristics and Random Facts	Photos	
7	Western larch (Larix occidentalis)	Mature Size: 60'H x 20'WNative Range: Northwestern US and CanadaUrban Tolerance: Needs well drained soil, but very coldtolerantA tree that draws crowds in the eastern Cascades, itsneedle-like leaves turn a bright yellow before falling off		
		each fall. Mature Size: 50'H x 50'W		
	European beech (Fagus sylvatica)	Native Range: Europe Urban Tolerance: Acidic soils		
8		Smooth gray bark. Large, stately presence. Can have green or purple leaves. Roots and branches spread far and wide. Because of their smooth bark, beeches are often victims of "tree graffiti" where people carve things into them.		
		Mature Size: 60'H x 30'W Native Range: Northern Europe, into Russia Urban Tolerance: Very cold hardy		
9	Norway spruce (Picea abies)	The fastest growing of all spruces, in the right conditions it can grow 2ft per year. Imposing and dark at maturity, it's one of the species in Germany's famed Black Forest where many of the Grimm Bros fairy tales take place.		
	Port Orford cedar	Mature Size: 50'H x 40'W Native Range: NW California to SW Oregon Urban Tolerance:		
10	(Chamaecyparis lawsoniana)	Native Karok people of northwest California used Port- Orford-cedar branches as brooms and its wood to construct sweat lodges, stools, and headrests. Today it's widely cultivated as a bonsai tree or used in hedge rows.		
		Mature Size: 20'H x 8'W Native Range: Mountainous regions of western N		
	Mountain hemlock (Tsuga mertensiana)	America Urban Tolerance: Well adapted to the PNW		
11		While the name "hemlock" is often associated with poison hemlock, that mostly comes from a similar smell. The mountain hemlock is not poisonous.		
	Western red cedar (Thuja plicata)	Mature Size: 70'H x 25'W Native Range: W Coast North America, SE Alaska to California		
12		Urban Tolerance: Highly adaptable, poor soggy soils		
		The official tree of British Columbia. Also known as giant arborvitae, this large evergreen can grow to 200' in the wild. An excellent choice for native landscaping.		

Tree #	Common Name (Botanical Name)	Characteristics and Random Facts	Photos
13	Canada red chokecherry (Prunus virginiana 'Canada Red')	Mature Size: 25'H x 20'W Native Range: Coast to coast across North America Urban Tolerance: Cold When its leaves first emerge they're bright red. As spring turns to summer, they turn deep purple and stay purple until turning back toward red in the fall.	