



Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park Plant Species Identification Walk

RENTON. AHEAD OF THE CURVE.

City of
Renton
Community Services Department



Overview

The Plant Species Identification Walk uses a system of small signs to identify plant species in Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. The plants identified are either native or exotic species, and are typical of plants used in landscape design throughout the Northwest. Plants identified include trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. The system is meant to be of general interest as well as an instructional aid.



#1 - OREGON GRAPE (*Mahonia aquifolium*) One of several species of Oregon Grape, this shrub grows to six feet tall with an erect habit. The spiny leaves are evergreen, and the flowers grow in long, yellow clusters, followed by blue-black fruit. Native from Northern California to British Columbia.

#2 - JAPANESE RED PINE (*Pinus densiflora*)

A tree growing to 120 feet high, with a trunk 3 to 4 feet in diameter when mature. Bark is reddish and scaling. Needles are in pairs, falling every third year. In Japan, it's widely cultivated for timber production and as an ornamental tree. Native to Japan, Korea and parts of China and Russia.

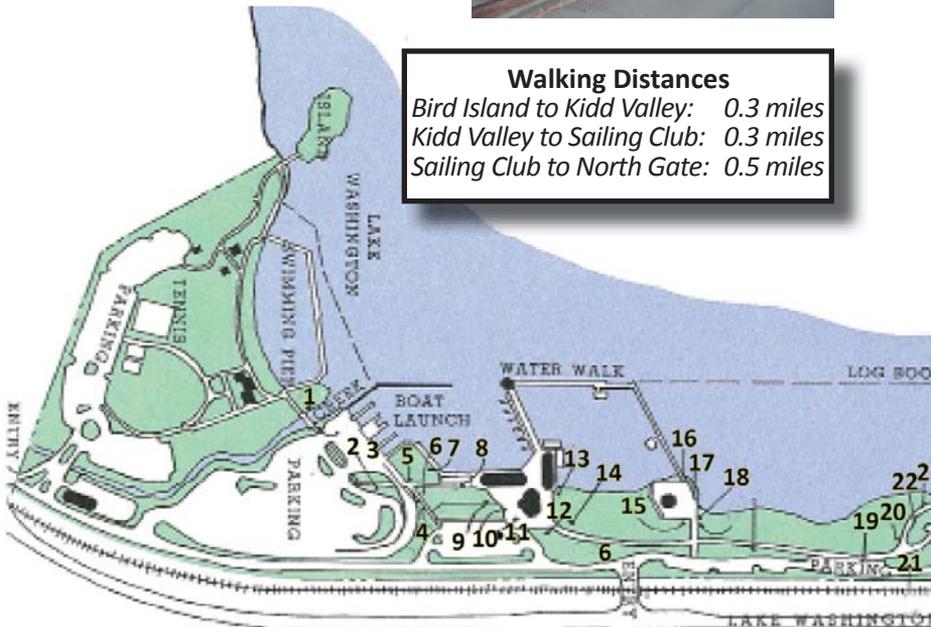


Walking Distances

Bird Island to Kidd Valley: 0.3 miles

Kidd Valley to Sailing Club: 0.3 miles

Sailing Club to North Gate: 0.5 miles



#3 - SUGAR MAPLE (*Acer saccharum*)

A deciduous tree normally reaching a height of 60 plus feet. The branches have an upward sweep, with leaves 3 to 6 inches across. Fall colors are spectacular, from yellow to orange/red. The dense, hard wood is prized for bowling pins and basketball courts, and its sap is the best for maple syrup. Native to the forests of eastern North America.

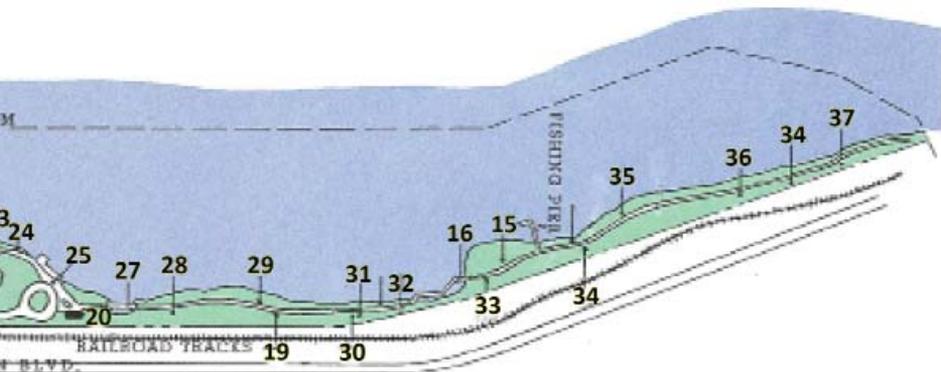


#4 - LAURUSTINUS (*Viburnum tinus*)

An evergreen shrub which grows 6 to 12 feet tall. The dark green 2 to 3 inches long, oval leaves are leathery and rolled under at the edges. Tight clusters of pink buds open to white fragrant flowers, while the metallic blue berries last through summer. Native to southern Europe, especially the Mediterranean region and northern Africa.

#5 - MANZANITA (*Arctostaphylos X media*)

An evergreen low shrub growing to 4 feet high. Rust red branches sprout dark green leathery leaves. Native to the Pacific Coast of North America from San Mateo County, California, north to Alaska.



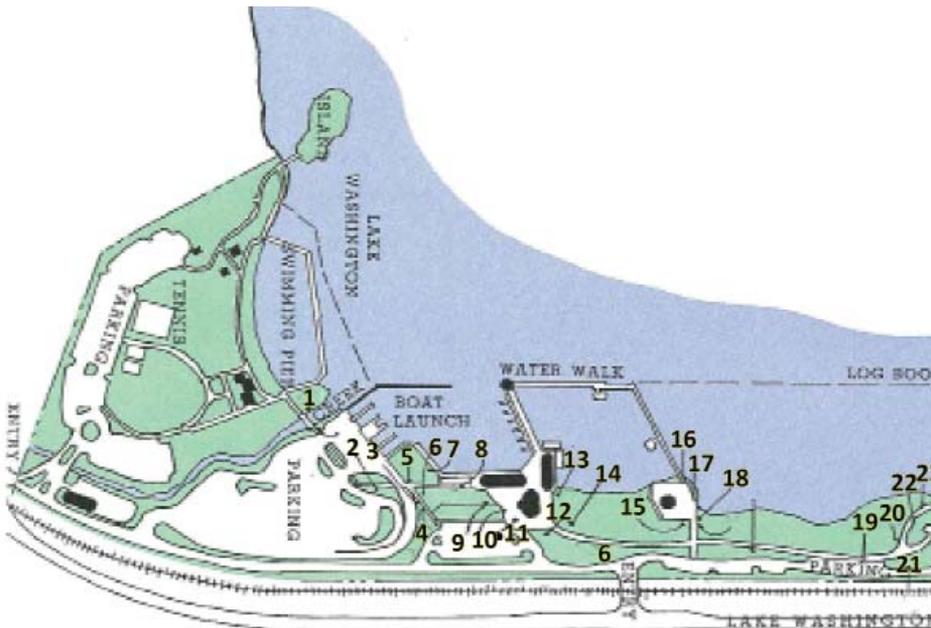
#6 GIANT SEQUOIA (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*)

This evergreen is one of the tallest trees, growing 3 to 5 feet a year, to a height of 200 feet or more. The branches grow straight out from the trunk with branchlets hanging down. Scale-like leaves are pointed, feather-like and about 1 inch long with small round cones. It is native to scattered groves in the western Sierra Nevada Range, California.



#7 - WISCONSIN WEeping WILLOW (*Salix blanda* 'Niobe')

Growing rapidly to 40 to 50 feet high, this tree spreads wider than its height. The leaves are bluish-green, broad and elongated in shape. Weeping Willows find their best design use as single trees near a stream or lake. It is native to most of North America.



#8 - *KOBUS MAGNOLIA* (*Magnolia kobus*)

Having a rounded form, this deciduous tree reaches 25 to 30 feet high and has a slow rate of growth. The fragrant flowers are 4 inches or less in diameter and either pink or pure white. Native to Japan.

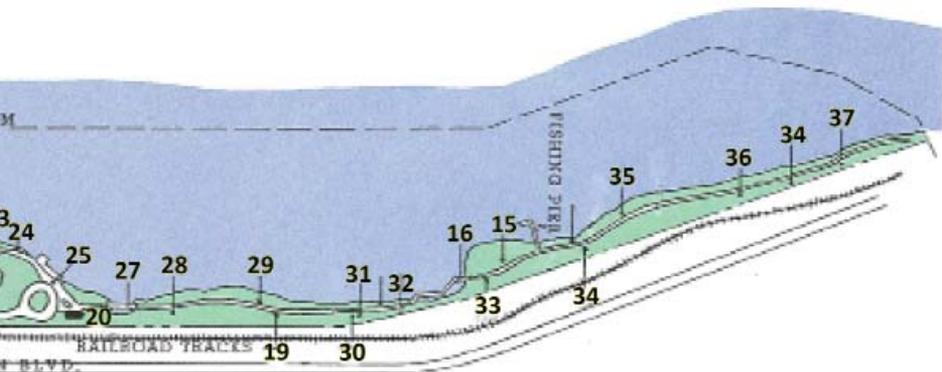


#9 - *CHINESE CHESTNUT* (*Castanea mollissima*)

The Chinese Chestnut reaches a height and spread of about 40 feet, with a coarse texture. The flower odor is considered offensive to some. The tree can be grown for its nuts or for shade. It does well in urban settings. Native to East Asia.

#10 - *BIGLEAF HYDRANGEA* (*Hydrangea aspera* 'Macrophylla')

This deciduous shrub grows to 12 feet high. The leaves are 4 to 10 inches long. It flowers profusely in mid to late summer in many colors and shades ranging from blue to purple or pink. This hydrangea is native to Japan.



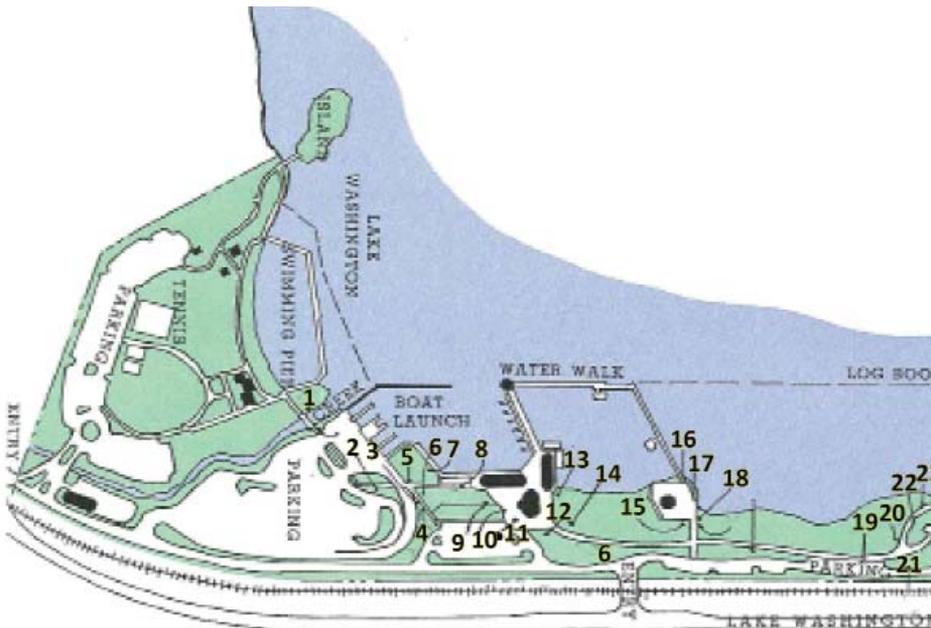


#11 - YELLOWWOOD (*Cladrastis lutea*)

This is a slow growing tree reaching 35 feet high with a broad rounded canopy. The leaves are 8 to 12 inches wide, brilliant green in summer, vibrant yellow in fall. Flowers grow in long fragrant white clusters only after the tree is mature. The Yellowwood is one of the rarest trees of eastern North America, found in Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina.

#12 - ORANGE DAYLILY (*Hemerocallis fulva*)

This beautiful orange flower extends on a three foot stalk. It is very fragrant in early summer and blooms from early summer to late autumn. This daylily is drought tolerant, and can be invasive. Native to China.



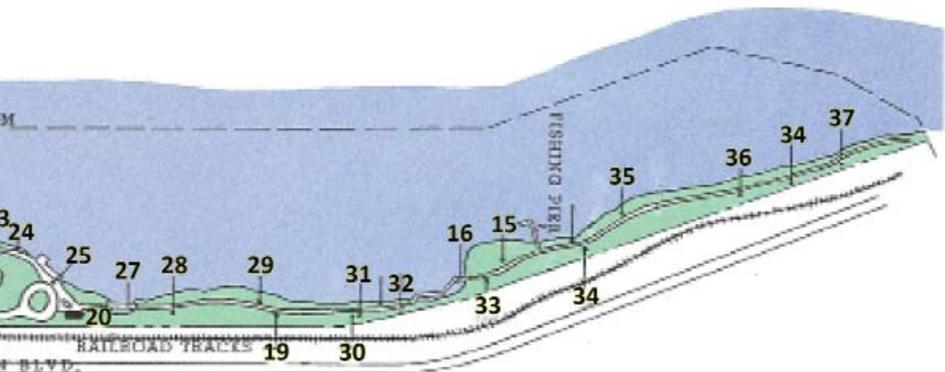


#13 - ORIENTAL SYCAMORE (*Platanus orientalis*)

This large spreading tree grows quickly to a maximum height of 100 feet. The tree is naturally found along streams and floodplain riverbeds. It is the dominant park and street tree in Iran. Native from the Balkans to Iran.

#14 - SAWLEAF ZELKOVA (*Zelkova serrata*)

This deciduous tree grows up to 60 feet tall. It is vase shaped in youth, but develops ascending branches with age. It has been used as a replacement for the American Elm, as it is less susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease. Native to Japan, Korea, eastern China and Taiwan.



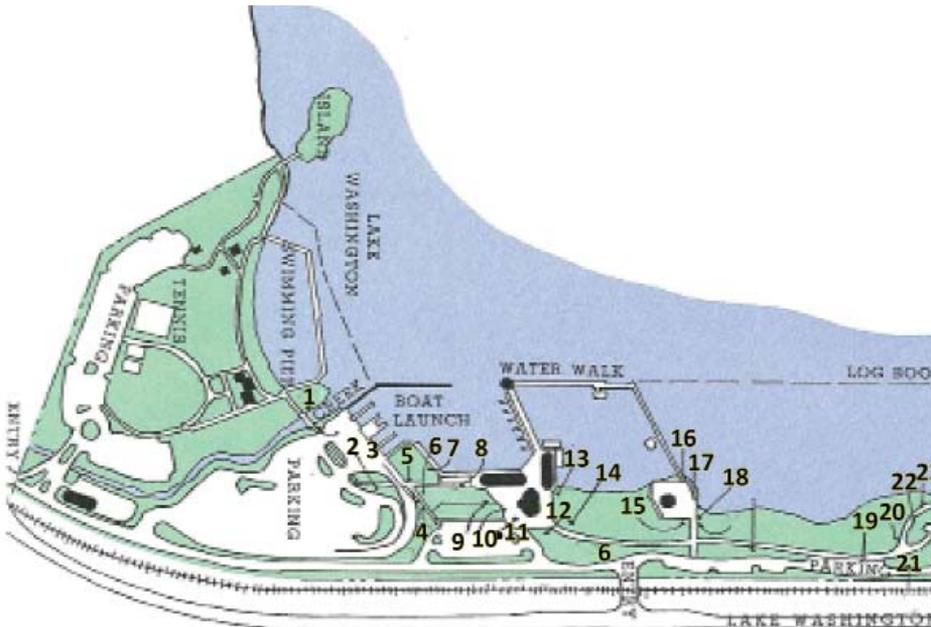


**#15 - CANYON LIVE OAK
(*Quercus chrysolepis*)**

This is an evergreen tree that grows to 40 feet tall. The leaves of this oak can be toothed or smooth, sometimes on the same tree. They are dark green on top and fuzzy gold-white underneath. It is found in a variety of environments from Oregon to Mexico, and provides habitat for a large variety of wild-life.

**#16 - RED OSIER DOGWOOD
(*Cornus stolonifera*)**

A vigorous shrub with a loose, broad-spreading habit, growing up to 8 feet high. In the winter its red twigs stand out, and in spring it has creamy white flowers. This dogwood can be found along the banks of streams or other riparian habitats. Native from Alaska across Canada, down to Mexico.





#17 - RIVER BIRCH (*Betula nigra*)

This is a deciduous tree growing to 70 feet tall, with variable bark, from dark gray-brown to creamy pinkish-white, exfoliating in curly papery sheets. Its native habitat is wet ground, from the mid-west and eastern United States south to northern Florida and east Texas.

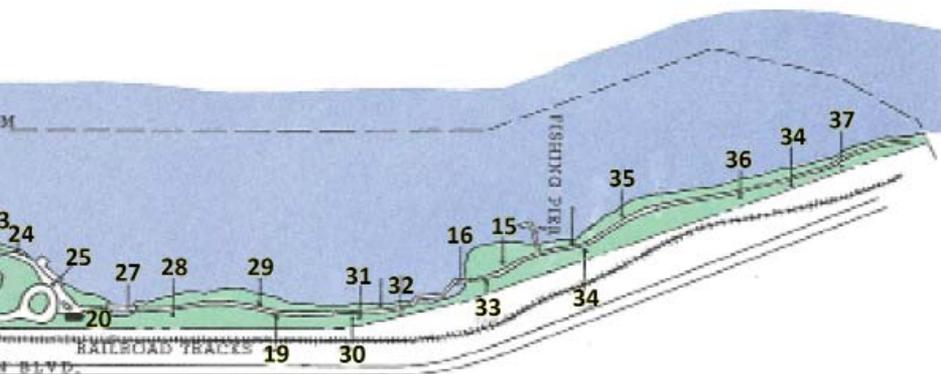
#18 - KATSURA TREE (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)

A deciduous tree reaching up to 100 feet in the wild, it has male and female flowers on separate trees. It flowers in April before the leaves unfold. The leaves are red in spring, green during the summer and yellow, orange or red in the fall. It is native to Japan and China.



#19 - SALAL (*Gaultheria shallon*)

A leathery leaved shrub that prefers moist shady conditions, but tolerates some sun exposure. The small white or pinkish flowers are urn shaped. The bluish-black berries were an important food resource of coastal Native Americans. Native to western North America.



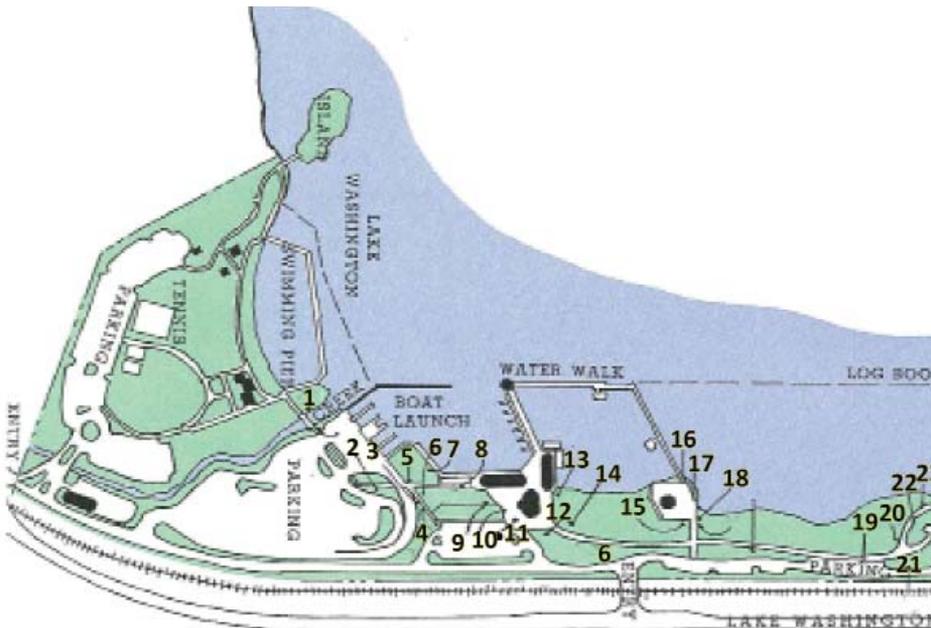
#20 - PRIVET HONEYSUCKLE (*Lonicera pileata*)

An evergreen shrub with a spreading habit and stiff, horizontal branches, reaching two feet tall and eight feet wide. When the branches touch the ground, they root and slowly spread over time. Flowers are fragrant and small, and the violet-blue berries are brilliant in winter. Native to China.



#21 - ITALIAN STONE PINE (*Pinus pinea*)

Also known as the Umbrella Pine, this tree has been cultivated for over 6,000 years for its pine nuts. It is slow growing to about 60 feet high, with a characteristic umbrella-like shape. Native to the Mediterranean region.





#22 - EUROPEAN BEECH (*Fagus sylvatica*)

A large, graceful shade tree to 60 feet tall by 40 feet wide, but much larger in favorable conditions. There are many cultivars, including purple or variegated leaves, or with weeping branches. The small nuts attract wildlife, and the glossy green leaves turn red-brown in the fall.

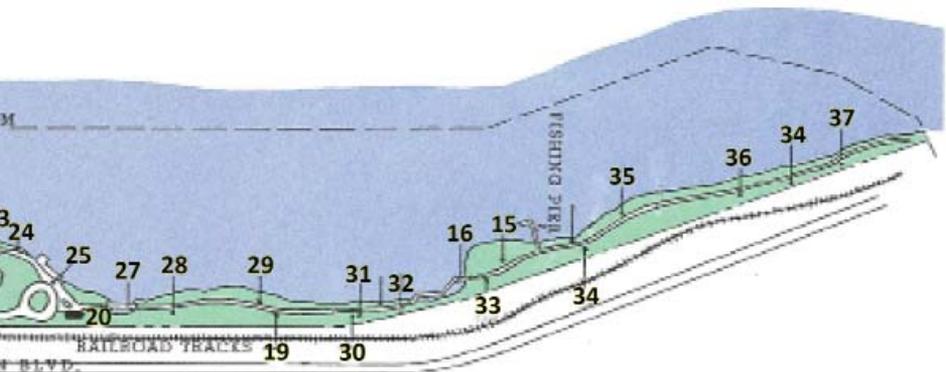
#23 - STAGHORN SUMAC (*Rhus typhina*)

A large open shrub or small tree, with a coarse texture and fast growth rate. The fruit forms distinctive red clusters at the tips of the branches, while the fall leaf foliage is very showy, from yellow to orange to red. Native to midwestern and eastern North America.



#24 - JAPANESE ROSE (*Rosa rugosa*)

This hardy wild rose is well suited to the Pacific Northwest climate, and grows well in sea-shore environments. The sweetly scented flowers are used to make pot-pourri in Japan and China, where it has been cultivated for about 1,000 years. It is native to the coast, often on sand dunes, in eastern Asia.





#25 - TULIP TREE (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

This is one of the largest hardwood trees of the eastern United States, growing to a height of 90 feet, with a trunk diameter up to 10 feet. Growth is fairly rapid, and they prefer deep rich, moist soil. The leaves are an unusual shape, and the flowers are upright with a tulip form.

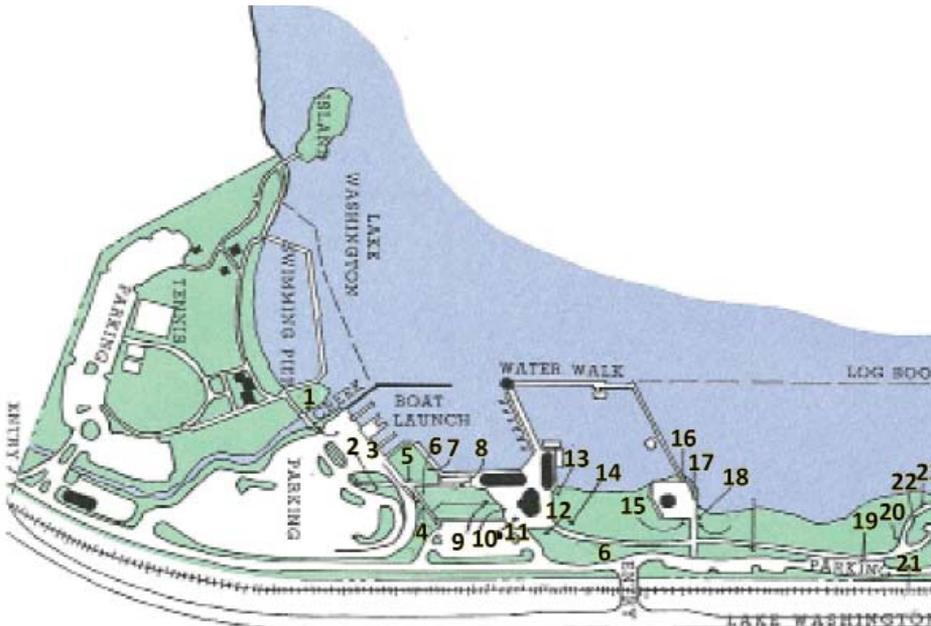
#26 - ROYAL AZALEA (*Rhododendron schlippenbachii*)

A deciduous shrub with a slow growth rate reaching a height of six to eight feet. It produces large, fragrant pink flowers early in summer, and its fall foliage has an attractive mix of yellow, orange and red leaves. Royal Azalea is the dominant understory of Korean hillside forests, and is native to eastern Asia.



#27 - CATTAIL (*Typha latifolia*)

A hardy perennial reed often called Bullrush or Cat-O-Nine Tails, the Cattail is found in marshy areas throughout the world. The dense brown velvety spike is made up of closely packed, petalless flowers.





#28 - BALD CYPRESS (*Taxodium distichum*)

The Bald Cypress is a deciduous conifer which typically grows 50 to 70 feet tall. The feathery yellowish-green foliage turns to orange/cinnamon-brown in the fall. Native to the southern United States, it is the state tree of Louisiana.

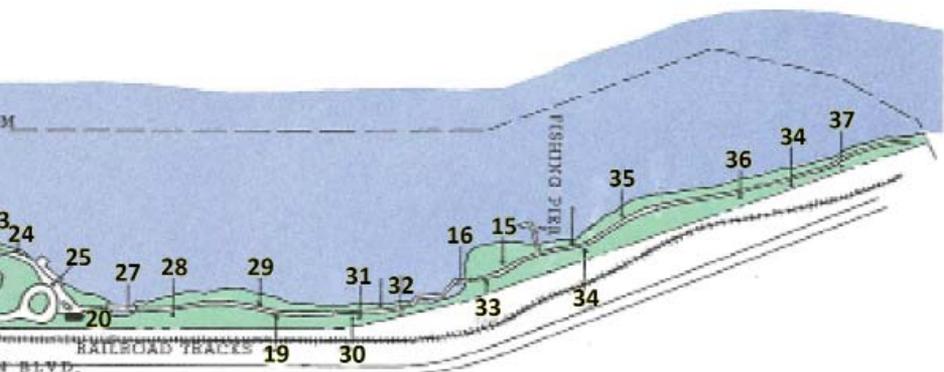
#29 - EUROPEAN LARCH (*Larix decidua*)

A deciduous conifer reaching 75 to 100 feet tall. The leaves are needle like and light green and turn bright yellow in the fall. The small, woody, roundish cones stand erect on the branches. Native to the mountains of central Europe.



#30 - WESTERN HEMLOCK (*Tsuga heterophylla*)

A large evergreen conifer, growing to 200 feet tall. Mature trees have a pyramidal crown and lacy foliage that droops at the ends of its branches. Abundant small cones hang on the branch tips. Native to the Pacific Coast from Alaska south to Northern California, and inland to northern Idaho and Montana.





#31- QUAKING ASPEN (*Populus tremuloides*)

This fast growing tree ranges in height from 20 to 60 feet. Known for its leaves which tremble in the slightest wind, the Quaking Aspen is unique with its flattened entire petiole, or leaf stem. The trunk and limbs are smooth and pale greenish gray. It prefers wet soils and full sun, and primarily spreads via root colonies. The fall color is brilliant yellow. Native to North America, from Alaska to eastern Canada, and south into Mexico.

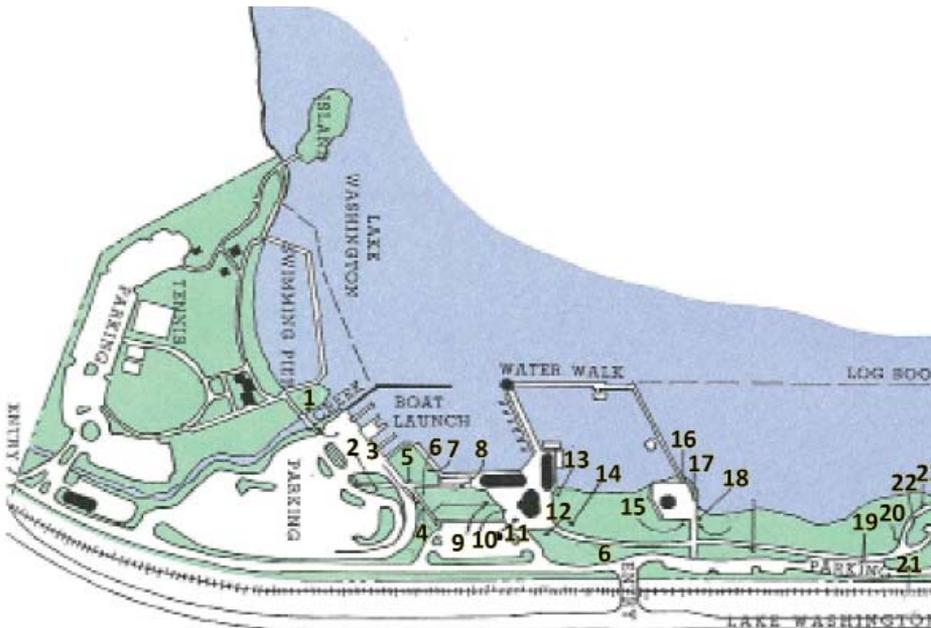
#32- COMMON SNOWBERRY (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

An upright, finely branched shrub reaching 6 feet tall. The flowers are pink which develop into white fruit up to one-half inch in diameter, and are considered toxic. The fruit remains throughout the winter. Native to North America.



#33 - SHADBLOW SERVICEBERRY (*Amelanchier canadensis*)

A suckering shrub or small tree, usually with multiple upright stems, to 25 feet tall. The early spring flowers are white and showy, and the small round fruit are dark red or purple. Its native habitat is wet bogs or swamps, from eastern North America.



#34 - WESTERN RED CEDAR (*Thuja plicata*)

Reaching over 200 feet, this evergreen tree has slender drooping branchlets which are set with dark green scale-like leaves that form a flat, graceful, lacy spray. The cones are 1/2 inch across and cinnamon brown. It is native to coastal northern California and north to Alaska and inland to Montana.



#35 - COPPER BEECH (*Fagus sylvatica 'Atropunicea'*)

This Beech tree grows into a wide oval, 70 to 80 feet tall, and spreads to 70 feet. Leaves emerge dark purple and fade to a purple-green during the summer.



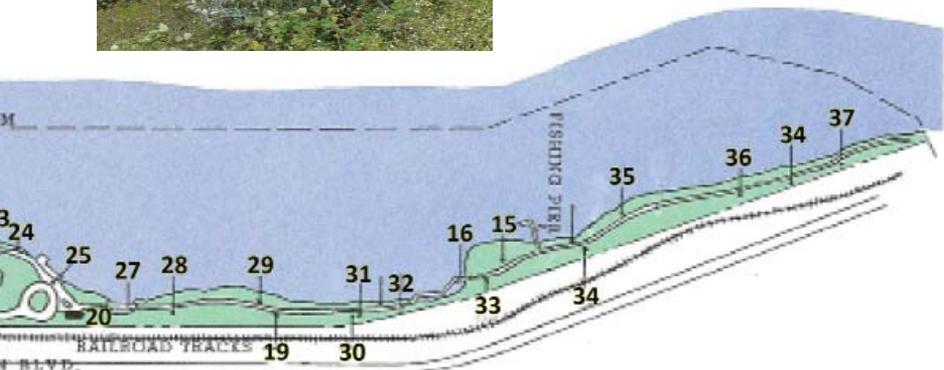
#36 - DOLGO CRABAPPLE (*Malus X 'Dolgo'*)

This fruit tree grows 15 to 20 feet tall, with a spread of about 15 feet. Its fragrant, two inch white flowers bloom early, and develop into very ornamental, brilliant crimson fruit about 1.5" across.



#37 - SILVER POPLAR (*Populus alba 'Nivea'*)

A fast growing tree which reaches 30 to 50 feet in height. The five inch long leaves are white and woolly underneath, and flicker green and white in the wind.



City of Renton
Community Services Department
1055 S. Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057



425-430-6600 or rentonwa.gov