

University of Washington Botanic Gardens  
Digital Tree Tours of the Washington Park Arboretum



# ***Spring Flowers***

***(Extended Version)***

University of Washington Botanic Gardens  
Digital Tree Tours of the Washington Park Arboretum

## *Spring Flowers (extended version)*

### **Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge and honor the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations. Since time immemorial, the Coast Salish peoples have been the original stewards of these lands. Colonization and its modern systems of oppression continue to disrupt their work. We hope that this acknowledgement serves as a first step in our commitment to authentic relationships with Native and Indigenous communities moving forward.

---

We are excited to share a brand new collection of digital tree tours for the Washington Park Arboretum! Developed by our AmeriCorps member, Thuy Luu, these tours feature some of the Arboretum's iconic collections and seasonal attractions. This new free public programming invites visitors to dive deeper into the stories of the Arboretum's tree collections and offers a variety of routes and themes to fit different schedules and interests.

A total of four tours were created with more anticipated to come:

- The **Ancient Trees** tour highlights five species that appear to be very closely identical to organisms only otherwise found in fossils.
- The **Champion Trees** tour includes seven of the Arboretum's many champion trees, which are the largest specimens of their kind in Washington State.
- The **Nature of Love** tour visits several plants and places that inspire love, sex and romance through their lore, form and reproduction.
- The **Spring Flowers** tours (short and extended version) showcase some of the Arboretum's best spots to observe spring blooms.

Google Maps were created for each tour with pinpointed specimens and locations. A visitor can use the tree tours website to take the tours which include specimen photographs and more detailed information on the identification of each species. They may also take the tours directly on the Google Maps phone application which better shows their location relative to the tour points.

The goal of creating these digital tours is to enhance the accessibility of the Arboretum's collections to our visitors. These tours are free to access and viewable on browsers for both desktop and mobile devices. They encourage people to explore the Arboretum at their own pace whether in-person or remotely. We hope you get a chance to explore the Washington Park Arboretum with these digital tours. If you have an idea for another tour theme you would like to see, email us at [urbhort@uw.edu](mailto:urbhort@uw.edu).

## Spring Flowers

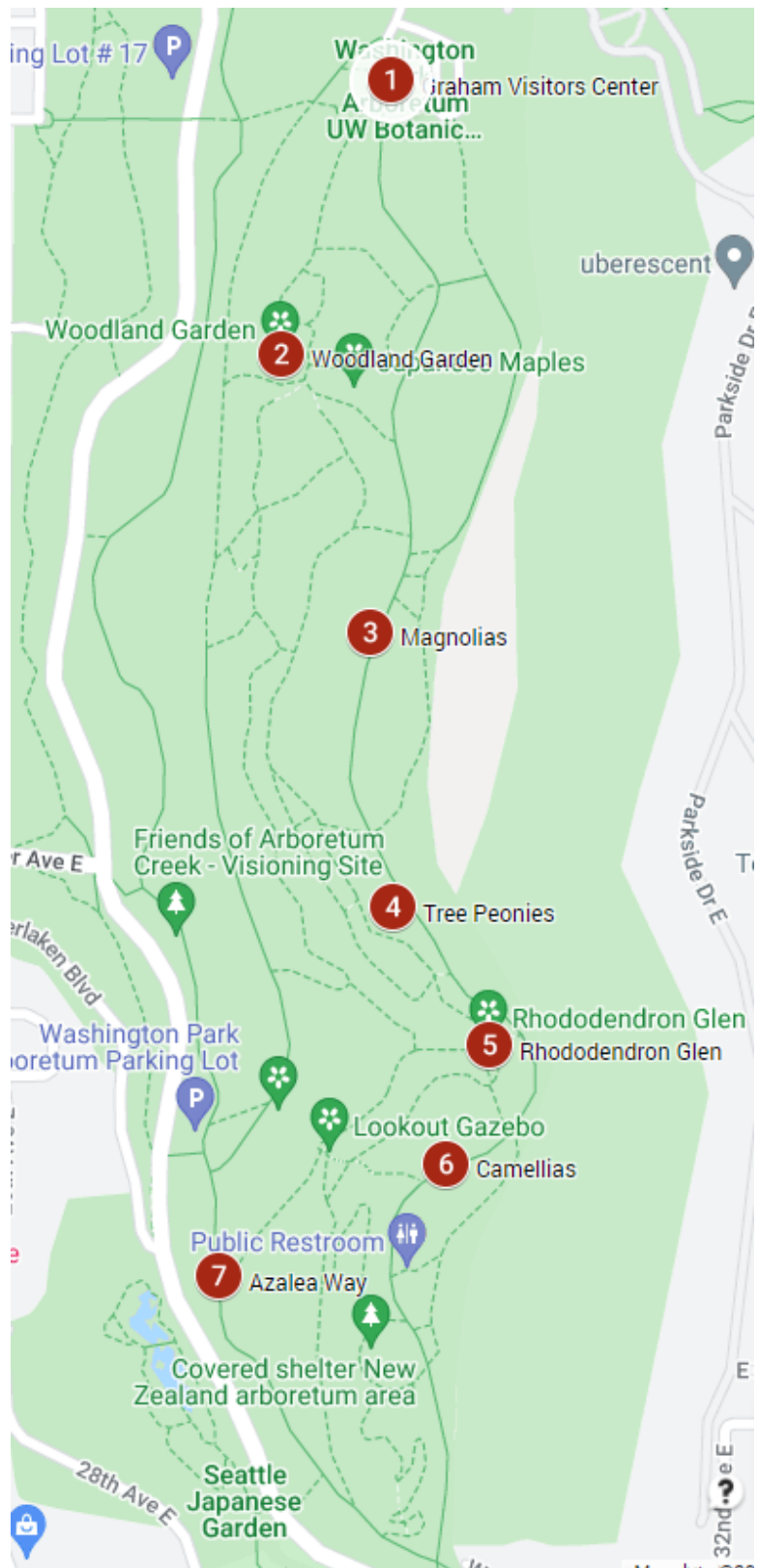
**Notice:** Photography and smelling of flowers is encouraged, but please DO NOT pick them.

Help us protect these plants and ensure others can enjoy them, too.

There are two versions of this tour. The short version will take you approximately 30 minutes to complete. The extended version will take 90 minutes to complete. Both showcase some of the Washington Park Arboretum's fantastic spring blooms!

### Flower Destinations:

1. Graham Visitors Center
2. Woodland Garden
3. Magnolias
4. Tree Peonies
5. Rhododendron Glen
6. Camellias
7. Azalea Way





## Spring Flowers

### 1. Graham Visitors Center

- Observe the wisteria vines overhead. Notice the vibrant purple and contrasting white blooms cascading down above your heads. Wisteria is in the legume family and produces fragrant flowers during spring.
- When you're ready, travel east from the Arboretum Drive to Azalea Way.



### 2. Woodland Garden



- Originally designed in 1938, the Woodland Garden has matured into a layered mix of plants that thrive in a wooded setting. This Garden features two quiet ponds connected by a seasonal stream running through a small valley.
- Along with vibrant Japanese Maples, you can find spring blooms like the Kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), oak-leaf hydrangeas (*Hydrangea quercifolia*), and rhododendrons.
- Our next and final destination is Loderi Valley, with entrance further south on Azalea Way.

### 3. Magnolias

- The Arboretum's Magnolia collection is home to over 240 specimens with nearly 20 as state champions.
- Our collection was awarded the National Collection status in 2013.
- Magnolias are one of the most ancient angiosperms (flowering plants) and have existed for over 100 million years. 8 of the 200 species are native to the U.S.
- Magnolias also come in a variety of colors! They are small to large deciduous and evergreen trees with showy white, cream-yellow or pink flowers.



### 4. Tree Peonies



- Walking along the Arboretum Drive, you will run into patches of peonies on the east side of the path.
- Peonies are deciduous shrubs with large, bright yellow, white, pink or red flowers.
- These blooms are also fragrant, so give them a whiff!
- Next up is Rhododendron Glen further down south!

### 5. Rhododendron Glen

- Rhododendron Glen is one of the first collection areas of the Arboretum that was extensively developed, with plantings dating from the late 1930s.
- The Pacific Northwest has been home to much rhododendron hybridizing over the last century and many hybrids are featured in Rhododendron Glen.
- You can also find magnolias and flowering cherries here.





## 6. Camellias



- Along the Arboretum Drive around Rhododendron Glen, you can find our camellias! They are broadleaf evergreen shrubs with large, showy, and fragrant flowers of red, pink and white. Some flowers have a single arrangement of petals, while others are “doubly-arranged”. See how many different flowers you can spot!
- Camellias are native to eastern Asia, with many of our specimens sourced from Japan and China.
- If you drink tea, you may have tasted the leaves of Tea Tree (*Camellia sinensis*). However, you don’t just pick tea leaves and add water. Tea goes through many distinct stages of processing between harvest and infusion.

- To access the next destination, Azalea Way, you can continue along the Arboretum Drive to the Arboretum Loop Trail. You can visit our Pacific Connections Garden (which has its own tour!) or return to Rhododendron Glen and travel east to Azalea Way through the Birch and Poplar collection. Either way, more plants are in store!

## 7. Azalea Way

- Azalea Way is an iconic feature of the Arboretum, and is part of the original Olmsted design. This ¾-mile path flanked by azaleas, flowering cherries, dogwoods and magnolias against a backdrop of native conifers.
- Azaleas belong to the *Rhododendron* genus and are differentiated from the commonly named rhododendron by the number of stamens (male-parts) in their flowers. Azaleas have 5 stamens while rhododendrons have 10.



- Many of the cherries you see along this path were received from Japanese nurseries in the 30's and 40's.



- Let's visit our next site with more spring blooms! A little down south on Azalea Way is the entrance to the Woodland Garden.

## 8. Woodland Garden

- Originally designed in 1938, the Woodland Garden has matured into a layered mix of plants that thrive in a wooded setting. This Garden features two quiet ponds connected by a seasonal stream running through a small valley.
- Along with vibrant Japanese Maples, you can find spring blooms like the Kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), oak-leaf hydrangeas (*Hydrangea quercifolia*), and rhododendrons.
- Our next and final destination is Loderi Valley, with entrance further south on Azalea Way.

