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## Heritage Tree Bicycle Ride

- 1. Old Apple Tree.** Located at Old Apple Tree Park, Vancouver's Old Apple Tree is the greatest living symbol of the Pacific Northwest's fruit industry. There is both fact and fiction surrounding the history of this tree. The fictional story is a legend written about over the years. No one for sure can attest to its credibility. The factual information in dairies and journals do at least place the time of planting. The tree survived the Columbus Day storm of 1962, was saved and safely preserved during the reconstruction of the Highway 14 & I-5 interchange where they were forced to change design to work around the tree. On October 19, 1984, the venerable Old Apple Tree was given permanent homage during the festive opening of Old Apple Tree Park. This event marked the beginning of the Old Apple Tree Celebration as we know it today.
- 2. Old Apple Tree Offspring *Malus spp.*** Located at the Clark Co. Historical Museum, this tree is an offspring of the "Old Apple Tree". The tree was planted as a scion through the efforts of Harley Mays in 1950. This tree was one of the only cuttings to survive. As a part of the Old Apple Tree Festival each year, The City of Vancouver and its Urban Forestry Commission distribute cuttings of the Old Apple Tree so the public can also share in the history of the city and continue the legacy of the Old Apple Tree, much like Harley Mays.
- 3. California Bay Tree *Umbellularia californica*.** Located at 401 E 22<sup>nd</sup> St, this tree, which has been used as a meeting spot for the children of Arnada neighborhood for years, is also affectionately known as "Curmudgeon Park". This is in reference to the previous homeowner's periodic "notes from the neighborhood curmudgeon" that were included in the neighborhood newsletter. The leaves from this very aromatic tree were used by native peoples in the treatment of headaches and poison oak rashes as well as to repel fleas. The leaves have also been used as a substitute for traditional bay leaves in cooking, but with a much stronger flavor.
- 4. Black Walnut *Juglans nigra*.** This tree sits on the south perimeter of Arnada Park at the dead-end of "G" street. It is a prominent landmark in the neighborhood. Black walnut, a rapidly growing tree, is most common in moist bottomlands and open fields of the Midwest, but can be found everywhere due to squirrels burying its nuts. It's beautiful, fine-grained, chocolate-brown, relatively lightweight heartwood is the ultimate choice for making solid wood furniture, interior trim, gunstocks, and high-quality veneer
- 5. Red Oak *Quercus rubra*.** Located at the SW corner of Fourth Plain and Main St, at the location of the old Fort Vancouver High School, this Red Oak was planted by the students of the high school on June 25, 1945, in honor of the first meeting of the United Nations in San Francisco. The high school is now gone, but the tree remains as a symbol of the United Nations.
- 6. Norway Maples *Acer platanoides*.** Located at the 117-127 W 24<sup>th</sup> St, this boulevard of maples was closely related to the old Fort Vancouver High School which was located on the

north side of the street. An old photograph of the area (circa 1921) shows the row of trees planted on both sides of West 24<sup>th</sup> Street. Three out of four of the maples nominated are large enough to date back to the time of the photograph and are most likely the only remnant of the canopy along the street. With over 89 listed cultivars of Norway maple, it is one of the most widely planted trees in the United States.

**7. Esther Short Park trees (Conifer Grove).** Located at Esther Short Park, according to historians, the cedar grove was planted in association with the 1937 Grand Army of the Republic honoring the past Department President Sarah Tomlinson Parker and the past Department Commander George E. Hill. The nature of the surrounding cedars and the two giant sequoias lends the trees to be considered a grove.

**8. European Beech *Fagus sylvatica*.** The Slocum House, located at the corner of Esther St. and 6<sup>th</sup> St., was moved to the Esther Short Park site in 1966. The beech was planted in 1974 to mimic the landscape setting at the original location of the Slocum House. With countless cultivated varieties, the European beech is one of the most versatile landscape trees. It offers a beautiful form and lustrous foliage in the summer, beautiful fall color and interesting bark in the winter. Its nuts are prized by wildlife in winter.



Visit some of Vancouver's most celebrated Heritage Trees on an enjoyable 4-mile self-guided bicycle ride. The flat, easy bicycle route begins at Old Apple Tree Park, winds through historic downtown Vancouver and ends at Esther Short Park. Stop at eight locations to admire trees whose legacies connect all residents of Vancouver to the proud past of our community. While on the ride, please respect private property, wear helmets and obey all traffic laws. The route may also be walked or jogged if desired.

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