Trees Matter
People always have needed trees. We need trees for shelter, for fire, for shade. We need trees to breathe and to be fed. We always will need trees.
Trees teach us about our own human condition; about birth and death and rebirth. Trees are miracles of engineering, chemistry and faith.
We picnic by trees. We walk along streets with trees. We plant trees in our parks and on our properties. We take photos of trees. Kids climb trees. We simply love trees.
And we hope that you love our trees, too.
Enjoy your Trees of Snohomish Walking Tour!

Discover Historic Snohomish

Trees of Snohomish

A WALKING GUIDE
Snohomish, Washington

"No town can fail of beauty, though its walks were gutters and its houses hovels, if venerable trees make magnificent colonnades along its streets."
— Henry Ward Beecher

Credits
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Gary Ferguson, John First, Ann Stanton, Lyra Buddey and Diane Brooks (Priestd Communications, www.priestdl.com.)
A Brief History of Snohomish

Long before Europeans arrived, Native American tribes – the Snohomish, Stillaguamish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish, and Pilchuck – inhabited this area. The native peoples lived in family groups in cedar long houses, and moved up and down the rivers from ocean to mountains in hand-hewn dugout canoes. They had a highly developed culture based on fishing for salmon and foraging for other foods found naturally in the densely forested land.

This great natural wealth also attracted the first Europeans. In 1855, entrepreneur E.C. Ferguson persuaded three of his friends – E.T. Cady, E.H. Tucker and H. Barne – to lay claim to property along the river.

Their reasoning was to take advantage of a proposed military road, to run from Stellicoom to Bellingham. The road never materialized, but the town of Snohomish was born.

Big-leaf maple, red cedar dogwood and cottonwood trees lined the banks of the Snohomish River, while dense forests of hemlock, fir and mighty cedar blanketed the valley and hills surrounding the fledgling community.

As the river provided a cheap means of transportation, forestry became the first substantial industry. Fortunes were made as the town blossomed.

Some trees on this tour were planted at the time when these grand homes were originally built to house the wealthy lumber baron families.

We invite you to stroll and wonder at these amazing trees which have been carefully preserved along with our Historic District.

All trees have a story to tell; we just must be very still to listen and hear.

“The wonder is that we can see these trees and not wonder more.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson