

# Trees of Filberg Park

## Self-Guided Walk

Our tree walk will allow visitors to explore the Park and identify many different tree species and unique plants.



TOWN OF  
**COMOX**



# A Walk in the Park

## *The History of Filberg Park*

Welcome to the Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park. Filberg Park is the original home of Robert and Florence Filberg. The Filberg Lodge and grounds were established in the 1930s, and many mature trees were planted during this time. The Filbergs seem to have had a fondness for Oaks, Atlas Cedars, London Plane and Beech trees, as you will see when you explore the property.

Upon Robert Filberg's passing in 1977, the property became a municipal heritage site and is now maintained by the Town of Comox as a free public park. Over the years, the Town of Comox parks department has added more garden beds and trees.

The non-profit organization Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association was formed in 1979 and is responsible for the maintenance and restoration of the buildings on the property.

The Town of Comox Parks Department and Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association have collaborated to provide this walk for all to enjoy.



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A self-guided tour to the grounds of the Filberg Park.

Revised and expanded for 2023.

The walk will be divided into sections A-F and include the trees of Filberg Park and many other features of note.



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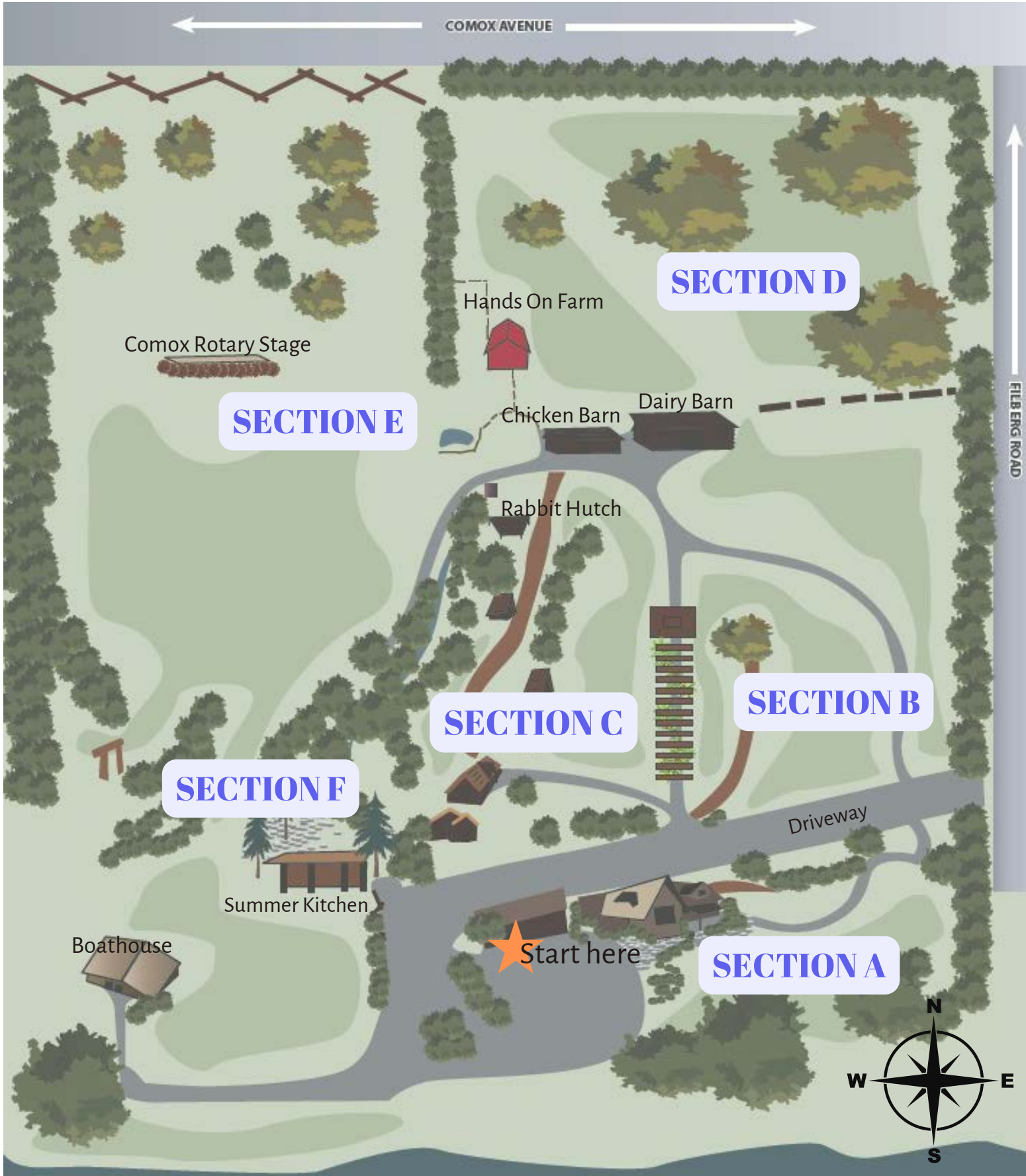
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# Map of Filberg Park



## Section A

We begin section A in front of the garage to the left of the Filberg Lodge, turn to the west and walk to the concrete steps between the two raised flower beds. As you walk up the steps on your right side, you will pass a mature *Juglans regia* (English Walnut) and a *Thuja occidentalis* 'Pyramidalis' (Pyramidalis cedar).

A *Pyramidalis* cedar and *Taxus baccata* (English Yew) are in the raised bed to your left. Continue to the top of the stairs, and looking to your right, beside the entrance to the Summer Kitchen patio, you will see a *Quercus garryana* (Garry Oak). Garry oak is the only oak species native to British Columbia.

Following the driveway towards the beachfront, you will pass another Walnut, and towards the end of the fence line, you will find an *Acer pseudoplatanus* (Sycamore Maple). In the flower bed closest to the beach walk is an *Abies amabilis* (Pacific Silver Fir), a species native to Vancouver Island.

Another mature Sycamore Maple is in the grass area between the two beachfront flower beds beside the bike rack.

Continuing east along the driveway, you will pass a rock garden island bed, a small specimen of *Pinus densiflora* repans 'Pendula' (Japanese Red Pine) is planted among the yuccas, agave and cactus. The agave and cactus are cold hardy but don't respond well to winter rains. If you visit in the winter, you will see that the plants have been covered in plastic tents to protect them.

Continue walking east towards the Lodge; you will see two unusual weeping trees. The first is a *Fraxinus excelsior* 'Pendula' (Weeping European Ash), and the second is an *Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii' (Camperdown Elm). Look closely at the garden seating here, and you'll notice the carving on the backrest.

In front of the Lodge, in the center of a large seasonal flower bed, you will see a trio of *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca' (Blue Atlas Cedars). In the Spring and Summer, the beds around the Lodge are filled with colourful seasonal floral displays.

To the right of the cedars are two *Pinus thunbergii* (Japanese Black Pine). These trees are native to Japan and Korea and are tolerant of sand and salt spray making them suitable for coastal areas.

## Section A

Continue along the beachfront fence line, and in the next flower bed, you will see a lovely little *Picea abies* 'Remontii' (Dwarf Spruce) and a *Pinus sylvestris* (Scotch Pine). *Pinus sylvestris* has distinct flaking orangish brown bark.

Turning towards the left and heading towards the Lodge, you will see a *Taxus baccata* (English Yew) planted close to the corner of the front porch. Continue following the sidewalk around the Lodge. You will come to a *Camellia japonica* (Camellia) on the left and an *Acer griseum* (Paperbark Maple) on the right. *Acer griseum* is a small deciduous tree with beautiful exfoliating copper-coloured bark and is an excellent home garden specimen tree.

Looking across the lawn towards the waterfront, you will see a large mature *Quercus robur* 'Fastigiata' (Cypress Oak), a beautiful narrow form of English oak.



Returning to the sidewalk, you will notice two large *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane) easily recognizable by their distinctive flaking bark in shades of green, tan, cream, and brown. London Plane trees are incredibly tough and tolerant of pollution, so they've often been used as street trees in cities. However, because of their large size, rapid growth rate and trichomes on young leaves that cause respiratory issues, they are not recommended for the home garden.

Just past the second *Platanus x acerifolia* on the right-hand side of the sidewalk is a young Sycamore Maple. This little tree is struggling to establish itself underneath the canopy of the surrounding mature specimens.

Continue past the stairs leading up to the driveway to the corner garden. On the right, you will notice another large *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca' (Atlas Cedar). This tree is a favourite of one of our local Blue Herons.

If you visit the Park in the summer months, you will see one of the Parks most asked about plants, surrounding the Atlas Cedar is a large planting of *Petasites japonicus* (Petasites). Massive leaves are carried on tall stalks that easily reach 4 feet in height.

## Section A

Follow the flagstone pathway into the corner garden, on the right, just past a clump of *Phyllostachys nigra* (Black Bamboo), you will notice a patch of slender stemmed *Aralia elata* (Japanese Angelica) and a lovely Japanese Maple *Acer Palmatum* 'Suminagashi' on the left, continuing along the flagstone path, on the right just past the Maple is a *Sciadopitys verticellata* (Japanese Umbrella Pine).

Turn to face the terraced gardens above the rock wall on the left, and you will see four small trees planted on the slope. The furthest tree to the right is a young *Cornus nuttallii* (Pacific Flowering Dogwood). Below the Dogwood to the left is an unnamed variety of *Acer palmatum* (Japanese Maple).

Next is an *Acer Palmatum* 'Sango Kaku' (Coralbark Maple), a small landscape tree known for its unusual reddish bark and beside it is a small *Crataegus* species (Hawthorn).

At this point, you can turn around and make your way back toward the stairs leading to the driveway. As you begin up the steps, you will pass another Atlas Cedar on your right and looking left, growing amongst the ferns is a mixed planting of *Fagus sylvatica* (Green and Copper European Beech). You may also notice one small Osakazuki Japanese Maple planted amongst the Beeches on the slope. Halfway up the steps, just outside the railing on your right, will be another large *Fagus sylvatica* 'Purpurea' (Copper Beech)

**Continue to the top of the steps to begin section B.**



## Japanese Maple



Japanese Maple *Acer Palmatum* 'Suminagashi' is a small deciduous tree.

## Fritillaria



*Fritillaria michailovskyi* are noted for their broad bell-shaped purplish-brown flowers with yellow-tipped tepals.

## Petasites



*Petasites japonicus* is noted for its huge basal leaves that form dense spreading clumps of foliage.

## Crocus



Bees love the crocuses in the Park. This queen *Bombus vosnesenskii* (Yellow-faced Bumble Bee) is a welcome sign that Spring has arrived.



## Section B



On your left is a concrete bench and a grouping of three mature trees. The large tree closest to the sidewalk is another Copper European Beech, just beyond the Beech is a *Fraxinus* sp. (Common Ash) and closest to the driveway is an *Aesculus hippocastanum* (Horse Chestnut). There's an old wives tale claiming that the nuts from Horse Chestnuts repel spiders but unfortunately it's just that, a myth. They do, however, make a beautiful addition to Thanksgiving displays.

To the right is an *Arbutus menziesii* (Arbutus), *Arbutus* is native to British Columbia and is easily recognizable by its beautiful reddish brown peeling bark. Beyond the *Arbutus*, closest to the cedar hedge is a large *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas-fir). Douglas-fir is a common evergreen tree native to western North America.

Planted in the grass to the left of the Fir tree is a *Betula pendula* (Weeping Birch) this tree is failing but is still valuable to wildlife in the park and will remain in place for as long as it's safe. Behind the Birch and partially tucked into the Cedar hedge is a *Robinia pseudoacacia* (Black Locust).

Continue along the sidewalk towards the driveway, and you will pass a small *Stewartia pseudocamellia* (*Stewartia*) planted in the flower bed on the right. *Stewartia* is a perfect specimen tree for a small garden. It's known for its attractive exfoliating bark and white flowers in spring. Cross over the driveway to continue following the sidewalk, and on the right, closest to the entrance gate, is a *Tilia europea* (Common Lime).

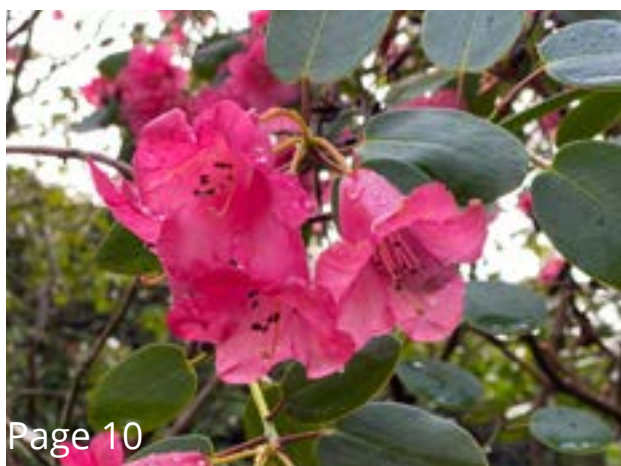
## Section B

Look past the Tilia, and you will see that there are many very tall narrow trees planted inside of the cedar hedge surrounding the park. These are *Populus nigra* 'Italica' (Lombardy Poplars).

Follow the sidewalk towards the fire hydrant; just past the hydrant is a *Carya illinoensis* (Pecan); slightly to the left of the Pecan and close to the hedge is another tree native to British Columbia, a large *Picea sitchensis* (Sitka Spruce).

Continue following the sidewalk, and on the left, you will pass a *Quercus rubra* (Red Oak), the first of many you will visit in the Park.

We're now going to leave the sidewalk and follow the long garden bed on the right. You may notice there are many Rhododendrons in this bed, this is the first of four garden beds planted with Rhododendrons from the Greig collection.



Ted and Mary Greig owned the Greig's Royston Nursery and were jointly given the Gold Medal of The American Rhododendron Society for their pioneering work on cultivation, selecting, and identifying species and hybridizing Rhododendrons. When the Greig's decided to close their nursery in 1965, they sold most of the remaining Rhododendrons as one single collection to the Vancouver Parks Board. Over the next two decades, these Rhododendrons were planted in various Vancouver Parks and a few sites on Vancouver Island, including Filberg Park and Milner Gardens in Qualicum Beach. Some of the original Rhodos have passed on over the years, and others have been added to the beds by the town's parks department. All of the garden beds on this side of the park contain some specimens from the Greigs collection.

Continuing along the grass, the next tree on the right, planted just outside the garden bed, is a large *Larix occidentalis* (Western Larch). Just past the Larch in the garden bed is a *Corylus avellana* (Hazelnut), one of four in the park. To the left of the Hazelnut is a *Cornus nutallii* (Pacific Flowering Dogwood). Pacific Dogwood puts on a beautiful display of cream-coloured flowers in Spring and is the provincial flower of British Columbia.

## Section B

Continue heading North, and the next large tree on the right is another large Copper Beech.

As you continue walking, you pass a large specimen of *Tsuga heterophylla* (Western Hemlock) on your right and, to your left, an *Acer macrophyllum* (Bigleaf Maple). Both are trees native to western North America.

As you continue along, you will pass several more larger *Rhododendrons* until, just before the end of the garden bed, you reach one small specimen of *Styrax japonica* (Japanese Snowbell). Snowbell is an excellent landscape choice for a smaller garden and puts on a beautiful display of small fragrant white flowers in summer.

At the end of the garden bed is a small building. This is our pump house, and it contains some of our irrigation controls. A unique feature of this building is that it's been designed with a green roof. The roof is lined with a thick rubber membrane and topped with soil allowing us to do some rooftop gardening. If you happen to be visiting in the Spring, you may notice that the roof is full of *Narcissus* bulbs for a surprise spring display.

Planted to the back left corner of the pump house is a large *Quercus rubra* (Red Oak). To the left of the oak is a *Magnolia campbellii* 'Charles Raffil.' Turn to your left and begin to follow the garden bed west towards the Dairy barn building. To the left, planted in the lawn, is a *Liquidambar styraciflua* (Sweetgum). Sweetgum is a beautiful specimen tree with maple-shaped leaves and brilliant fall colour.

To the right, towards the back of the garden bed, is another multi-stemmed hazelnut, followed by a small unnamed variety of *Magnolia*. To the left of the unnamed *Magnolia*, just before the small garden shed, is a large *Magnolia officianalis* 'Biloba' (Biloba *Magnolia*). This variety has large leaves with a notched tip in an elongated heart shape and produces large creamy white flowers in spring.

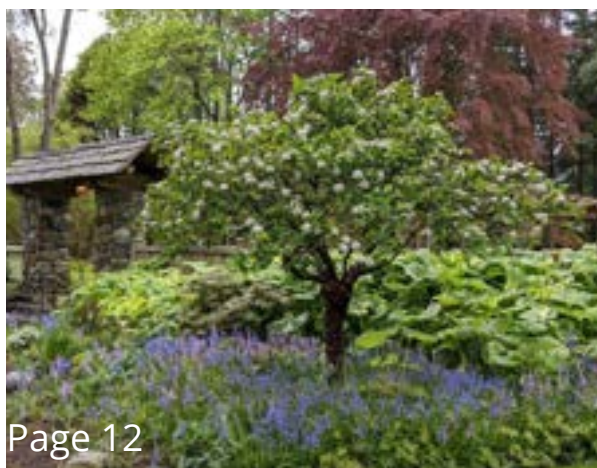
A trio of young *Quercus robur* (English Oak) is on your left, planted in the lawn. On the right, at the corner of the garden shed, is another hazelnut.

## Section B

Next, you will pass a group of Rhododendrons with a small *Acer circinatum* (Vine Maple) planted in the centre. Vine Maple is a great understory tree for the edge of a woodland garden. Continuing towards the dairy barn, you'll pass a small *Magnolia 'Susan'* and two more hazelnuts planted on either side of the opening in the fence leading to the meadow.

Walk towards the front of the Dairy Barn and you will see a small *Phellodendron amurense* (Amur Cork tree). Standing at the Cork tree and looking back towards the driveway entrance to the Park, you will see a *Morus alba* (Mulberry). Mulberry fruit is delicious but difficult to pick on this larger tree and can make a bit of a mess in the garden.

As you begin walking towards the Mulberry tree, on your left is a huge mature *Ulmus Americana* (Elm) followed to its right by another Red Oak.



Continue walking past the Mulberry, keeping the tree on your right and crossing over the sidewalk. To your right is a *Pinus sylvestris* (Scotch Pine). You may notice that this tree has had a unique feature added. In 2006 the Town of Comox Parks Department added a face to the tree as a joke, which has remained up ever since. He has since been nicknamed Mr. Tree by our local preschool group, who like to say hello when they pass by.

At the end of the low fence between the two flowerbeds, you will see a massive Lombardy poplar. Walk past the Lombardy poplar, and on your left, you will see a native *Thuja plicata* (Western Red Cedar) and to your right is another *Aesculus hippocastanum* (Horse Chestnut).

Continue walking past the Horse Chestnut along the flower bed with the rock wall, and in front of you is another *Fraxinus* sp. (Ash). To your left, another large Red Oak is growing in the centre of the lawn.

## Section B

Continue towards the driveway with the Ash on your right. To your left is another younger London Plane tree, and to your right is another huge American Elm. Dutch Elm disease, a fungal disease that was accidentally imported to North America around the 1930s, decimated Elm populations across the country, but British Columbia has so far been unaffected.

Follow the driveway heading towards the Lodge. On your right in the flower bed, just before the archway, you will pass a small *Viburnum burkwoodii* (Burkwood Viburnum), a beautiful small tree with fragrant white flower clusters in spring. Planted around the *Viburnum* is a smaller variegated variety of the *Petasites* you passed on the front lawn; this one is *Petasites japonicus* 'Variegata.'

Looking towards the Lodge, just to the left of the stairs leading to the Gift Shop, is a large *Populus tremuloides* (Trembling Aspen).

**Go up the steps and through the archway to begin section C.**



## Conkers



Horse chestnuts are also called Conkers, they are similar in appearance to sweet chestnuts but they are inedible and can cause digestive problems.

## Rhododendrons



Rhododendrons from Greig's Royston Nursery. Ted and Mary Greig were experts at propagating different species of Rhododendrons.

## Green Roof



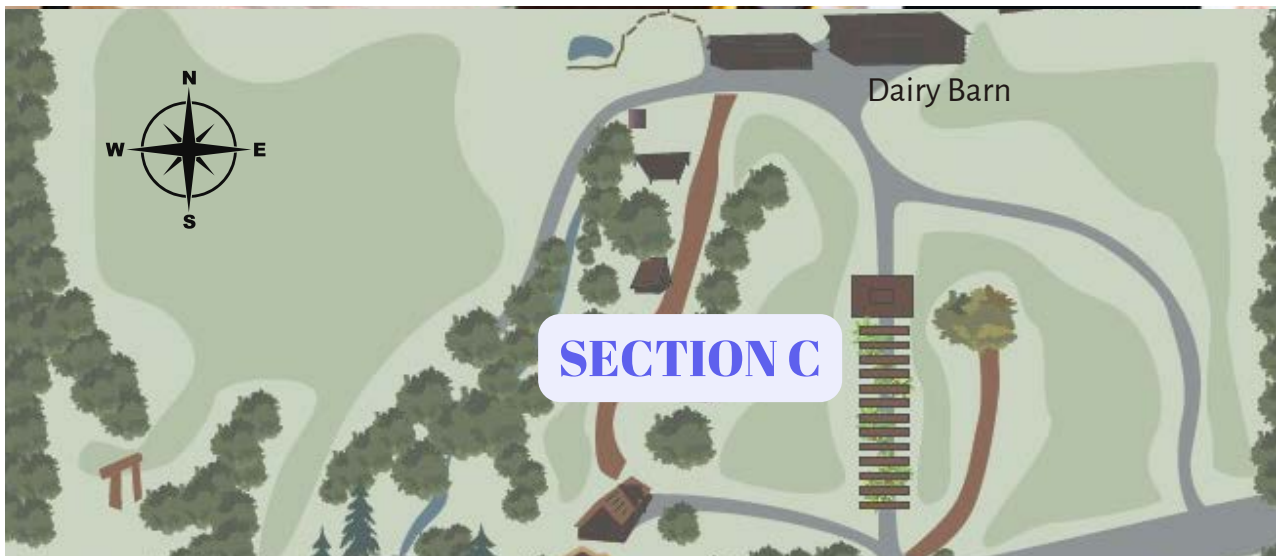
This specially constructed roof has a thick rubber membrane lining and is topped with several inches of soil allowing us to have a fabulous rooftop display.

## Scotch Pine



This Scotch Pine has been named Mr. Tree by our local pre-school group.

# Section C



Turn to the left and follow the sidewalk heading towards the washroom building. In the garden bed to your left the first tall tree is a *Pyrus* sp. (Pear) followed by three large *Kolkwitzia amabilis* (Beauty Bush) shrubs, the abundant display of delicate pink flowers in spring makes this area a popular backdrop for many weddings. At the back of the bed close to the fence are two *Malus domestica* (Apple) trees.

In the late winter months this bed is filled with *Eranthis hyemalis* (Winter Aconite), these cheerful yellow plants have naturalized throughout this area and are very popular with the park's visitors. In the summer, this bed will be one of our showcase annual display beds and it will be full of colour.

Continuing along the sidewalk towards the washrooms you pass another Sycamore maple on the left. At the washroom building turn to the left and head toward the waterfront, just past the archway planted on the slope above the driveway are two more massive London Plane trees. Looking to the right in the same bed is a small grafted standard *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta' (Harry Lauders Walking Stick). To the right of the *Corylus* planted in front of the caretaker's cottage is a young *Fagus sylvatica* 'Pendula' (Weeping Beech).

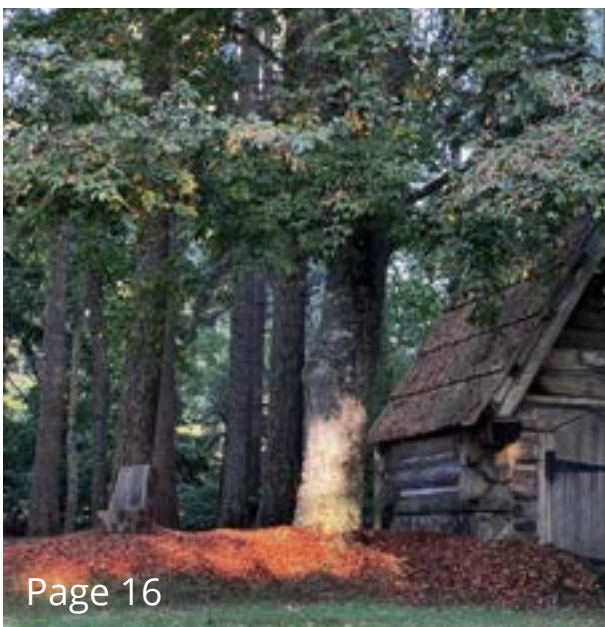
Turn around and head back towards the washrooms, on your left planted at the corner of the caretaker's cottage is a *Calocedrus decurrens* (Incense Cedar). Standing in front of the washrooms and looking to the right of the building is our "Fairy Forest" filled with many small specimens of *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas-fir).

## Section C

We are now going to head onto the lawn area between the washrooms and the long grape arbour. To the left of the Root Cellar, you will see the last of the Copper Beeches you will visit in the Park.

To the right of the Root Cellar is a garden bench. In 2020, when one of our Red Oaks needed to be removed, Facility Manager Joe Julien was able to salvage some of the wood and create this charming garden bench. To the right of the garden bench is a large *Umbellularia californica* (California Bay Laurel). Contact with damaged leaves from these trees may cause sneezing or headaches.

Turning to your right, you will see our grape arbour and potting shed. The grape arbour is planted with grapes, Wisteria, Honeysuckle, Roses and Virginia creeper and is a popular subject with the many photographers that visit the Park.



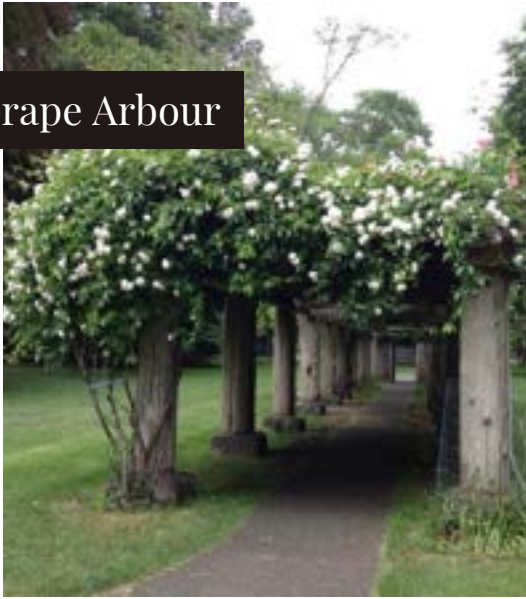
Continue walking north towards the Dairy Barn. In the first small flower bed is a small *Acer palmatum* 'Omurayana' (Japanese Maple), and in the next bed is an *Acer palmatum* 'Osakazuki' (Japanese Maple). Osakazuki is known for its brilliant red fall colour. To the right of the Osakazuki is a beautiful *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Gyokruya' (Japanese Cedar) and a small *Pinus heldreichii* var. *leucodermis* (Bosnian Pine).

In front of you, at the end of the Chicken Barn, is another massive *Quercus rubra* (Red Oak). To the left of the oak is one of the tallest trees in the Park, *Pinus ponderosa* (Ponderosa Pine). This tree is approximately 144 feet tall. Ponderosa pine is popular with basket weavers who visit the park to collect and use the long needles that fall to the ground. To the left of the Ponderosa is a *Pinus contorta* (Shore Pine).

**Walk between the Chicken Barn and Dairy Barn towards the meadow to begin section D.**



## Grape Arbour



The entire structure of the Grape Arbour collapsed during a storm in the winter of 1980 - 1981. In 1981, the arbour was rebuilt entirely, ensuring care was taken for the Kiwi, Wisteria, and grapevines.

## Douglas-fir Forest



Our "Fairy Forest" is lined with Douglas-fir trees.

## Winter aconite



*Eranthis hymemalis*, commonly known as Winter Aconite. They appear in late winter each year and are one of the earliest plants to bloom.

## Old Rose Nursery



Roses from the Old Rose Nursery on Hornby Island that were ordered in 1996. You can still find them on the Grape Arbour.

# Section D



Section D begins at the Dairy barn. Begin facing north, turn immediately to your right, and walk along the back of the building. The first tree that you will come to is a small specimen of *Stewartia pseudocamellia* (*Stewartia*) planted beside the light pole. To your left is a Crabapple that fell over during a 2022 winter storm that we have staked back up and are trying to get to re-establish.

Continue walking, and on your right, you will pass an *Amelanchier laevis* (Saskatoon) and a small garden shed, pass the garden shed and walk along the garden bed. This is the third bed planted with *Rhododendrons* from the Greig collection. To your left is a *Malus 'Professor Sprenger'* (Crabapple).

Just past the crabapple is another large *Quercus rubra* (Red Oak), continue walking along the flower bed, and you will pass another 'Professor Sprenger' crabapple on the left and on the right planted towards the front of the *Rhododendron* bed, a *Viburnum x bodnantense* (Dawn Viburnum) shrub, it doesn't look like much in the summer, but this is one of our earliest blooming shrubs, displaying pale pink blooms as early as January.

Continue walking along the bed, and on the right, you will pass two more *Rhododendrons* and a *Magnolia x loeborni* 'Leonard Messel' followed by another large crabapple. Finally, a *Magnolia stellata* 'King Rose' is at the Park entrance, closest to the gate.

## Section D

Walk past the gate heading north towards the corner of the Park. The small tree planted in the lawn is a *Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Umbraculifera' (Globe Locust). Continue along the Park's east edge and pass a *Tilia Americana* (*Tilia*) planted among the *Polystichum munitum* (Sword Ferns) on the right.

The flower bed on your right is one of the Park's pollinator gardens. This bed has been purposefully planted with native plants and provides a safe habitat for pollinators year-round.

At the far end of the pollinator garden, just before the next *Rhododendron* bed, is another Red Oak. Two more large Red Oaks are planted in this corner, one massive specimen in the back of the *Rhododendron* bed and another planted in the lawn in front of the bed.



The Oak in the lawn has been affectionately nicknamed "Frankie" by the Town's Parks Department. In 2011 a tree risk assessment was conducted after some splitting was noticed in the tree trunk; in order to preserve Frankie, ensure his continued health and reduce the risk of limb loss due to rot, three stainless steel bolts were installed in specific locations on the trunk. Frankie has grown a lot since then, and the bolts are now only partially visible.

Standing at Frankie, look to your right. At the back of the garden bed behind the *Rhododendrons* is a small *Davidia involucrata* (Dove tree). To the left of the Dove tree is a cut leaf form of *Acer palmatum* (Japanese Maple). Continue walking past a few more *Rhododendrons*, and at the end of the garden bed is a young *Koelreuteria paniculata* (Golden Rain Tree). *Koelreuteria* is a beautiful small landscape tree with abundant gorgeous yellow flowers in summer, followed by paper lantern seed pods that persist through the winter.

## Section D

Continuing walking west across the meadow and just outside the garden bed is a small *Larix decidua* (European Larch). On your right, planted inside of the hedge surrounding the Park, is a large *Pinus monticola* (Western White Pine). Turning to the left, you will see a newer addition to the Park, a young *Quercus mexicana* (Evergreen Mexican Oak). Continue walking west, and to your right is a young *Quercus coccinea* (Scarlet Oak).

Next, you will see another notable addition to the Park. Our rocket-style bat box was added to the Park in 2021 and can provide safe roosting habitat for up to 300 bats. Filberg Park is certified as a wildlife-friendly habitat through the Canadian Wildlife Federation and we work hard to provide a safe habitat for the wildlife that call the Park home.

Next is a young *Quercus shumardii* (Texas Red Oak). Head towards the asphalt pathway and turn left. Walking back towards the Dairy Barn on your right is a young *Cornus nuttallii* x *florida* 'Eddie's White Wonder' (Eddie's White Wonder Dogwood) followed by two *Prunus* sp. (Japanese Flowering Cherry) and two tall skinny evergreen *Cedrus libani* (Cedar of Lebanon).

Look to the left to see a massive *Quercus robur* (English Oak). Walk towards the English Oak, keeping it on your left and in front of you is a *Quercus palustris* (Pin Oak). Planted just behind the Pin Oak is an old *Pyrus* sp. (Pear). Next, turning to the right is another *Juglans* sp. (Walnut). Walk towards the Walnut, keeping it on your left, and you will see another *Malus* sp. (Crabapple) and, to the right of the crabapple, another *Quercus rubra* (Red Oak). Turning to your right and facing the Hands On Farm, the large tree planted out front is a *Prunus serrulata* 'Accolade' (Japanese Flowering Cherry). Japanese Flowering Cherry puts on a show-stopping display of beautiful pink flowers in spring.

Stand facing the Hands On Farm, and just to the left of the statue of a woman relaxing is a row of *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas-fir). Turn left and continue walking towards the Dairy Barn. On your left is a *Betula nigra* 'Cully' (River Birch) and to the right, just behind the Chicken Barn, is a *Fraxinus americana* 'Golden Desert' (Golden Desert Ash).

## Section D

Follow the sidewalk back between the two buildings and turn to the right walking towards the water fountain. Standing at the fountain and looking to the right, the tree at the end of the row of fir trees close to the fence is a *Pyrus* sp. (Pear).

Continue walking west, and you'll pass an *Acer rubrum* (Red Maple) on your right, and planted close to the fence line of the Hands on Farm are three large *Thuja plicata* (Western Red Cedar). To your left is a *Populus tremuloides* (Trembling Aspen) followed by a large *Malus domestica* (Apple).

**Continue to the end of the fence to begin section E.**



## Rhododendron



Ilam Violet Rhododendrons are open multi-stemmed evergreen shrubs with stunning clusters of lightly-scented violet trumpet-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches.

## Mason Bees



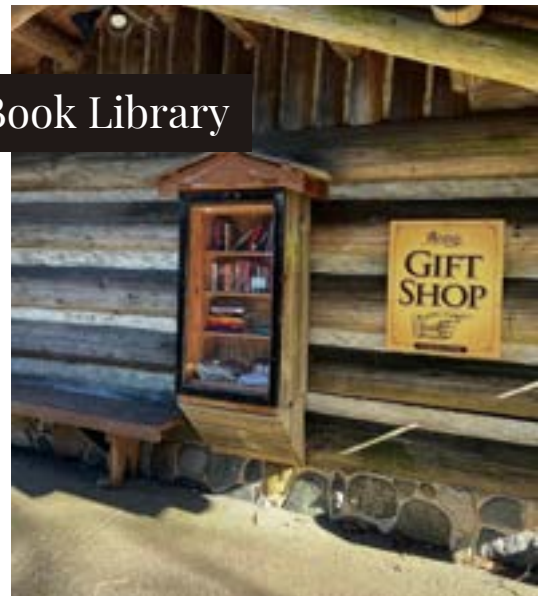
Each year Mason Bee houses are installed throughout the Park. Native pollinator populations are in decline and we use mason bee nesting blocks to help educate and raise awareness.

## Frankie



Frankie was nominated by our Gardener Tryna in 2022 for Comox Valley Tree of the Year, sadly he didn't win but we still think he's beautiful.

## Book Library



Looking for a "new to you" book? Stop by our free book library and find some good reads.

## Section E



Turn to your right and follow the Hands-On Farm fence line north heading towards Comox Ave. Planted on your right along the back of the Hands On Farm fence is a mixed row of *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas-fir) and *Thuja plicata* (Western Red Cedar). Turning to the left, planted behind the stage, is a *Liriodendron tulipifera* (Tulip Tree). *Liriodendron* bear beautiful green and orange tulip-shaped flowers in summer, but the flowers can be difficult to see and appreciate on large specimens.

Continuing north, on your left, is a group of three large *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (Giant Sequoia Trees). Sequoias are often planted in parks and golf courses; these beautiful trees grow incredibly large, so they are not recommended for home gardens.

Planted just behind the Sequoias is a small *Malus domestica* (King Apple) that is slowly being overtaken by these towering giants.

Continuing north and to your left is a small *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* (Katsura). Katsura trees' small, rounded leaves display vibrant fall colour, and the smell of the falling leaves is reminiscent of brown sugar.

Just past the Katsura and to the right is a young *Cydonia oblonga* 'Le Boreot' (Quince). Continuing along the roadway are two more London Plane trees on the left. These are much younger than the others we have planted in the Park.

## Section E

At the end of the row of Western Red Cedars just before the Comox Ave gate, turn to your left and begin walking west along the garden bed. Planted on the right in front of the split rail fence are five *Cedrus deodora* (Deodor Cedars). About halfway across the lawn on your left is a *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Worplesdon' (Sweetgum). Worplesdon is known for having exceptional fall colour in red, orange and yellow shades. Continue towards the west fence line of the Park, and in front of you are two *Betula jacquemontii* (Himalayan Birch). These Birches are known for their beautiful peeling white bark.

Begin walking south towards the beachfront with the garden bed on your right. The first tree you pass on your left is a tall, slender *Malus* sp. (Crabapple) planted further back onto the lawn and slightly to the right of the Crabapple is a young *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca.' To the right of the *Cedrus* planted near the centre of the lawn is young *Acer davidii* (Snakebark Maple). You may notice it has a bad wound at the base that rutting deer caused. The next small tree planted in the centre of the lawn is a *Pseudolarix amabilis* (Golden Larch). This larch has golden needles that drop in the fall.

Continuing south towards the waterfront, the large tree on your left is a *Catalpa bignoniodes* (Catalpa). Catalpas have huge heart-shaped leaves and bear panicles of white flowers in summer, followed by bean-like brown seed pods that persist through winter.

Past the Catalpa and to your right is an *Acer rubrum* (Red Maple), and to the left, another small *Katsura*. Continuing south, you pass between two *Acer rubrum* (Red Maple) followed by a young *Picea orientalis* 'Aurea' (Caucasian Spruce).

To the right of the stage is a garden bed planted with several clumps of *Phyllostachys nigra* (Black Bamboo) planted in the lawn, and amongst the Bamboo are six *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (Dawn Redwood). Dawn Redwood is a deciduous conifer with soft green needles that turn orange and drop in the fall.





## Section E

Continue walking South towards the waterfront, and in the large bark-mulched area in front of the stage are several large *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas-fir). Walk through the bark mulch bed and at the beginning of the flower bed and to your right, planted in the mulch between two of the Fir trees are two very small *Acer circinatum* (Vine Maple).

In front of the garden bed bordering the lawn is a *Sorbus pseudohupehensis* 'Pink Pagoda' (Mountain Ash), and behind it towards the rear of the garden bed are two *Prunus* sp. (Bitter Cherry). To your left is a lone large Douglas-fir. Heading south, planted in front of the Douglas-fir, is a trio of *Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Sunburst' (Golden Honey Locust).

On your right, to the left of the Bitter Cherries, is a younger *Quercus robur* (English Oak) and to the left of the Oak is a *Sophora japonica* (Japanese Pagoda).

Many of the Rhododendrons in this garden bed were donated to the park by Gwen and Harry Wright and Kathy and Ken Grieve. Harry Wright was a founding member of the North Island Chapter of the Rhododendron Society and the Comox Valley Horticultural Society. He received awards from the American Rhododendron Association for his work hybridizing rhododendrons.

At the back of the garden bed border are two *Sequoia sempervirens* (Coastal Redwoods). Coastal Redwoods are among the oldest living organisms on earth and can live for thousands of years.

Continue along the garden bed, and just past the electrical hut tucked into the Rhododendrons is a small *Nyssa sylvatica* (Sour Gum). Just to the left of the Sour Gum is a coniferous *Picea mariana* 'Aureovariegata' (Black Spruce).



## Section E

The next tree on the right is a *Sorbus* sp. (Ash), followed by a *Parrotia persicaria* (Persian Ironwood). Ironwood is a beautiful specimen tree for all-season interest, it has brilliant fall colour and interesting exfoliating bark. At the front of the garden bed is a large *Malus domestica* (Apple), and to the rear is a mass planting of six *Thuja plicata* (Western Red Cedar). Continuing towards the waterfront, you will pass two more Persian Ironwood.

Looking forward towards the water, you will see a *Pinus wallichiana* (Himalayan White Pine). At the Pine, turn to the right and walk towards the west fence line. On your left is a garden statue, "Symbiosis." Carol Forrester created this, and it is a popular spot for photos and small weddings in the park. Stand at Symbiosis facing west, and along the fence line in front of you is a trio of *Pinus nigra* (Austrian Pine) and, just to the right, a young *Pinus monticola* (Western White Pine).



Turning back towards the waterfront, the large tree to the right of Symbiosis is an *Acer macrophyllum* (Bigleaf Maple). In front of the Maple is our Butterflyway Project garden. The Butterflyway Project is a volunteer-led movement that aims to create pollinator-friendly habitats in neighbourhoods across Canada. Our bed is filled with native plants supporting pollinators in all life stages.

Below the Butterflyway bed, planted on the slope, is a sprawling *Pinus sylvestris* 'Wateri' (Scotch Pine). Begin walking east until you reach the gravel path. To your right is a *Pinus sylvestris* 'Globus Veridis' (Dwarf Scotch Pine). To your left, on the slope below the path, is a *Pinus densiflora* 'Umbraculifera' (Tanyosho Pine). This pine can be easily recognized by its orange flaking bark.

To the right of the Tanyosho is a *Pinus koraiensis* (Korean Pine). Begin walking down the stairs towards the lower lawn, and about halfway down, looking right, is another small Korean Pine followed by a *Prunus serrula* (Birchbark Cherry). Birchbark cherry has rich mahogany-coloured peeling bark. To the left, planted on the slope below you, is an *Albizia julibrissian* (Albizia). Albizia has slightly fragrant pink feathery blooms carried on the upper canopy in summer.

## Section E

Continuing down the stairs to the lawn, the last tree on the left is a *Pinus aristata* (Bristlecone Pine). You might notice some sticky white spots on these pines' needles, but not to worry, it's resin from the tree and is one of Bristlecone pines identifying features.

Walk east towards the front of the Boathouse. Planted on the roof is a rambling rose *Rosa mulliganii*. This magnificent rose bears abundant clusters of white flowers with bright yellow centers in spring and red rose hips that persist through the winter.

Continue around the front of the Boathouse, and you will see three *Trachycarpus fortunei* (Fan Palm) planted on either side of the building.

In front of the Boathouse, the fenced area, is our Liz Stubbs Cutting Garden. The Cutting Garden is maintained by a team of volunteers who grow a wide variety of annual flowers to create gorgeous bouquets to sell in the flower cart. Proceeds from this garden go towards the maintenance and restoration of the Filberg Lodge and outbuildings.

**Turn back towards the Summer Kitchen and walk towards the large gravel stairs to begin section F.**



Fritillaria



Fritillaria imperialis are strikingly beautiful and are a great addition to your garden. They are also deer resistant.

Albizia julibrissin



Albizia julibrissin are broadly spreading, fast growing trees that bear an abundance of fluffy pink blooms in summer.

Cutting Garden



The Filberg Cutting Garden has been part of the association since its inception. In 2011 it was officially named the Liz Stubbs Cutting Garden after the long-time volunteer and former board member.

Rosa mulganiii



Rosa mulganiii is a vigorous rambler that has glossy foliage and large clusters of white flowers followed by red rosehips that persist through the winter.

## Section F



Standing at the bottom of the stairs, look to the right. You will see a *Calycanthus floridus* (Carolina Allspice), a beautiful shrub that displays unusual rust-coloured flowers through the spring and summer.

To the left of the *Calycanthus* is another *Cornus* 'Eddie's White Wonder'!

On the roof of the Summer Kitchen is a *Rosa filipes* 'Kiftsgate,' an outstanding rambling rose that produces masses of white flowers in spring. The roses planted on the property were purchased from the Old Rose Nursery on Hornby Island and were planted in 1996 by Joe Pendak. Joe was the Head Gardener at Filberg Park for about 25 years, from 1983 to 2008.

Begin walking up the stairs, and directly behind the Summer Kitchen is a small evergreen *Fatsia japonica* (Fatsia), followed by a huge *Magnolia x loebernii* 'Merrill.' This magnolia puts on an abundant display of pure white flowers. Unfortunately, the blooms are usually short-lived due to our spring storms.

Continue up the stairs, and to the right is a chainsaw carving by Angela Kroeber and Kevin Lewis titled "Surviving the Storm." A storm ravaged the park several years ago, and we lost this *Abies grandis* (Grand Fir). Rather than remove the entire trunk, the decision was made to create this beautiful piece of art. The art is beautiful to look at, and leaving the trunk in place to naturally decay will provide valuable habitat for wildlife in the Park.

## Section F

Continuing up the steps on the right is a small *Magnolia stellata* (Star Magnolia) and a small *Cryptomeria japonica*. Turn to the left, and you will see our Herb Garden. The Herb Garden was created in 1982 and is designed and cared for by volunteers from the Comox Valley Horticultural Society.

Continuing up the stairs on the right is another large Magnolia, followed by a *Magnolia hypoleuca* (Cucumber tree). This magnolia has vibrant pink seed pods in fall that split open to display dull orange seeds. The next tree is a small *Magnolia soulangiana* (Saucer Magnolia) that sustained significant damage from a beaver in the fall of 2019.

Follow the edge of the garden bed heading north, and just before the entrance leading into the ravine, you pass a large *Prunus avium* (Mazzard Cherry) on your left. Just behind the Mazzard Cherry is a *Fraxinus americana* 'Autumn Purple' (White Ash). Autumn Purple Ash has vibrant Fall colour in shades of yellow, orange, and red and is a beautiful addition to the landscape.

Close to the sidewalk on the left is a *Koelreutaria paniculata* (Golden Rain Tree). Continue along the sidewalk to the water fountain, where we will turn around and visit the trees currently on your right.

Standing at the fountain and looking south towards the beachfront, you will notice a low split rail fence surrounding a Douglas-fir tree. If you look up into the tree canopy, you can see our resident Bald Eagles nest. After their nearby nest was lost in 2019, this mated pair decided to relocate to Filberg Park. In 2022 they successfully raised two babies. Hopefully these are the first of many.

The tree closest to the right corner of the Rabbit Hutch is a *Magnolia salicifolia* 'Wada's Memory' followed by a small clump of Bamboo.

At the north end of the ravine above the top pool is an *Acer palmatum* 'Okishimo' (Japanese Maple).



## Section F

Walking back along the sidewalk with the garden now on your left, you pass a *Magnolia Virginia* (Sweet Bay Magnolia) followed by a multi-stemmed *Fatsia japonica* (*Fatsia*). *Fatsia* is a surprisingly drought-tolerant addition to shade gardens and can be used to add a tropical flair.

To the right of the *Fatsia* and a bit closer to the sidewalk is a *Tsuga* sp. (Weeping Hemlock) followed by a *Magnolia soulangiana* 'Rustic Rubra.' Following along the sidewalk just past the prickly and somewhat gangly *Mahonia* sp. is a *Hamamelis* sp. (Witch Hazel) that bears attractive orangish-red flowers in January. Finally, at the front of the garden bed, the low-growing ground cover is *Sarcococca hookeriana* (Sweet Box). The plants themselves aren't much to look at, but this ground cover has heavily scented small white flowers in winter.

Continuing along, you will pass another large *Viburnum bodnantense* 'Pink Dawn' before reaching a *Betula pendula* 'Youngii' (Young's Weeping Birch) planted towards the back of the garden bed. To the right of the birch is another small *Magnolia* followed by another *Cedrus atlantica*, 'Glauca.' This tree is much younger than the ones we visited on the front lawn.

Next, you walk past another *Acer griseum* (Paperbark Maple). *Acer griseum* makes a fantastic addition to a winter garden, its beautiful copper coloured bark provides seasonal interest. Next, you pass another *Viburnum bodnantense* and an unnamed *Magnolia*. Finally, in the garden bed planted behind a few *Rhododendron* species is an *Acer palmatum* 'Seiryu' (Japanese Maple).

Walking down the slope heading into the ravine, you will pass a small *Euchryphia glutinosa* (*Euchryphia*) on the left. In front of you, planted at the very edge of the path, is a huge multi-trunk *Acer macrophyllum* (Bigleaf Maple), and to your left, planted in the ravine, is another much younger Bigleaf Maple.

Looking to the right and up the slope just past the Maple is the totem pole. The totem Tla Wa Sints Guy U Las (Strength from our Ancestors) was carved by Richard Krentz and donated by Gordon and Ivy Wagner. It was raised on June 19, 1994, and stood proudly at our beachfront for 23 years. The aging totem has now been laid to rest in the ravine to complete its lifecycle and return to the earth.

## Section F

Cross the small bridge to your left and look up the slope to see another *Thuja plicata* (Western Red Cedar). Turn to the right and walk towards the Summer Kitchen.

At the base of the totem pole is another unnamed *Magnolia*. To the right are three more varieties of Japanese Maple, *Acer japonicum* 'Aconitifolium' (Full Moon Maple), followed by *Acer palmatum* 'Seiryu' planted closest to the back of the Summer Kitchen.

Looking up the slope to your left is another Sycamore maple followed by another large Red Oak.

Continue out of the ravine, and looking to your left up the driveway, you can see some of the handiwork of William Meier. William was the Filbergs gardener and stone mason and was responsible for building the original rock walls on the property.

You have now completed the walking tour of the Park; we hope you enjoyed it.





## Calycanthus



Calycanthus is a deciduous shrub that can grow up to 13 feet tall with enormous cupped flowers that look like deep red magnolia blooms.

## Magnolia



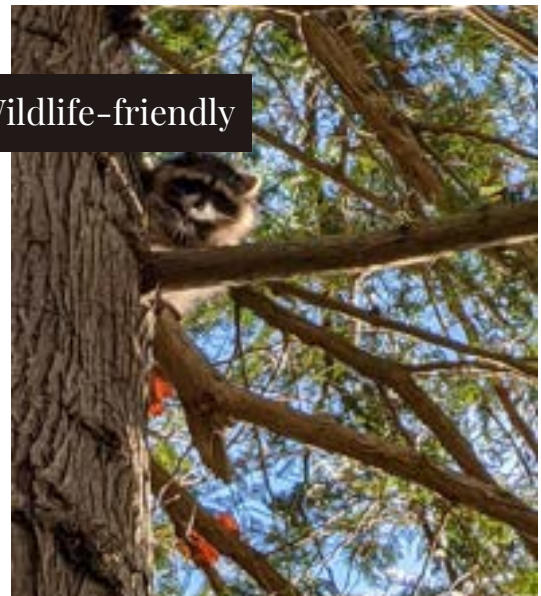
Magnolia x loebneri 'Merrill' trees only bloom for a short amount of time each year.

## Herb Garden



The Herb Garden was initially installed in 1982 and hosts a variety of annual and perennial herbs. The garden is designed and maintained by a team of volunteers from the Comox Valley Horticultural Society.

## Wildlife-friendly



The Park was certified as Wildlife-friendly Habitat in 2021 by the Canadian Wildlife Federation for our efforts in helping wildlife through the creation of habitat.

# *The Trees of Filberg Park*

The trees are listed in the order in which they are first visited in the self-guided tour.

Trees marked with \* indicate they are native to British Columbia  
Trees marked with \*\* indicate native to North America

## Section A

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
<i>Juglans regia</i>	English Walnut
<i>Pyramadalis cedar</i> **	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> 'Pyramadalis'
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	English Yew
<i>Quercus garryana</i> *	Garry Oak
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore Maple
<i>Abies amabilis</i> *	Pacific Silver Fir
<i>Pinus densiflora repans</i> 'Pendula'	Japanese Red Pine
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> 'Pendula'	Weeping European Ash
<i>Ulmus glabra</i> 'Camperdownii'	Camperdown Elm
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> 'Glauca'	Blue Atlas Cedar
<i>Pinus thunbergii</i>	Japanese Black Pine
<i>Picea abies</i> 'Remontii'	Dwarf Spruce
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scotch Pine
<i>Camellia japonica</i>	Camellia
<i>Acer griseum</i>	Paperbark Maple
<i>Quercus robur</i> 'Fastigiata'	Cypress Oak
<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London Plane
<i>Aralia elata</i>	Japanese Angelica
<i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Sumanigashi'	Sumanigashi Japanese Maple
<i>Sciadopitys verticellata</i>	Japanese Umbrella Pine
<i>Cornus nutallii</i> *	Pacific Flowering Dogwood
<i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Sago kaku'	Coralbark Maple
<i>Crataegus</i> sp.	Hawthorn
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Green and Copper European Beech
<i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Osakazuki'	Osakazuki Japanese Maple
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> 'Purpurea'	Copper Beech

## Section B

Botanical Name	Common Name
Fraxinus sp.**	Common Ash
Aesculus hippocastanum	Horse Chestnut
Arbutus menziesii *	Arbutus
Pseudotsuga menziesii *	Douglas-fir
Betula pendula	Weeping Birch
Robinia pseudoacacia **	Black Locust
Stewartia pseudocamellia	Stewartia
Tilia europea	Common Lime
Populus nigra 'Italica'	Lombardy Polars
Carya illionensis **	Pecan
Picea sitchensis *	Sitka Spruce
Quercus rubra **	Red Oak
Larix occidentalis *	Western Larch
Corylus avellana	Hazelnut
Tsuga heterophylla *	Western Hemlock
Acer macrophyllum *	Bigleaf Maple
Styrax japonica	Japanese Snowbell
Magnolia campbellii 'Charles Raffil'	Charle Raffil Magnolia
Liquidambar styraciflua **	Sweetgum
Magnolia officianalis 'Biloba'	Biloba Magnolia
Acer circinatum *	Vine Maple
Magnolia 'Susan'	Magnolia
Phellodendron amurense	Amur Cork
Morus alba	Mulberry
Ulmus americana **	American Elm
Thuja plicata *	Western Red Cedar
Viburnum burkwoodii	Burkwood Viburnum
Populus tremuloides *	Trembling Aspen

## Section C

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
Pyrus sp.	Pear
Malus sp.	Apple
Corylus avellana 'Contorta'	Harry Lauders Walking Stick
Fagus sylvatica 'Pendula'	Weeping Beech
Calocedrus decurrens **	Incense Cedar
Umbellularia californica **	California Bay Laurel
Acer palmatum 'Omurayana'	Omurayana Japanese Maple
Acer palmatum 'Osakazuki'	Osakazuki Japanese Maple
Cryptomeria japonica 'Gyokruya'	Japanese Cedar
Pinus heldreichii va leucodermis	Bosnian Pine
Pinus ponderosa *	Ponderosa Pine
Pinus contorta *	Shore Pine

## Section D

### Botanical Name

Amelanchier laevis \* \*  
Malus 'Professor Sprenger'  
Magnolia x loeborni 'Leonard Messel'  
Magnolia stellata 'King Rose'  
Robinia pseudoacacia 'Umbraculifera' \*\*  
Tilia americana \*\*  
Davidia involucrata  
Koelreutaria paniculata  
Larix decidua  
Pinus monticola \*  
Quercus mexicana \*\*  
Quercus coccinea \*\*  
Quercus shumardii \*\*  
Cornus nuttallii x florida 'Eddies White Wonder' \*  
Prunus sp.  
Cedrus libani  
Quercus robur  
Quercus palustris \*\*  
Prunus serrulata 'Accolade'  
Betula x hybrid 'Royal Frost' \*\*  
Fraxinus americana 'Golden Desert' \*\*  
Acer rubrum

### Common Name

Saskatoon  
Crabapple  
Leonard Messel Magnolia  
King Rose Magnolia  
Globe Locust  
Tilia  
Dove Tree  
Golden Rain Tree  
European Larch  
Western White Pine  
Mexican Oak  
Scarlet Oak  
Texas Red Oak  
Eddies White Wonder Dogwood  
Japanese flowering Cherry  
Cedar of Lebanon  
English Oak  
Pin Oak  
Japanese Flowering Cherry  
Royal Frost Birch  
Golden Desert Ash  
Red Maple

## Section E

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> **	Tulip tree
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i> **	Giant Sequoia
<i>Malus domestica</i> 'King'	King Apple
<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	Katsura
<i>Cydonia oblonga</i> 'Le Boreot'	Quince
<i>Cedrus deodora</i>	Deodor Cedars
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> 'Worplesdon' **	Worplesdon Sweetgum
<i>Betula jacquemontii</i>	Himalayan Birch
<i>Acer davidii</i>	Snakebark Maple
<i>Pseudolarix amabilis</i>	Golden Larch
<i>Catalpa bignoniodes</i> **	Catalpa
<i>Picea orientalis</i> 'Aurea'	Caucasian Spruce
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn Redwood
<i>Sorbus pseudohupehensis</i> 'Pink Pagoda'	Pink Pagoda Mountain Ash
<i>Prunus emarginata</i> *	Bitter Cherry
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> 'Sunburst' **	Golden Honey Locust
<i>Sophora japonica</i>	Japanese Pagoda
<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i> **	Coastal Redwoods
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> **	Sour Gum
<i>Picea mariana aurea</i> **	Black Spruce
<i>Sorbus</i> sp.	Mountain Ash
<i>Parrotia persicaria</i>	Persian Ironwood
<i>Pinus wallichiana</i>	Himalayan White Pine
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	Austrian Pine
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> 'Wateri'	Scotch Pine
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> 'Globus Veridis'	Dwarf Scotch Pine
<i>Pinus densiflora</i> 'Umbraculifera'	Tanyosho Pine
<i>Pinus koraiensis</i>	Korean pine
<i>Prunus serrula</i>	Birchbark Cherry
<i>Albizia julibrissian</i>	Albizia
<i>Pinus aristata</i> **	Bristlecone Pine
<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	Fan Palm

## Section F

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
Fatsia japonica	Fatsia
Magnolia x loeborni 'Merrill'	Merrill Magnolia
Magnolia stellata	Star Magnolia
Magnolia hypoleuca	Cucumber Tree
Magnolia soulangiana	Saucer Magnolia
Prunus avium	Mazzard Cherry
Fraxinus americana 'Autumn Purple' **	White ash
Magnolia salicifolia 'Wada's Memory'	Anise Magnolia
Acer palmatum 'Okishimo'	Okishimo Japanese maple
Magnolia virginia **	Sweet Bay Magnolia
Tsuga sp. **	Weeping hemlock
Betula pendula 'Youngii'	Young's Weeping Birch
Acer palmatum 'Seiryu'	Seiryu Japanese Maple
Eucryphia glutinosa	Eucryphia
Acer palmatum 'Aconitifolium'	Full Moon Maple

# Trees of Filberg Park



## Acknowledgements

This guide is a revised and expanded version of the previous booklet, "A Walk in Filberg Park," by Robin Harrison for the Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association in 2005.

Trees of Filberg Park, Self Guided Walk, was written by Tryna McLean, Filberg Park Chargehand, Town of Comox and edited by Linda Thomas, Executive Director, Filberg Heritage Lodge and Park Association.

Photographs used in this version were taken by both Linda Thomas and Tryna McLean.



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# Trees of Filberg

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