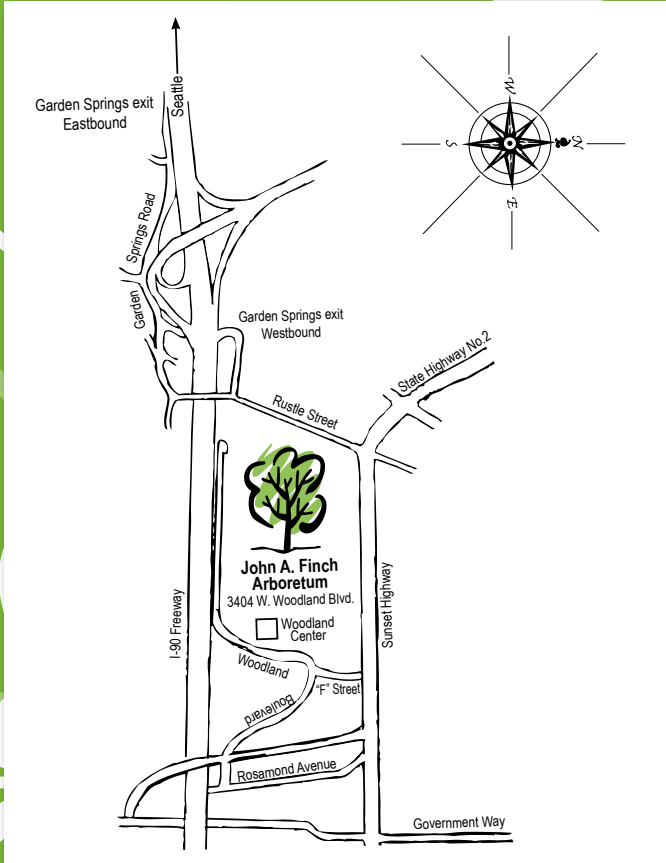


General Information

The Finch Arboretum is free and open to the public year round from dawn until dark. Restrooms are open from May 1 through October 31, weather permitting. The gate to access parking for Lilac Lane and Corey Glen is unlocked weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. from April 1 through October 31. For more information call (509) 624-4832.



Directions to Finch Arboretum

Approaching from the East (downtown Spokane), go West on Second Avenue to Sunset Highway. Continue West on Sunset Highway past Government Way to just before 'F' Street. The sign and entrance to the Arboretum are located on the left-hand (South) side of Sunset Highway.

Approaching from the West, exit I-90 at Garden Springs. Head East down the Sunset Highway to the intersection with 'F' Street. Just past 'F' Street is the entrance to the Arboretum. The entrance sign is on the right-hand (South) side of Sunset Highway.

John A. Finch Arboretum

A Walking Guide



3404 West Woodland Boulevard
Spokane, Washington 99224

The Finch Arboretum

The Finch Arboretum occupies about 65 acres of beautiful tree covered land along Garden Springs Creek in the southwest part of Spokane. The collections of trees and shrubs in the Arboretum, which include inland northwest natives as well as plants from many parts of the world, are educationally useful, scientifically important and aesthetically attractive. The Arboretum is used as an "outdoor classroom" by naturalists, horticulturists, students, gardeners and photographers. Those interested in home landscaping find the Arboretum to be a valuable source of information on plant material capable of growing in the Spokane area. The Arboretum's educational and scientific value are enhanced by seasonal programs and public activities throughout the year. The park-like character and natural charm is appreciated by all who enjoy the beauty of nature.

Historical Sketch

The John A. Finch Arboretum had its inception in 1907 when the Spokane Board of Park Commissioners, as part of an overall master plan, marked off a mile long strip along Garden Springs Creek for future acquisition. This land, came largely from John A. Finch, a pioneer mining investor and D. H. Dwight whose summer cottage, "Brookside", was a delightful retreat from the hectic life of a rapidly growing city. Some of the oldest trees still standing in the Arboretum were planted by D.H. Dwight.

Planting officially began at the Arboretum in 1949 with 49 specimens comprising 10 genera and 23 species. Currently, the Arboretum houses over 2,000 labeled trees and shrubs representing over 600 species and varieties including 120 genera.

SpokaneParks.org

Seasonal Highlights

Flowering Display

Winter	
December	Vernal witchhazel, daphne
Spring	
March	Chinese witchhazel, dogwood, serviceberry, forsythia, spice bush, viburnum, maple, barberry, cherry, pear, plum, horsechestnut, magnolia, pearl bush, lilac, chokeberry, deutzia, spirea, crabapple, rhododendron, laburnum, hawthorn, mock orange, honeysuckle
April-May	
Summer	
June	Locust, beauty bush, catalpa, rhododendron, tulip tree, viburnum, spirea, azalea,
July	Hibiscus, hydrangea,
August	stewartia, pea shrub

Color Display Fruit and Fall/Winter

July	Cornelian cherry, mountain
August	ash, crabapple, rose,
September	winged euonymous
October	Azalea, crabapple, maple,
November	hawthorn, oak, viburnum
December	Hawthorn, Japanese
January	barberry, pyracantha, snowberry, red osier dogwood

Visitor Guidelines

To preserve the beauty of the Arboretum and to make your visit pleasant, please observe the following guidelines:

- Please follow park rules and regulations posted.
- No pets allowed at anytime.
- Bicycles only on roads and trails.
- Do not harm trees or shrubs.
- Gather only material fallen from plants.

Self Guided Walking Tour

This route will lead you through some of the Arboretum’s major collections and specimens of interest. This narrative description follows the indicator numbers on the adjacent map.

Directly west of the main parking lot are several varieties of Beech. An elegant example is the **WEeping EUROPEAN BEECH** . ① The Beech collection is distributed throughout the **FLOWERING SHRUB BEDS**.

The **FLOWERING SHRUB BEDS** are planted according to genus and provide blooms throughout Spring and Summer. In the midst of the beds stands a magnificent **WHITE WILLOW** ② that predates the Arboretum. Other willows are located along Garden Springs Creek which flows west to east through the Arboretum. The creek runs year-round and is part of the Latah Creek watershed. A great deal of care is taken to preserve the integrity of this watercourse.

Adjacent to the **WHITE WILLOW** is the **LILAC COLLECTION**③ with over 80 named varieties. This tribute to Spokane, the “Lilac City”, has been recognized by the International Lilac Society.

South of the **EUROPEAN** ④ and **TRI-COLOR BEECHES** ⑤ is the **ELM COLLECTION**. The Spring blooming **MAGNOLIA COLLECTION** ⑥ is north of the Beech trees. Magnolias are admired for their color and the size of their blossoms.

Ahead are the **BEAUTY BUSH** and the **LINDEN COLLECTION** ⑦. The spring blooming Lindens are very fragrant.

LARCH ⑧ and **DAWN REDWOOD** ⑨ are deciduous conifers meaning that they shed their needles in the Fall. Notice the fluted, ginger-red trunk of the **DAWN REDWOOD**.

The rock wall protects a **JAPANESE UMBRELLA PINE** ⑩ which acquired its name from the growth habit of its needles.

The **YEW COLLECTION** ⑪ begins at the top of the hill. Yews are conifers which bear fleshy, seeded fruit rather than cones.

The expanding **OAK COLLECTION** contains some of the Arboretum’s most majestic trees. The classic bold, angular Oak branch pattern on a stocky trunk is best displayed by the **ENGLISH OAK** ⑫. Closer to the creek is the fragrant **MOCK ORANGE** Collection ⑬.

The name “**DOGWOOD**” applies to many different size trees, shrubs and plants as seen in the **DOGWOOD COLLECTION** ⑭.

Containing Butternut, English and Black Walnuts, the **WALNUT COLLECTION** ⑮ is an abundant food source for wildlife.

Many feel the **COREY GLEN AREA** is the most peaceful spot in the Arboretum. Trails meander along the creek in a natural setting with **RHODODENDRONS**, **AZALEAS** and **HOSTAS** sheltered among native trees and shrubs. This is a “must see” detour during May and June when this area is vivid with color.

There are over 70 varieties of flowering **CRABAPPLE** in the **COLLECTION** ⑰ with colors ranging from pure white to deep magenta. The Fall fruit display is noteworthy and provides wildlife food during Winter months.

HAWTHORNS ⑱ or May Trees are admired for their fragrant blossoms and abundant fruit. These specimens are armed with sharp thorns, though thornless varieties exist.

Arranged between basalt rock outcrops is the **COTONEASTER COLLECTION**. Cotoneaster is at home on dry, sunny slopes. ⑲

A stately **BLUE SPRUCE** ⑳ on the hillside marks the beginning of the **SPRUCE COLLECTION**. There are many variations of form and color in Spruce.

Firs have been called balsams for many years due to the scented resin they produce. The **FIR COLLECTION** ㉑ has many fine specimens.

For Fall color there is no comparison to the **MAPLE COLLECTION** ㉒ Sugars in the mature leaves combined with the effects of cooler weather conditions and less sunlight cause the change of color.

The **PINE COLLECTION** has several specimens of special interest including the **BRISTLECONE PINE** ㉓ named for the prickles at the edge of each cone scale. Two different forms of Eastern White Pine are displayed; **DWARF** ㉔ and **STANDARD** ㉕ Some of the Arboretum’s tallest trees are the **PONDEROSA PINE** ㉖, sometimes referred to as yellow pine. The Ponderosa Pine is the native tree cover for the Arboretum. The **GINKGO** ㉗ is a conifer with leaves instead of needles. Ginkgo trees have been growing on this planet unchanged for 150 million years.

The **EASTERN REDBUD GROVE** ㉙ blooms before leafing out in the spring. The **JAPANESE STEWARTIA** ㉚ is a member of the camellia family.

What appears to be a tangled mass of plants near the pond area is actually a native wetland called **BAMBOO SPRINGS** ㉛. Surfacing springs created this marshy area providing habitat for plants and wildlife.

The finely cut foliage and berry clusters make **MOUNTAIN ASH** ㉜ easy to identify. **HORNBEAMS** ㉝ were referred to as “Ironwood” due to the strength of its wood. **HORSECHESTNUTS** are the largest of the flowering ornamental trees.

A **DAYLILY COLLECTION** is planted in the rock terrace garden across from the bird bath.

After crossing the iron railed bridge the **KATSURA COLLECTION** ㉞ comes into view. Heart-shaped leaves give the Katsura a graceful appearance.

The **ASH COLLECTION** ㉟ provides shade in the pond area. The **LIQUIDAMBAR** ㊱ or **SWEETGUM TREE** has distinctive ridged and corky bark.

This concludes the self guided walking tour. You may continue on to the Street Tree Exhibit located across Woodland Boulevard on the north bank of the creek. The Street Tree Exhibit begins at the intersection of Woodland Boulevard and ‘F’ Street.

