

## Discover the Notable Trees of Colville

Sponsored by the Colville City Tree Board

Each Notable Tree tells a story of historical significance, size or unusual species. Colville is a Tree City USA, a program sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize the benefits of city trees. To nominate a Notable Tree, email its story and a photo to the Colville City Clerk's office, [hpannell@washingon.wa.gov](mailto:hpannell@washingon.wa.gov).

Meet Colville's Notable Trees:

### **Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), 147 S. Hofstetter Submitted by Dorothy Bergin**

I am not certain that 'my tree' is what you are looking for, but he is interesting...and I have grown rather fond of him since I took possession of this property in late 2005. So fond that I've named him. *Goliath*

Because of my comparatively short time in Colville, I know nothing of his history, but his size suggests that he much predates the 1938 house construction. Placement of the other trees on the property, much smaller, suggests they were planted at that time. He has obviously been diminished by abuse and indignity through the years, leaving one to wonder at what grandiosity he might have attained left to his own devices.

My best measurement of his circumference (a difficult task to perform single-handedly, without a full-length tape, in snow) mid-trunk is about 20 feet. Upper trunk, much greater. I would certainly welcome any historic information anyone could provide. His street-side location makes him easily accessible. (Note: Diameter at breast height was measured at 54 inches.)



**Box Elder (*Acer negundo*), Colville Fish Hatchery, 390 N Hofstetter St. at Northern Edge of Pond  
Submitted by Tami (Burns) Thueringer**

I am the teacher at the Colville Fish Hatchery. We have a special-to-us tree. This tree is not only unique, but it's a favorite with my students. Many of my kids have had pictures taken in it, whether for Prom or Senior pictures, climbed in it while they were young, or even during my classroom lecture time have chosen to read in it when finding a place to 'sloth' around. I read a novel called Operation Cody to students in the spring. If it's a beautiful day, students ask that we take our reading outside, and this tree is where they head. (Note: there are two trees, female and male.)



**Apple Trees (*Malus pumila*), Hofstetter Baseball Field, 640 N. Hofstetter St.  
Submitted by Dean Fischer**

These two unknown variety apple trees are found at the northeast corner of the Hofstetter baseball field. What distinguishes them is their tenacious viability despite severe deer predation. In the late summer one can find deer standing on their hindquarters reaching for the less available fruit from these trees.



**Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Dominion Meadows Golf Course, 1861 E Hawthorne Ave.  
Submitted by Dean Fischer**

This Douglas-fir at the north-south/east-west junction of the Rotary Trail is located adjacent to the local golf course and Evergreen Drive. It is prominent for its size (32-inch diameter at breast high) and its position at the highest point (1910 feet) on the Rotary Trail.



**Noble Fir (*Abies procera*), Corner of Wynne and Birch Streets  
Submitted by Dennis Roy**

I'm now retired, but in the late 1980's I was working as a grounds maintenance employee at a dental office on the corner of Wynne and Birch Streets in Colville. At that time, I planted 600 "Christmas" trees on my property in Rice, WA. I had a thought that a Christmas fir tree would look nice at this spot on Wynne, and so planted it...it was about 1-foot tall. It survived major ground construction and was purposefully saved to be part of the property of the office building when it was just 8-feet tall. Just after the construction took place, some kids were jumping off the rock wall and were grabbing onto the tree branches. I found the tree lying on its side and propped it back up and hoped for the best. It survived and continued to grow, and today it is about 30-35 feet tall!

*In the fall of 2017, Rob and Amanda Sumner bought the building. Amanda states, "I have been connected to this building since I was a little girl. I went to the dentist here when Jerry McKellar practiced here! That would have been 30 years ago. My husband, Rob, saw the building for sale and wanted to expand his physical therapy practice, so we purchased it last fall and opened in November. I knew the first time I saw the tree it 'deserved' to be honored by decorating it for the holidays. It just seemed special." Jim Lawson from Lawson Trucking decorated the tree using a boom truck.*

I had never seen the tree decorated before. While driving down Wynne St. after dark before Christmas of this year, I was delighted to see the tree lit up! It makes me feel satisfied to know that I had a part in planting the tree that so many people in our community enjoy.



**Japanese Pagoda Tree (*Styphnolobium japonicum*), Corner of Second Ave. & Walnut St.  
Submitted by Nancy Christopher**

It all started in 1979. After putting our house up on jacks, pouring a new foundation, putting in new plumbing and new sewer line, tearing off porches and old roofing, our yard looked like a war zone. By chance, we stopped at a nursery in the valley, and we saw a tree that called to us. With its unusual shape and haunted look we had to have it for our yard! The man who worked there said that it was a Japanese *Sophora* – very rare – and he knew of only three in the Pacific Northwest. Well, it came home with us that day, became the start of our landscaping, and years later is still the heart of our cottage garden.

In 2006, when we were an honored part of the AAUW garden tour, the master gardeners thought the tree was a 100-year-old wisteria! Now because of the availability of garden research online we were able to identify the tree as *Sophora (Styphnolobium) japonica* – Japanese Pagoda tree, Scholar Tree (Weeping Japanese pagoda tree). Although not native to Japan, the specific epithet and common name seem to recognize the early use of the tree in Japan around Buddhist temples.

The Japanese *Sophora* is a medium to large deciduous tree that typically matures to 50-75 feet tall with a broad rounded crown. It is generally cultivated for its attractive compound foliage and fragrant late summer flowers. Leaves retain green color late into fall. Small, fragrant, pea-like, creamy white flowers (each ½” long) bloom in late summer. Flowers fall to the ground around the tree after blooming, covering the ground with a blanket of white. Flowers give way to slender, knobby, bean-like pods (3-8” long) that mature to brown in fall and persist into winter.

