



Invasive Plants of Llandover Woods

This fact sheet was produced by Seattle Urban Nature Project for the Friends of Llandover Woods through a grant from the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

English Ivy

(*Hedera helix*) is invading Llandover Woods and most parks in Seattle. Ivy can climb and kill trees. Its seeds are spread over great distances by birds.



Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*) is an herbaceous plant which is an escaped ornamental. This plant grows in forests as a dense ground cover with the potential to out-compete native plants. The leaves give off a strong and unpleasant odor when touched. Look for Herb Robert along trails in Llandover Woods.



Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster spp.*) is a popular landscaping shrub which grows in low-light conditions in our forests. It produces berries in the winter, and attracts birds which disperse the seeds. This plant has the potential to displace native shrubs.



Cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) is an evergreen invasive tree species which is posing considerable problems in our urban forests. This species grows and reproduces in the forest environment, and competes with native tree species. It is dispersed by birds who eat the berries.



English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is another evergreen invasive plant, also dispersed by birds. This traditional landscape plant is extremely common in Seattle's urban forests, and can be spread from miles away.



Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*) forms thick stands of impenetrable shrubs which exclude all other plants. This shrub produces tasty berries which are spread by birds all over the Pacific Northwest. Look for the large shrubland dominated by Himalayan blackberry on the west side of Llandover Woods.



Himalayan blackberry leaves and berries.



Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) is an invasive plant commonly found in disturbed areas and along roadsides. In Llandover Woods it dominates a large disturbed area in the west portion of the park along with Himalayan blackberry.





Native Shrubs of Llandover Woods

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Red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*) is a native shrub that grows to 20 feet tall. It produces small red berries in the summer.



Red flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) puts out beautiful pink flowers in the spring. These flowers provide nectar to hummingbirds and butterflies.



Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) is a very common small shrub found in our forests. It produces small grape-like berries in the fall, which were gathered by Native Americans. Extensive stands of salal fill the wooded slope to the north of Llandover Woods.



Indian plum (*Oemleria cerasiformis*) is one of the first plants to flower in late winter. It has delicate white flowers that come out right before the leaves.



Beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) is one of the most prevalent shrubs in Llandover Woods. Hazelnuts are edible by people, but are much more likely to be snatched up by squirrels, chipmunks, woodpeckers and other animals.



Salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*) produces salmon-colored berries that are quite tasty when ripe. This plant grows in wet areas and along streams.





Native Trees of Llandover Woods

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Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) is the most dominant conifer tree in Llandover Woods. These trees can grow to over 200 feet tall, and can live up to 1,000 years. The forest in Llandover Woods, as in much of Seattle, was clear cut approximately 100 years ago. The current Douglas fir trees have grown up since that time.



Big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) is the most common deciduous tree in Llandover Woods. These relatively short-lived trees can grow to a large size and are often covered with moss, lichens and ferns.



Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) is a shade-tolerant conifer, which often grows in the understory of Douglas fir forests. Western red cedars can live over 1,000 years, and are considered a climax forest type. This species of tree is present in Llandover Woods in small numbers.



Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) is a shade-tolerant conifer, which is often a climax forest tree. It grows in wet areas and provides food and habitat for a wide variety of birds and wildlife. Western hemlocks are uncommon in Llandover Woods.



Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) is one of the most rare forest types in Seattle. It grows in open, dry areas and is often found on bluffs. The showy red berries are a favorite food of birds and other animals. Several pockets of madrone are present throughout Llandover Woods.
Pacific madrone



While not directly found in Llandover Woods, **Red Alder** (*Alnus rubra*) is present in the adjacent forest. This short-lived pioneer species is found predominantly in wet areas. Due to its ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen, red alder enriches the soils in which it grows. It provides habitat and food for a wide variety of bird species.





Native Understory of Llandover Woods

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Sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*) is one of the most common plants found in Pacific Northwest forests. This prolific evergreen fern covers the forest floor in Llandover Woods, and can be seen everywhere you look, and helps to stabilize the steep slopes.



Pacific waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum tenuipes*) springs out of the ground in large quantities in early spring and is gone completely by late summer. This water loving plant is very common in Llandover Woods, so be sure to look for it along the trails in late February or March.



Fringecup (*Tellima grandiflora*) lines the trails in Llandover Woods. The very hairy leaves of this plant are heart shaped. Stalks of delicate white flowers grow up from the base of the plant.



Piggy-back plant (*Tolmiea menziesii*) is also called youth-on-age because the young leaves grow directly on top of older leaves. Although the leaf shape resembles that of fringecup, the presence of smaller leaves growing out of bigger leaves is a distinguishing characteristic.



Stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) is a much maligned plant due to the hairs that cover the entire surface of the plant, and cause a painful sting if touched or brushed against the skin. Nevertheless, this is an important native ground cover, which is present in wet areas. Young shoots and leaves can be made into a tea or boiled and eaten.



Lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) is a delicate fern which grows in wet areas. This fern is deciduous and sends out fiddleheads in the spring. The young fiddleheads were used as a food source by Native Americans.





Wildlife of Llandover Woods

This fact sheet was produced by Seattle Urban Nature Project and Glenn Austin of the Friends of Llandover Woods through a grant from the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

Llandover Woods features an abundance of native wildlife—far too many species to list here. The animals of Llandover Woods take advantage of the extensive habitat created by the patchwork of private wooded lots, green belts, and reserves.

Residents such as Barred Owls and Sharp-shinned Hawks have been observed, likely feeding on the many song birds and rodents inhabiting the park. Coyotes have also been sighted and may take advantage of the presence of Eastern gray squirrel, Townsend's chipmunk, the native Douglas squirrel, and mountain beaver. Mountain beaver have established extensive populations in large portions of the park and surrounding home sites. A nocturnal species, they are rarely seen, but evidence of their burrows abounds.



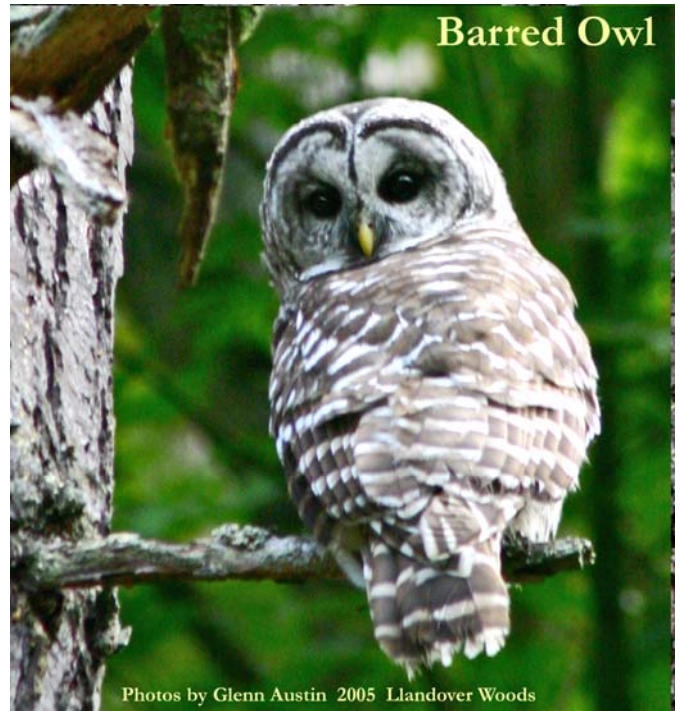
Douglas squirrel, taken by G. Austin



*Mountain Beaver
Photo from USDA National
Wildlife Research Center*



*Pileated Woodpecker,
taken by G. Austin.*



Birds commonly seen and heard include Pileated woodpeckers, little Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers and Flickers. Songbirds include Black capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Towhee, Red Breasted Nuthatch, Robin, Varied Thrush, and Song Sparrows. Anna's and Rufous hummingbirds are often spotted.



Anna's Hummingbird, photo taken by G. Austin

For more information on the wildlife of Llandover Woods contact Glen Austin, Lead Steward, Friends of Llandover Woods at (206) 364-9252 or gaustin@path.org or check out <http://www.seattleurbanature.org/Projects/LlandoverWoods.htm>. Each monthly work party features a nature tour of Llandover Woods.



Friends of Llandover Woods

Providing stewardship for a valuable community resource.

The Friends of Llandover Woods (FoLW) is a community volunteer group dedicated to maintaining and improving the natural environment of the Llandover Woods green space and walking trail. The group was established in 2004. The FoLW coordinates its activities with the Seattle Parks employees who maintain Llandover Woods and is a member of the Green Seattle Partnership.

Stewardship activities include:

- Eliminating invasive plants
- Re-establishing native habitats for plants and wildlife
- Monitoring and maintaining trails for safety, accessibility and erosion stability
- Elimination of stinging nettles from the trail edge for safe walking, particularly for kids
- Ongoing repair of trail washouts
- Encouraging respectful treatment of Llandover Woods by visitors
- Educating visitors about native plants, invasive species, and resident wildlife.



Recent acquisition of grant funds from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods allowed FoLW and the Seattle Urban Nature Project to co-develop a vegetation management plan (VMP) and purchase tools to support volunteer efforts. The VMP is available on-line at www.seattleurbannature.org/Projects/LlandoverWoods.htm.

Interested in volunteering?

Work parties 2nd Sunday of each month 9 am

**Meet at the parking lot on the corner of
NW 145th and 3rd NW.**

Contact FoLW:

Glenn Austin, Lead Steward

Phone: 206.364-9252

E-mail: gaustin@path.org

www.seattleurbannature.org/Projects/LlandoverWoods.htm