Trees of Memorial Park

1. Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum*
2. Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*
3. Silver Maple, *Acer saccharinum*
4. Vine Maple, *Acer circinatum*
5. Field Maple, *Acer campestre*
6. Bigleaf Maple, *Acer macrophyllum*
7. Willow Oak, *Quercus phellos*
8. Bur Oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*
9. Pin Oak, *Quercus palustris*
10. Swamp White Oak, *Quercus bicolor*
11. English Oak, *Quercus robur*
12. Kanzan Cherry, *Prunus 'Kanzan'*
13. Chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana 'Canada Red'*
14. Turkish Hazel, *Corylus columa*
15. Northern White Cedar, *Thuja occidentalis*
16. Golden Chain Tree, *Laburnum anagyroides*
17. Persian Ironwood, *Parrotia persica*
18. Sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*
19. Siberian Elm, *Ulmus pumila*
20. Star Magnolia, *Magnolia stellata*
21. Yellow Cedar, *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*
22. Maidenhair Tree, *Ginkgo biloba*
23. Dove Tree, *Davidia involucrate*
24. One-seed Hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna*
25. Black Cottonwood, *Populus trichocarpa*
26. Atlas Cedar, *Cedrus atlantica*
27. Triumph Elm, *Ulmus 'Morton Glossy'*
28. Orchard Apple, *Malus sylvestris*
29. Japanese Crabapple, *Malus x floribunda*
30. Snowdrift Crabapple, *Malus 'Snowdrift'*

Sunnyland Elementary School Playground

King Street

Path from E. Illinois Street to I-5 Pedestrian Overpass

Interstate 5

Railroad Grade Trail I-5 Pedestrian Overpass

Taxonomy by John Wesselingk
5/10/2011
Memorial Park History

This park is the second oldest park in Bellingham. It was been known as King Street Park and Sunnyland Park.

Created in 1889 – Pierre Barlow Cornwall sets aside land for Sunnyland Park.

1909 – The park is plowed, leveled, and seeded with oats.

After World War I – The Mothers of World War Veterans (MoWWV), originally called the Mothers’ Club, acquires and starts the development of the two southern most blocks of Sunnyland Park to memorialize Whatcom County’s fallen soldiers.

May 30, 1919 – Sunnyland Park is dedicated to “the soldiers and sailors from Whatcom County who paid the supreme sacrifice in the great war” (Bellingham Herald, May 31, 1919).

1920 – Roads, sidewalks, and shrubbery are added to the park. Eighty-eight dogwood trees are planted, one for each lost Whatcom County soldier. A local organization presents the MoWWV with a flag and pole.

1922 – The memorial arch, designed by F. Stanley Piper, is erected at the Maryland Street entrance by the MoWWV. It is dedicated on Armistice Day, November 11, 1922.

1927 – A bowl shaped fountain is added by the MoWWV.

1956 – Almost one third of the park is sold for the price of $11,040 to Washington State, facilitating the Interstate 5 Freeway development.

1960’s – Pedestrian walkways are built over the freeway allowing access to the park from nearby neighborhoods.

1996 – A local Eagle Scout Troop helps restore the southern part of the park by cleaning the memorial stones around the trees and putting a new coat of paint on the fountain. The fountain is in working condition after ten years of being out of service.

November 11, 2005 – Veteran’s Day Celebration unveils major changes including a brick pathway lined with planters and benches from the King Street Memorial Arch to the newly installed large granite memorials, replacing the aging bowl-shaped fountain. Radiating from a central circle, the granite memorials are labeled for a specific war and the names of Whatcom County soldiers lost in that war. The bricks on the pathway to the central circle bear the individual donors’ names or memorials. Employees of local radio station 790 AM headed the fundraising project for the improvements.

Reference: A History of Bellingham Parks by Aaron Joy
Photos: Whatcom Museum of History & Art
Thanks to Jeff Jewell, Photo Archivist

Memorial Park is in the Sunnyland Neighborhood, bounded by the I-5 Interstate and King Street. The entrance to the park is at the intersection of Maryland & King Streets.

Park Rules:
- Park Hours: 6 AM to 10 PM
- All pets must be on leash at all times.
- Dog owners or handlers must remove fecal matter deposited by their animals in the park.