

PRE-APPROVED STREET TREES

GENERAL

The intent of the City's landscaping code is to provide a well-balanced, aesthetically pleasing environment for the residents of Mount Vernon. One of the ways the City ensures the intent of this code is met is to specify the types of street trees required to be installed. The Mount Vernon Municipal Code (MVMC) requires those planting street trees to choose from the trees listed herein. However, if an applicant wishes to plant tree(s) different than those found on these lists they are required to submit documentation from a landscape architect or arborist verifying that the alternative tree is appropriate.

TREE SIZE AND CROWN

The City requires minimum 2" caliper street trees. The lowest limbs or crown shall be at least 5 feet above grade.

TREE QUALITY

All trees shall meet or exceed the most recent American Standards for Nursery Stock. They shall have a central leader or maintain the proper spreading form of that species. They shall exhibit vigorous growth in leaf, twig or bud form, and of appropriate color and size. The trunks and limbs shall be free of damage, deadwood, and disease. The root systems shall meet or exceed the Standards for their size and shall be free of excessive circling or dead roots. The City shall have the opportunity to inspect trees for acceptance before installation.

WATERING

Immediate and regular watering of newly planted trees is critical to their growth and establishment. Newly planted trees should be thoroughly watered right after planting and then at least 2 times per week for the first month of the growing season. Then water at least once per week through the balance of the first summer until October. Watering once per month is also beneficial the second growing season for long-term establishment. Tree Gators are excellent devices to maintain regular and focused application.

PLANTING SPACE SOIL AND DRAINAGE

Street trees utilize the entire planting strip (and more) to grow to any reasonable size. In fact, studies have indicated that for a tree to grow to a functional large canopy size tree, it would need a minimum area that measures 20 feet x 20 feet x 3 feet deep.

The entire planting strip should consist of un-compacted and acceptable soils. The planter strips should be naturally well draining, or sub-surface perforated drain pipe surrounded by drain rock should be installed 40-inches deep to ensure drainage. The ridged perforated drain pipe should be connected to a storm drain. Roots might eventually grow under and beyond the sidewalk if soil conditions are favorable, but that is not always the case and the planter strip is the first area it will grow into. Other techniques used to expand the soil area available to the tree should be considered. Lacking adequate soil volume will result in trees that fill up the soil area with roots in 5 or 10 years, like a root bound house plant, and slowly decline.

PLANTING SPACE AND WIDTH

Planting trees in planting widths narrower than four feet is generally not recommended. However, when no alternative is possible, consult the Arborist for planting and species recommendations. Narrow planting widths severely limit the health and longevity of street tree plantings. The following are general guidelines to follow:

- Small Trees-No less than 4-foot wide planting strip.
- Medium Trees-No less than 5-foot wide planting strip.
- Large Trees-No less than 8-foot wide planting strip.

TREE INSTALLATION

All wrapping materials shall be removed from the root ball before planting. The root crown of the tree shall be placed at 1-inch above grade, no higher. A water dam 2-inches high shall be placed around the tree, 18-inches from the trunk. A rectangular area, measuring 5 feet by 5 feet between curb and sidewalk, shall be free of grass and covered with 3-inches of arborist woodchips or bark mulch.

ROOT BARRIERS

Use of root barriers is almost always required. Waivers from installation of root barriers are required to be approved, in writing, before trees are installed. Root barriers do not guarantee protection from hard surface damage, but have been shown to delay lifting of sidewalks and curbs from roots for many years when properly installed.

Root barrier installation is most effective and beneficial when installed along the edge of a sidewalk and/or curb on either side of the tree to allow the tree roots some growing room before roots contact the root barrier.

Placing root barrier around the root ball at planting severely restricts the growth of the tree and is not recommended. The tree may not become anchored and stable especially if there is poor draining or impervious soil below the root barrier.

Root barrier typically comes in 12-inch, 18-inch and 24-inch depths. Recommended depth to install usually depends on tree species, soils and distance between tree and barrier.

MOUNT VERNON RECOMMENDED STREET TREE VARIETIES

This street tree list represents a wide diversity of tree species, growth habits, form, color, and other characteristics. The City of Mount Vernon encourages the planting of a wide variety of trees to expand the benefits that trees provide, as well as reduce disease and insect challenges. To increase tree canopy in the City, when possible and desirable, select the largest maturing tree species that fit above and below ground limitations of the site.

The following lists of street trees are organized into these categories:

- Small street trees to 30' with a spreading habit; and small street trees to 30' with a narrow habit.
- Medium street trees to 45' with a spreading habit; and medium street trees to 45' with a narrow habit.
- Large street trees over 45' with a spreading habit.

SMALL STREET TREES TO 30' SPREADING HABIT**

(Trees appropriate under utility lines identified with: 'UT')

- Golden Raindrops Crabapple (*Malus transitoria* 'Schmidtcutleaf') (UT)
- Snowcone Japanese Snowbell, (*Styrax japonicus* 'JFS-D')(UT)
- Krauter Vesuvius Flowering Plum (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Krauter Vesuvius')
- Newport Flowering Plum (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Newport')
- Thundercloud Flowering Plum (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Thundercloud')
- Cascade Snow Cherry (*Prunus* 'Berry') most disease resistant.
- Kwanzan Oriental Cherry (*Prunus serrulata* 'Kwanzan')
- Royal Burgandy Cherry (*Prunus serrulata* 'Royal Burgandy') —most disease resistant (UT)
- American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*) (UT) & cultivars:
 - Palisade, (UT)
 - 'Native Flame' (UT)
 - 'Ball o Fire' (UT)
 - 'Firespire' (UT)
- Japanese Hornbeam (*Carpinus japonica*)
- Lavalley Hawthorn (*Crataegus x lavalleyi*) vase shape (UT)
- Crimson Cloud Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata* 'Crimson Cloud') (UT)
- Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*) (UT)

SMALL STREET TREES TO 30' NARROW HABIT**

(Trees appropriate under utility lines identified with: 'UT')

- Summer Sprite Linden (*Tilia cordata* 'Halka') (UT)
- City Sprite Zelkova, (*Zelkova serrata* 'JFS-KW1') (UT)
- Red Cascade Mountain Ash (*Sorbus Americana* 'Dwarfcrown') (UT)
- Adirondack Crabapple (*Malus* 'Adirondack') to 20'
- *Tschonoskii* Flowering Crab (*Malus Tschonoskii*)
- Snow Goose Cherry, (*Prunus* 'Snow Goose')
- Persian Spire Parrotia, (*Parrotia persica* cv. Persian Spire') (UT)
- Sugar Cone Maple, (*Acer saccharum* 'Sugar Cone') (UT)
- Apollo Sugar Maple, (*Acer saccharum* 'Barrett Cole' pp 10590) (UT)
- Hanna's Heart Katsura Tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum* 'Hanna's Heart')

MEDIUM STREET TREES TO 45' SPREADING HABIT**

- Norwegian Sunset Maple (*Acer truncatum* x *A. platanoides* 'Keithsform')
- Pacific Sunset Maple (*Acer truncatum* x *A. platanoides* 'Warrenred')
- Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) (Including cultivars of:
 - 'Redpoint'
 - 'Northwood'
 - 'October Glory'
 - 'Red Sunset'
 - 'Autumn Flame'
 - 'Autumn Spire'
 - 'Brandywine'
 - And others
- Forest Green Hungarian Oak, (*Quercus frianetto* 'Forest Green')
- Parrotia Persica (*Persian parrotia*)
- Canada Red Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana* 'Canada Red') Green Vase Japanese Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata* 'Green Vase')
- Village Green Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata* 'Village Green')
- American Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*)
- Elms (*Ulmus* spp. any medium maturing height Dutch Elm Disease Resistant variety including:
 - 'New Horizon' (*Ulmus japonica* x *pumila* 'New Horizon')
 - 'Emerald Sunshine' (*Ulmus propinqua* 'JFS-Bieberich',
 - 'Triumph' (*Ulmus* 'Morton Glossy')
 - 'Frontier' (*Ulmus* 'Frontier') has purple fall color.
 - And others
- Katsura Tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)
- Kobus Magnolia (*Magnolia kobus*)
- Sour Gum or Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) cultivars only:
 - 'Wildfire',
 - 'Fire Starter',
 - 'Green Gable',
 - 'Northern Splendor',
 - Afterburner'
 - Red Rage'
 - 'Gum Drop'
 - 'Forum'
- Worplesdon Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Worplesdon')

MOUNT VERNON RECOMMENDED STREET TREE VARIETIES – CONTINUED

MEDIUM STREET TREES TO 45' NARROW HABIT**

(Narrow habit is a relative term, some of the listed varieties widen as they age)

- Karpick Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Karpick')
- Armstrong Red maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Armstrong')
- Bowhall Red Maple (*Acer rubrum* 'Bowhall') (same as *Acer rubrum* 'Scanlon')
- Red Rocket Red maple, (*Acer rubrum* 'Red Rocket')
- Emerald Queen Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides* 'Emerald Queen') as well as Easy Street and Columnar Norway
- Persian Ironwood cultivars (*Parrotia persica*)
 - o 'Ruby Vase'
 - o 'Venessa'
 - o 'Golden Bell Tower'
- Sour Gum or Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) cultivars only like 'Tupelo Tower'
- Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)
- Emerald Sentinel Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Clydesform')
- Musashino Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata* 'Musashino')
- Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*, male cultivars only)
 - o 'Autumn Gold'
 - o 'Princeton Sentry'
 - o 'Maygar'
 - o 'Fastigiata'
 - o 'Presidential Gold'
 - o And others
- Pyramidal Dawyckii Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Dawyckii'), Slender Silhouette Sweetgum, (*Liquidambar Syraciflua* 'Slender Silhouette')
- Fastigate European Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* 'Fastigiata')
- Green Pillar Pin Oak, (*Quercus palustris* 'Pringreen')
- Crimson Spire Oak (*Quercus alba* x *Q. robur* 'Crimschmidt') (keeps winter leaves)
- Streetspire Oak, (*Quercus robur* x *alba* 'JFS-QW1QX') (loses winter leaves)
- Kindrid Spirit Oak, (*Quercus robur* x *bicolor* 'Nadler' PP17604)
- Regal Prince Oak (*Quercus robur* x *bicolor*)

LARGE STREET TREES TO 45' SPREADING HABIT**

- English Oak (*Quercus robur*)
- Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)
- Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)
- Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)
- Freemanii maples, (*Acer Freemanii*) including cultivars of:
 - o 'Autumn Blaze'
 - o 'Autumn Fantasy'
 - o 'Celebration'
 - o 'Marmo'
- London Plane Tree (*Platanus x acerifolia* 'Exclamation' or 'Ovation')
- European Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)(Green or Purple leaf)
- Elms (*Ulmus* spp. any medium maturing height Dutch Elm Disease Resistant variety including:
 - o Accolade Elm (*Ulmus japonica* x *wilsoniana* 'Morton')
 - o 'Princeton'
 - o 'Pioneer'
 - o And others
- Silver Linden (*Tilia tomentosa*) and cultivars like:
 - o 'Silver Lining'
 - o 'Green Mountain'
 - o 'Sterling'
 - o 'Szeleste'
- Espresso Kentucky Coffee Tree (*Gymnocladus dioicus* 'Espresso-JFS')

**Always select the tree variety that fits available growing space above and below ground and that considers the limitations and attributes of the species. Even trees on this list may not be appropriate in some locations. New varieties are continually becoming available, as such, the lists provided herein are reviewed and updated periodically by the City.

The purpose of this handout is to assist the public in complying with detailed permit submittal requirements. It is NOT a complete list of permit or code requirements and should NOT be used as a substitute for applicable laws and regulations. It is the responsibility of the owner/design professional to review the submittal for completeness and applicability to other codes. Only complete applications can be accepted by the City for review.

The City's consulting arborist, Jim Barborinas, has provided this list of streets updated last in 2019



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