

**City of Oregon**

**Street Department**

**Recommendations for Tree Planting**

Updated July 2020

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# 1. Planting Process for City of Oregon

## **Oregon City Code**

Sec. 32-60. - Trees and shrubs in parkway.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to plant any tree or shrub in any parkway without having first secured a permit therefor. Applications for such permits shall be made to the city clerk on the form provided therefor and shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner of streets and public improvements. No fee shall be charged for said permit. No shrub shall be planted, maintained or allowed to grow to a height of more than three feet. Trees shall be planted at least 20 feet apart.
- (b) All trees and shrubs now standing or hereafter planted along parkways or standing on private property, but the branches of which extend over the parkway, shall be pruned or trimmed so that no branch of a tree shall grow or hang over the street or sidewalk less than nine feet above ground level. This maintenance shall be the responsibility of the owners of the private property immediately adjacent to the parkway upon which said tree or shrub is located. Any trees or shrubs not so maintained shall be declared to be a public nuisance and may be abated by the city pursuant to this Code.

(Code 1970, § 3-8-2; Code 1987, § 9-42)

## 2. EAB Tree Replacement Program

City of Oregon, Illinois

115 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. ♦ Oregon, IL 61061 ♦ Phn: (815) 732-6321 ♦ Fax: (815) 732-7292

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Species Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Trees: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, the above-named person agrees to the following:

- A 50% - 50% cost share of replacement trees with the City of Oregon. The City of Oregon's share will be a maximum of \$100.00 per tree. The owner is responsible for the purchase, planting, and water of the tree.
- The owner agrees to provide ample water and other care to insure the survival of the tree. If it is determined that due diligence was not followed, and the tree dies, the owner will reimburse the City of Oregon for their 50% of the original price.
- Only the approved species and location staked by the Street Superintendent will be valid.
- Please call with any questions.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

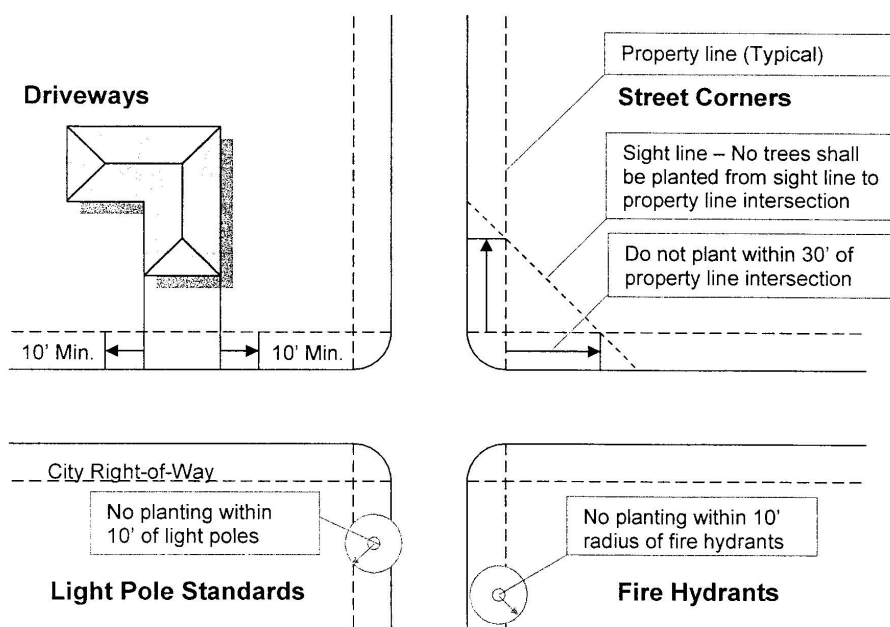
Signature of City Official: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Owner Share \$ \_\_\_\_\_ City Share \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Guidelines for Parkway Tree Planting

#### GUIDELINES FOR PARKWAY TREE PLANTING

Thank you for your interest in planting parkway trees. This City program is specifically for planting of trees in the City Right-of-Way, commonly referred to as "Parkway." We request the property owner place stake(s) in the desired tree location in the parkway. The location stake should indicate the variety of City approved tree to be planted. The Property owner shall contact J.U.L.I.E. to verify that utilities are not in conflict with desired tree locations. Please refer to the diagram below when placing your location stake(s):



Trees shall be planted no closer than 20' apart or from existing parkway trees. Trees shall not be planted closer than 10' to alleys, fire hydrants, utility poles, water valves or gas service lines. Trees shall not be closer than 10' from private driveways.

On corner lots, trees must not be planted in the parkway within 30' of the intersection of the corner property lines adjoining the street right-of way. This is to avoid sight distance problems at intersections. Typically, the distance from the curb line of the intersecting streets to the first tree is 45'.

Trees will not be permitted on residential parkways where there is less than 5' between the sidewalk and the curb, or edge of pavement; or less than 14' between the property line and curb or edge of pavement where there is no sidewalk.

Trees will normally be centered in the parkway between the curb and the sidewalk.

Tree varieties available under this program cannot be planted under overhead utility wires because mature plant height would be in conflict with utility wires. The only exceptions are utility approved trees.

## 4. Recommended Large Trees (50' or taller)

### **Sugar Maple - *Acer saccharum***

**DESCRIPTION:** 60' tall x 40' wide. Dense, upright-oval to rounded crown. Dark green leaves changing to brilliant yellow or orange-red in the fall. **CULTURE:** Likes well-drained, moist soils. Does poorly in compacted soil with limited root space. Full sun to partial shade. Intolerant of salts. Native to Illinois. **LANDSCAPE USE:** Excellent shade tree. Used in parks, golf courses and as a street tree. (Black Maple is a midwestern version of Sugar Maple better adapted to our region.)



### **Black Maple - *Acer nigrum***

**DESCRIPTION:** 60' tall x 40' wide. Dense, upright-oval to rounded crown. Dark green leaves changing to brilliant yellow or orange-red in the fall. **CULTURE:** Likes well-drained, moist soils. Does poorly in compacted soil with limited root space. Full sun to partial shade. Intolerant of salts. Native to Illinois. **LANDSCAPE USE:** Excellent shade tree. Used in parks, golf courses and as a street tree. (Black Maple is a midwestern version of Sugar Maple better adapted to our region.)



### **Sawtooth Oak - *Quercus accutissima***

**DESCRIPTION:** 55' tall x 50' wide at maturity. Pyramidal in youth, becoming oval and rounded with age. Dark green leaves are oblong with bristle-like teeth and turn yellow to golden brown in fall. **CULTURE:** Medium to fast growth rate. Easy to transplant and adaptable to many soil types except alkaline. Acorns are popular with wildlife. **LANDSCAPE USE:** Good specimen tree for large lawns, parks, and parkway trees.



### **White Oak - *Quercus alba***

**DESCRIPTION:** 65' tall x 65' wide. Pyramidal when young, broad rounded at maturity. Dark green leaves turn brown to rich red to wine color in fall. **CULTURE:** Slow to medium growth. Prefers moist, well-drained acidic soils. Native to Illinois and is the state tree. **LANDSCAPE USE:** Large areas are best for this tree. It is used along streets and in parks.



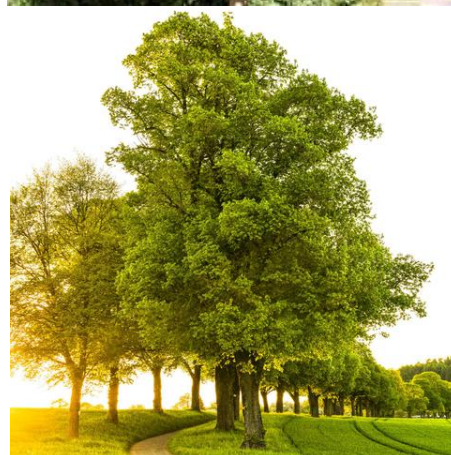
### **Swamp White Oak - *Quercus bicolor***

**DESCRIPTION:** 60' tall x 60' wide. Broad, open, round topped crown. Native to Illinois and adapted to alkaline soil and poorly-drained areas. One of the best oak trees for urban conditions. Yellow/brown fall color. **CULTURE:** Medium growth rate. Tolerates drought, salt and soil compaction better than other oaks. **LANDSCAPE USE:** Requires ample space. Useful for large park-like areas and to reestablish native stands of oaks. Also planted as street trees.



### **Bur Oak - *Quercus macrocarpa***

**DESCRIPTION:** 80' tall x 60' wide. A very large, broad and spreading native tree with a very stout, coarse and grand stature. Yellow/brown leaves in fall. **CULTURE:** A sturdy and durable tree with a long life that tolerates urban stresses well. Growth is slow at first and then medium. **LANDSCAPE USE:** Requires spacious grounds for room to grow. Used in parks, large estate grounds and as a street tree.



### **Chinkapin Oak - *Quercus muhlenbergii***

**DESCRIPTION:** 55' tall x 50' wide at maturity. Dark yellowish green leaves in the summer turning yellow to orange brown in the fall. Somewhat round habit when young becomes more open and rounded with age. **CULTURE:** Medium growth rate. Somewhat difficult to transplant and prefers rich bottomland soils but is also found on dry limestone outcroppings. Native to Illinois. **LANDSCAPE USE:** Beautiful tree in old age. Great tree for parks and parkway.





**Red Oak - *Quercus rubra***

DESCRIPTION: 60' tall x 60' wide at maturity. A stately native tree. Pink to reddish leaves unfold in the spring. Foliage is dark green in summer. Excellent red to brown color in fall. Bark is grey with streaks of silver. CULTURE: Fast growth rate. Transplants readily in spring. Tolerates urban conditions. Prefers well-drained acidic soils. LANDSCAPE USE: Sturdy tree used in lawns and parks.



**Red Maple - *Acer rubrum***

DESCRIPTION: 50' tall x 40' wide. Oval to round crown with smooth gray bark. Red flowers in very early spring. Bright green leaves develop beautiful fall colors ranging from yellow to orange to red. CULTURE: Best in full sun. Requires well-drained soil with ample moisture. Develops chlorosis if grown in highly alkaline soil. Native to Illinois. LANDSCAPE USE: Good tree for lawn, park or street. Many cultivars are available



**American Beech - *Fagus grandifolia***

DESCRIPTION: 50' tall x 40' wide. Usually has a short trunk and wide spreading crown. Dark green leaves turn golden bronze in fall. Smooth grey bark. CULTURE: Slow growth rate. Prefers moist, well-drained acidic soil. Will not tolerate wet or compact soil. Native to Illinois. LANDSCAPE USE: Best in large areas like parks or wide parkways.



## 5. Recommended Mid-Sized Trees (30' to 50')

### **Black Tupelo - *Nyssa sylvatica***

**DESCRIPTION:** 40' tall x 25' wide. Pyramidal when young, spreading to an irregular rounded crown. Dark green leaves change to vivid yellow, orange, scarlet and then purple colors in the fall. **CULTURE:** Slow growth. Prefers moist, well-drained acidic soil. Full sun to part shade in wind-sheltered locations. Native to Illinois. **LANDSCAPE USE:** One of the most consistent native trees for fall color. Excellent as a specimen and street tree.



### **Ironwood - *Ostrya virginiana***

**DESCRIPTION:** 35' tall x 25' wide. A very graceful, medium-sized tree that is pyramidal in youth. Dark green leaves turn yellow in fall. **CULTURE:** Slow growing. Transplant in spring. Prefers rich, moist, well-drained soil. Native to Illinois. **LANDSCAPE USE:** Useful in naturalized settings and as a small- to medium-size parkway tree for narrow spaces.



## 6. Recommended Small Trees (under 30')

### **Serviceberry - *Amelanchier species***

**DESCRIPTION:** 20' tall x 15' wide. A very ornamental and attractive small tree or multi-stemmed shrub. Has white flowers in spring and green foliage in summer which turns orange-red in fall. Also has small fruits which wildlife enjoy. **CULTURE:** Medium growth rate. Prefers rich soil and sheltered sites. Does well in shade. Native to Illinois. **LANDSCAPE USE:** Attractive for all seasons as a specimen tree, in mass plantings or in naturalized settings. Can be used under power lines.



**American Hornbeam - *Carpinus caroliniana***

DESCRIPTION: 25' tall x 25' wide. Rounded to broad spreading shape with smooth gray bark. Dark green leaves turn red-orange in fall. CULTURE: Slow growth rate. Best in moist soils, but tolerates both wet and dry sites. Prefers slightly acidic soils and is somewhat difficult to transplant. Native to Illinois as an understory tree in the forest, preferring dappled shade. LANDSCAPE USE: Best in naturalized settings and adaptable to many urban conditions. Can be used under utility lines in the parkway



**Redbud - *Cersis canadensis***

DESCRIPTION: 25' tall x 25' wide at maturity. Can be single stem tree or multistem shrub. A very attractive, native tree with small purple flowers which cover its branches in spring. Fall color is yellow. CULTURE: Medium growth rate. Transplant in spring. Adaptable to sunny or shady conditions. Some disease problems limit its longevity. LANDSCAPE USE: Excellent in naturalized settings and can be used under power lines.



**Dogwood - *Cornus species***

DESCRIPTION: 20' tall x 20' wide. Many species are available for this area. Dark green leaves turn a reddish purple. Green-yellow to yellow-white flowers. CULTURE: Slow to medium growth. Moist, well-drained soil. Sun to partial shade. Some species are native to Illinois. LANDSCAPE USE: Small ornamental specimen. Used in naturalized areas, borders and under utility lines.



**Common Witchhazel - *Hamamelis virginiana***

DESCRIPTION: 25' tall x 10' wide. Small tree with spreading rounded branching. Yellow fragrant flowers in late fall. Green leaves turn yellow in fall. CULTURE: Medium growth rate. Prefers moist soil. Somewhat tolerant of urban conditions. Full sun or shade. Avoid very dry sites. Native to Illinois. LANDSCAPE USE: For naturalized locations, borders and for under utility lines.





### **Ornamental Crab Apple - *Malus species***

**DESCRIPTION:** Hundreds of varieties exist. Some are under 10' tall, while others are over 35'. Each cultivar has been selected for attractive flowers, fruit, growth habit and disease resistance. Flower displays are beautiful and come in many different colors. Fruit is small. **CULTURES:** Certain varieties are less susceptible to apple scab, fire blight and rust diseases. Fairly fast growers and prefer full sun. **LANDSCAPE USE:** Planted as specimen trees and can be used for mass plantings in large areas. Appropriate for use under power lines.



### **Magnolia - *Magnolia species***

**DESCRIPTION:** Magnolias come in many shapes and sizes. (For this guide, we are referring to several of the smaller varieties such as 'Stellata' which are adapted for use under power lines.) Noted for their large attractive and fragrant flowers, which vary from white to dark purple. 'Stellata' grows to 15' tall x 15' wide. **CULTURE:** Slow to medium growth. Flower buds are sometimes damaged by late frost. Should be planted in sheltered locations. Prefers rich, well-drained and slightly acidic soil. **LANDSCAPE USE:** Common as an accent plant around buildings and gardens. Used under utility lines.



## 7. Trees to Avoid Planting

Alder (invasive)  
 Ash (widely overplanted in our community and Emerald Ash Borer)  
 European White Birch (borers)  
 Grey Birch (borers)  
 Paper Birch (borers)  
 Buckthorn (extremely aggressive)  
 Butternut (canker disease)  
 Black Cherry (borers, black knot disease)  
 Choke Cherry (black knot disease)  
 European Bird Cherry (borers, black knot disease)  
 Pin Cherry (borers)  
 Sweet Cherry (borers)  
 American Chestnut (chestnut blight disease) \*  
 American Elm (Dutch elm disease) \*  
 Red Elm (Dutch elm disease)  
 Rock Elm (Dutch elm disease)  
 Siberian Elm (brittle wood, elm leaf beetle)  
 Black Locust (borers)  
 Amur Maple (invasive)  
 Boxelder Maple (brittle wood, boxelder bugs)  
 Norway Maple (invasive)\*\*  
 American Mountain ash (borers, fire blight disease)  
 European Mountain ash (borers, fire blight disease)  
 White Mulberry (fruit)  
 Callery Pear (invasive)  
 Royal Paulownia (extremely aggressive)  
 Scotch Pine (pine wilt disease)  
 Cottonwood Poplar (brittle wood, cottony seed)  
 Lombardy Poplar (canker disease)  
 White Poplar (suckers)  
 Russian-olive (canker disease)  
 Tree of Heaven (brittle wood)

\* Both the American Chestnut and the American Elm should be re-evaluated in the future depending on successful experiments with species hybridization (which will theoretically reduce or remove the potential for disease)

\*\* Though we have multiple Norway Maples currently planted around Oregon, it is not recommended that more be planted, due to their status as an aggressive and invasive species.

## 8. Local Nurseries

Hidden Timber Gardens - Chana, IL (815) 751-4162 <https://www.hiddentimbergardens.com/>

Anne's Garden Center - Dixon, IL (815) 288-6060 <https://www.annesgc.com/>

Meridian Nursery - Rockford, IL (815) 965-1239 <https://meridiannursery.com/>

McCormick's Nursery & Garden Center – Sterling, IL (815) 626-4422  
<https://www.facebook.com/McCormicks-Nursery-Garden-Center-144002025666281/>

Wasco Nursery & Garden Center - St. Charles, IL (630) 584-4424  
<https://www.wasconursery.com/>

## 9. References

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<https://northaurora.org/departments/public-works/parkway-trees.aspx>

“Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*).” *NPS.GOV*, 11 Nov, 2010.  
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<https://www.wheaton.il.us/DocumentCenter/View/575/Parkway-Tree-Planting-Standards-PDF>

“Parkway Trees - Planting by Homeowners.” City of Naperville, Feb. 2016,  
<https://www.naperville.il.us/residents/our-urban-forest/>

“Table 1: City of Aurora Approved Street Tree Species List.” City of Aurora, Sept. 2017,  
<https://www.aurora-il.org/DocumentCenter/View/4488/City-Approved-Street-Tree-Species-List-PDF>