STREET TREE GUIDE

prepared by the Hudson Conservation Advisory Council

Selecting the right tree:

Below is a Street Tree Selection List of varieties recommended for planting along Hudson's streets. These varieties are known to do well in urban locations. They have deep root structures, so are less likely to break or heave sidewalks. They also tend to be pedestrian-friendly, since they are not low-branching or weeping in form. In general, native species are favored on the list, because they are less likely to become infected with a disease or attacked by invasive pests and are typically not invasive. Invasive species are detrimental to our local ecosystem and should never be planted.

To select an appropriate tree from the list, you should consider these factors:

- Trees for streets with heavy pedestrian traffic should have a larger trunk diameter, so as not to be easily injured by passersby. On less trafficked streets, smaller-diameter trees can be planted with less risk of damage.
- The Street Tree Selection List organizes tree species with their location and context in mind. For example, is the site in a commercial or residential area? How wide are the street, sidewalk and building setback? Are there overhead utility lines?
- Are there existing street trees near where you want to plant? Selecting a tree type with similar growth characteristics, like mature height, form, and leaf texture will help create a pleasing and consistent streetscape.
- It's best to choose a tree type different from nearby existing street trees, so that an invasive pest or disease cannot decimate all the trees along your street.
- Trees planted in a sidewalk face much harsher conditions than those planted in a yard. Therefore, the highest quality of nursery stock should be selected. When you select a tree, ensure that roots are not below the soil level; and that the roots are not girdled (shallow roots wrapping around the rootball and cutting into the trunk). The tree should have an appearance of health and vigor. Trees that appear stressed should never be selected.

Choosing the right location:

- Trees should be located so they do not conflict with underground or above-ground utility lines.
- Trees should be far enough from corners and driveways so they won't interrupt the site lines between drivers and pedestrians.
- The distance between your tree and any existing street trees should be generous enough to allow your tree to grow to its full size without interfering with its neighboring trees.

CITY OF HUDSON RECOMMENDED STREET TREE LIST

TREE SPECIES	TREES RECOMMENDED BY LOCATION CONDITION							
BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME (CHARACTERISTIC*) N (native species) D (drought tolerant) S (salt tolerant) F (drops fruit or nuts)	WARREN STREET	MINIMAL BUILDING SETBACK (Under 5')	GENEROUS BUILDING SETBACK (Over 5')	SIDEWALK WITH OVERHEAD UTILITIES	SIDEWALK WITH NO OVERHEAD UTILITIES	WIDE SIDEWALK (5' Wide or More)	NARROW SIDEWALK (Under 5' Wide)	GROWTH S (slow) M (med) F (fast)
Acer rubrum / Red Maple (N)	X		X		X	X		M
Var. 'Bowhall' or 'Red Sunset'								
Aesculus octandra / Yellow Buckeye (N)			X		X	X		M
Amelanchier canadensis / Serviceberry (N, F)		X		X			X	M
(Single stem only)								
Carpinus betulus / European Hornbeam (D)	X	X			X		X	M
Var. 'Fastigiata'								
Celtis occidentalis / Common Hackberry (N, D, E)			X		X	X		M-F
Cladrastis kentukea / American Yellowwood (N)			X		X	X		M
Crataegus cus-galli / Thornless Hawthorn (N, S, D, F)		X		X		X		S-M
Var. 'Crusader'								
Crataegus viridis / Winter King Hawthorn (N, S, D, F)		X		X		X		S-M
Var. 'Winter King'								
Ginkgo biloba / Ginkgo (S, D)	X	X	X		X	X	X	S
(Male trees only)								
Gleditsia triacanthos / Honeylocust (N, S, D, F)	X	X	X		X	X	X	F
Var. inermis (Thornless)								
Gymnocladus dioica / Kentucky Coffee Tree (N, D, F)			X		X	X		M
Koelreuteria paniculata / Goldenrain Tree (S, D, F)	X	X		X		X		M-F
Liquidambar styraciflua / Sweetgum (N, F)			X		X	X		M-F
Liriodendron tulipifera / Tulip Tree (N, F)	X	X	X		X	X		M-F
Nyssa sylvatica / Black Tupelo (N, S, D)	X	X	X		X	X		S-M
Ostrya virginana / American Hophornbeam (N, F)		X			X	X	X	S
Platanus acerfolio / London Planetree (S, D, F)	X	X	X		X	X		M
Platanus occidentalis / American Sycamore (N, S, F)			X		X	X		M-F
Quercus coccinea / Scarlet Oak (N, D, F)			X		X	X		S
Quercus palustris / Pin Oak (N, D, F)			X		X	X		F
Quercus rubra / Red Oak (N, S, D, F)			X		X	X		F
Tilia americana / American Linden (N, F)	X		X		X	X		M-F
Var. 'Redmond'								
Tilia cordata / Little Leaf Linden (F)	X		X		X	X		M-F
Var. 'Glenleven' or 'Greenspire'								
Syringa reticulata / Japanese Tree Lilac (S, D)	X	X		X			X	S
Ulmus Americana / American Elm hybrid(N, S, D)			X		X	X		M-F
Var. 'New Harmony' or 'Valley Forge'								
Zelkova serrata / Japanese Zelkova (S, D)	X	X	X		X	X		M
Var. 'Green Vase' or 'Musashino'								

Planting your tree correctly:

- **Trees need water!** Allow as much pervious (unpaved) surface area around your tree as possible to let rainwater into the soil. The pervious zone may be a square for wide sidewalks, or a rectangle for narrow sidewalks (but keep in mind that City code requires four feet of unobstructed width on a sidewalk. If space permits, and you are planting several trees, a continuous pervious zone between them is ideal. If you will be replacing sidewalk paving, consider using pervious concrete, which will allow rainwater to seep through to your tree's roots.
- **Planting hole preparation:** Ideally, tree planting holes should be twice the diameter of the root ball, though in an urban condition this is rarely possible. When the size of planting hole is limited, the diameter of the hole should still be as wide as feasible, and the soil surrounding the hole should be loosened. The bottom of the hole should be compacted, so the tree does not settle after planting. Never allow the root flare (where the bottom of the trunk meets the roots) to be below the ground level.
- **Proper soil:** Ideally, use structural soil (a mixture of gravel and loam mixed with surrounding soil). This will help avoid soil compaction around the rootball. Detailed information on structural soil can be found here.
- **Protection and Stabilization:** Most trees come "balled and burlapped" and/or in wire baskets. Carefully remove the top 1/2 of the burlap and wire basket. If trees appear to need stabilization, tree stakes can be used as long as stakes are not driven through the rootball. Any wire or cable used to secure the tree must have a rubberized protection so not to cut into the tree.

The First Five Years after planting:

The first five years are most crucial for ensuring that your tree has a lifetime of health. During this period, a young tree needs water, mulch and pruning.

Watering: When there is less than an inch of rain in a week, use ten gallons of water for each inch of trunk diameter at each watering, especially during the first two weeks after planting. Depending on rainfall, use these guidelines for frequency:

- Year one: In the first two weeks after planting, water daily. In the following weeks, water every two or three days.
- Years two and three: water weekly
- Years three to five: gradually taper watering to every other week.

Mulching: Mulch immediately after planting the tree, using either natural shredded hardwood or pea gravel. Mulch should be laid down three inches deep. When using shredded hardwood mulch, mulch should be added every spring.

Pruning: Every spring, prune deadwood and suckering growth (new branches sprouting from the base of the trunk), and selectively prune to begin shaping the tree's crown.

Further detailed information about planting and maintenance of your tree can be found here.

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