

Benefits of Planting Trees

- Trees increase property values.
- Trees act as natural air conditioners.
- Trees provide beauty.
- Trees add color to the landscape.
- Trees supply oxygen.
- Trees cut down on noise pollution.
- Trees help control erosion.
- Trees absorb carbon dioxide.
- Trees provide homes to wildlife.



The **Columbus Tree Board** meets several times a year and Board Members serve 3-year terms. For a schedule or agenda of the next Tree Board meeting, contact City Hall at 402-562-4232.

Planting Street Trees

Street trees may be planted in the boulevard where there is eight (8) feet or more between the edge of the sidewalk, and the curb or the street. Street trees shall be planted no closer than 4 feet from the sidewalk, driveway, or street. It is suggested that private trees should not be planted any closer than four (4) feet from a private drive or sidewalk. As the tree grows, its roots may push up the sidewalk or drive.

No street tree shall be planted closer than 30 feet from any street corner, measured from the point of the nearest intersection of curbs or curb lines.

No street tree shall be planted closer than 25 feet from another street tree. No street tree shall be planted closer than 10 feet from any hydrant.

Proper Tree Location

It's important to select the right tree for the right location. Check utilities (overhead and underground), vision obstructions, sidewalks, buildings, and other plants. Communicate this information to your local nursery so they can help you select the proper specimen for your site.

Note: Never plant any tree near overhead or underground power lines.

For More Information

City Hall

Ordinances / Registration.... 402-562-4224

Street Department

City Right-Of-Way Trees..... 402-562-4253

Loup Power District

Trees Around Utilities..... 402-564-4129

UNL Extension – Platte County

Planting / Maintenance..... 402-563-4901

Park Department

Tree Donations / Care..... 402-562-4271

Diggers Hotline

Call before you dig..... 1-800-331-5666

Hiring Professionals

Anyone engaged in the business or occupation of pruning, treating, or removing trees in the city of Columbus, must be registered with the City Clerk's Office at City Hall. Proof of Insurance is required for registration. **Before you hire anyone to do tree work for you, verify their city registration by calling City Hall at 402-562-4224.**

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What you need to know about trees in Columbus



Permits • Planting • Removal

Street Trees • Hiring Workers

Desirable Species to Plant

Trees On City Right-of-Way ('Street Trees ')

Removal – The Street Department is responsible for the removal of dead, unsound, or terminally diseased trees in city right-of-way. If you have a tree of this nature in this area, please call the Street Department to request a free inspection. If the Street Tree is healthy, a permit is required to remove it, and a tree must be planted in the vicinity as a replacement, or a fee paid to the City of Columbus so that a tree can be planted on public land somewhere else within the city limits (parks, golf courses, cemeteries). These permits can be obtained from the Street Department.

Pruning – Pruning of Street Trees is the responsibility of the homeowner; except for removal of limbs to allow for vehicle traffic, broken limbs hanging in trees, limbs that obstruct traffic signs, or in utility lines. If you have noticed any of these problems in city right-of-way trees, call the Street Department. The utility company will trim any trees within or in close proximity to utility lines. Branches hanging over the sidewalk must be trimmed at least eight feet off the ground and this is the responsibility of the property owner.

Planting – A permit from the Street Department is required to plant trees on city right-of-way land. The Street Department will inspect the site for any restrictions, at no charge.



Tree Selection

A goal of the city is to diversify tree selection so disease and insects do not affect a large proportion of Columbus' tree population.

By City Ordinance § 96.02 (B)

Cottonwood (except seedless), Pin Oak, Silver Maple, Siberian Elm, Black Locust, Hawthorn, or White Poplar, cannot be planted on city right-of-way. It is suggested that they not be planted anywhere within the city limits.

OVERSTORY TREES:

Most Desirable

Scarlet Oak
River Birch
Black Cherry
Autumn Gold Ginkgo
American Linden
Littleleaf Linden
Norway Maple
Sugar Maple
Red Oak
Bur Oak
Swamp White Oak
White Oak

Desirable

Common Alder
Hackberry
Honeylocust
Red Maple
Black Walnut
Ohio Buckeye
American Elm
Horsechestnut
Kentucky Coffeetree
American Sycamore
Baldcypress
Lacebark Elm

Least Desirable

Northern Catalpa
Seedless Cottonwood
London Planetree
European White Birch
Quaking Aspen
Boxelder
Slippery Elm
Mulberry
Lombardy Poplar
Tree-of-Heaven
Weeping Willow

UNDERSTORY TREES:

Most Desirable

Cork Tree
Amur Maple
Aristocrat Pear
Chanticleer Pear
Redspire Pear
Shineyleaf Yellowhorn
Goldenrain Tree
Winter King Hawthorn

Desirable

Flowering Crabapple
Hop Hornbeam
Japanese Tree Lilac
Saucer Magnolia
Star Magnolia
Japanese Pagoda Tree
European Birdcherry
European Mountain Ash
Purpleleaf Plum

Least Desirable

Osage Orange
Russian-olive
Wafer Ash
Eastern Redbud

EVERGREEN TREES:

Most Desirable

Concolor Fir
Douglas Fir
Limber Pine
Eastern White Pine
Colorado Blue Spruce

Desirable

Jack Pine
Lacebark Pine
Austrian Pine
Larch
Norway Spruce
Black Hills Spruce

Least Desirable

Eastern Red Cedar

