

# Harrisburg Street Trees

## Street Tree Planting

Trees provide beauty, shade, soil stability, noise buffering, visual screening, and improved air quality by producing oxygen and reducing carbon dioxide. Street trees shall therefore be required in all planter strips that are at least 48 inches wide. If one or more required street trees has not been planted, no building permit shall be issued involving the adjoining property unless an amount that has been set by City Council resolution has been paid into a Street Tree Fund for the planting and maintenance of said trees.

A “street tree” shall be considered any tree that is planted or growing within a public right-of-way. A “planter strip” is an area between a curb and a sidewalk, within a public right-of-way, where trees can be planted.

No trees shall be planted within a public right-of-way except those on the approved tree list, unless authorized by the Community Development Superintendent.

No street trees shall be planted within five feet of any underground water line, sanitary sewer line, natural gas line, or transmission line, nor within:

- 35 feet from a street corner, as measured from the point of nearest intersecting curbs,
- 20 feet from a streetlight,
- Eight feet from a fire hydrant, manhole, alley or private driveway, or
- Five feet of a water meter or utility box.

Unless affected by this or other city ordinances, and subject to the responsibility of developers in subdivisions, street trees shall be planted by adjoining property owners in all planter strips that are four feet in width or larger:

- At least 30 feet apart if they are on the City’s approved street tree list for a five foot or less planter strip or for trees permitted under overhead power wires,
- At least 40 feet apart if they are on the City’s approved street tree list for a six foot planter strip, or
- At least 50 feet apart if they are on the City’s approved street tree list for an eight foot or larger planter strip.

All street trees shall be healthy grown nursery stock, be a minimum of 1-1/2 inch caliper at 6 inches above ground level, and be at least 8 feet high. All trees shall have a single straight trunk, a well developed leader with tops and roots characteristic of the species cultivar or variety. All trees must be free of insects, diseases, mechanical injury, and other objectionable features when planted. Bare root stock shall leave a root system sufficient to insure survival and healthy growth, and shall only be planted during the months of November, December or January. Balled and burlap stock shall leave a natural sound ball sufficient to insure survival and healthy growth. All trees that are grafted are to be grafted at a minimum height of 7 inches above ground level.

## Approved and Prohibited Trees

1. **No street trees shall be planted in planter strips that are less than four feet in width.**
2. **Street trees for four foot planters shall be approved by the Community Development Superintendent.**
3. **Street trees permitted in a minimum five foot planter strip where no overhead utility wire conditions exist:**
  - Ash, Flowering - Fraxinus ornus
  - Ash, Globe European - Fraxinus excelsior 'Globosum'
  - Ash, Golden Desert - Fraxinus oxycarpa aureafolia 'Golden Desert'
  - Cherry, Columnar Sargent Flowering - Prunus sargentii 'Columnaris'
  - Cherry, Shubert Select Flowering or Canada Red Chokecherry - Prunus virginiana 'Shubert'
  - Cherry, Yoshino Flowering - Prunus x yedoensis
  - Chokecherry, Red Canada or Shubert Select Flowering - Prunus virginiana 'Shubert'
  - Dogwood, Cornelian Cherry - Cornus mas
  - Dogwood, Eastern - Cornus florida
  - Dogwood, Kousa - Cornus kousa chinesis
  - Ginkgo, Mayfield - Ginkgobiloba 'Mayfield'
  - Glorybower, Harlequin - Clerodendrum trichotomum
  - Goldenrain - Koelreuteria paniculata
  - Goldenrain, Columnar - Koelreuteria paniculata 'Fastigiata'
  - Hawthorn, Columnar - Crataegus monogyna 'Stricta'
  - Hawthorn, Lavalley - Crataegus x lavalleyi
  - Hawthorn, Washington - Crataegus phaenopyrum
  - Hornbeam, Pyramidal European - Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata'
  - Lilac, Japanese Tree - Syringa reticulata
  - Maple, Crimson Sentry Norway - Acer platanoides 'Crimson Sentry'
  - Maple, Doric Red - Acer rubrum 'Doric'
  - Maple, English Hedge - Acer campestre
  - Maple, Flame Amur - Acer ginnala 'Flame'
  - Maple, Globe Norway - Acer platanoides 'Globosum'
  - Maple, Norwegian Sunset - Acer truncatum x A. platanoides 'Keithsform'
  - Maple, Pacific Sunset - Acer truncatum x A. platanoides 'Warrenred'
  - Maple, Paperbark - Acer griseum
  - Maple, Tatarian - Acer tataricum
  - Oak, Skyrocket English - Quercus robur 'Fastigiata'
  - Olive, Russian - Elaeagnus angustifolia
  - Pear, Aristocrat Flowering - Pyrus calleryana 'Aristocrat'
  - Pear, Autumn Blaze Flowering - Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer'
  - Pear, Capital Flowering - Pyrus calleryana 'Capital'
  - Pear, Chanticleer Flowering - Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer'
  - Pear, Cleveland Select Flowering - Pyrus calleryana 'Cleveland Select'
  - Pear, Princess Flowering - Pyrus calleryana 'Princess'
  - Pear, Redspire Flowering - Pyrus calleryana 'Princess'
  - Pear, Trinity Flowering - Pyrus calleryana 'Trinity'
  - Plum, Krauter's Vesuvius Flowering - Prunus cerasifera 'Krauter's Vesuvius'
  - Plum, Newport Flowering - Prunus cerasifera 'Newport'
  - Plum, Thundercloud Flowering - Prunus cerasifera 'Thundercloud'
  - Redbud, Eastern - Cercis canadensis

- Serviceberry, Cumulus - Amelanchier laevis x grandiflora 'Cumulus'
- Serviceberry, Pyramidal Shadblow - Amelanchier canadensis 'Pyramidalis'
- Serviceberry, Robin Hill Apple - Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Robin Hill'
- Snowbell, Japanese - Styra japonica

**4. Street trees permitted in a minimum six foot planter strip with no overhead utility wire conditions:**

- Ash, Flame - Fraxinus osycarpa 'Flame'
- Ash, Raywood - Fraxinus osycarpa 'Raywood'
- Beech, Tricolor European - Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea Tricolor'
- Ginkgo - Ginkgo biloba
- Ginkgo, Autumn Gold - Ginkgo biloba 'Autumn Gold'
- Ginkgo, Fairmont - Ginkgo biloba 'Fairmont'
- Ginkgo, Princeton Sentry - Ginkgo biloba 'Princeton Sentry'
- Ginkgo, Shangri-la - Ginkgo biloba 'Shangri-la'
- Honeylocust, Skyline - Gleditsia triacanthos 'Skyline'
- Horsechestnut, Briotii Red - Aesculus x carnea 'Briotii'
- Horsechestnut, Ruby Red - Aesculus x carnea 'Ruby Red'
- Katsura - Cericidiphyllum Japonicum
- Linden, DeGroot Littleleaf - Tilia cordata 'DeGroot'
- Linden, Glenleven Littleleaf - Tilia cordata 'Glenleven'
- Linden, Redmond Crimean - Tilia cordata 'Greenspire'
- Locust, Globe - Robinia pseudocacia 'Umbraculifera'
- Magnolia, Southern - Magnolia grandiflora
- Maple, Armstrong - Acer x freemanii 'Armstrong'
- Maple, Bowhall Red - Acer rubrum 'Bowhall'
- Maple, Cavalier Norway - Acer platanoides 'Cavalier'
- Maple, Columnar Norway - Acer platanoides 'Columnare'
- Maple, Crimson King Norway - Acer platanoides 'Crimson King'
- Maple, Green Mountain Sugar - Acer saccharum 'Green Mountain'
- Maple, Greencolumn Black - Acer nigrum 'Greencolumn'
- Maple, Karpick Red - Acer rubrum 'Karpick'
- Maple, Legacy Sugar - Acer saccharum 'Legacy'
- Maple, Parkway Norway - Acer platanoides 'Columnarbroad'
- Maple, Scanlon Red - Acer rubrum 'Scanlon'
- Oak, Skymaster English -Quercus robur 'Pyramich'
- Pagoda Tree, Regent Japanese - Sophora japonica 'Regent'
- Stewartia, Japanese - Stewartia pseudocamellia
- Tuliptree, Arnold - Liriodendron tulipifera 'Fastigiatum'

**5. Street trees permitted in a minimum eight foot planter strip with no overhead utility wire conditions:**

- Ash, Autumn Applause White - Fraxinus americana 'Autumn Applause'
- Ash, Autumn Purple White - Fraxinus americana 'Autumn Purple'
- Ash, Bergeson Green - Fraxinus pennsylvanica 'Bergeson'
- Ash, Patmore Green - Fraxinus pennsylvanica 'Patmore'
- Ash, Summit Green - Fraxinus pennsylvanica 'Summit'
- Birch, Jacquemontii - Betula jacquemontii
- Birch, River - Betula nigra
- Blackgum, Sourgum, or Black Tupelo - Nyssa sylvatica

- Coffeetree, Kentucky - *Gymnocladus dioicus*
- Cork Tree, Amur - *Phellodendron amurense*
- Elm, Chinese or Lacebark Elm - *Ulmus parvifolia*
- Elm, Homestead - *Ulmus 'Homestead'*
- Elm, Lacebark or Chinese Elm - *Ulmus parvifolia*
- Filbert, Turkish - *Corylus*
- Hackberry, Common - *Celtis occidentalis*
- Hophornbeam, American - *Ostrya virginiana*
- Linden, Green Mountain Silver - *Tilia tomentosa 'Green Mountain'*
- Linden, Redmond - *Tilia americana 'Redmond'*
- Linden, Redmond Crimean - *Tilia euchlora 'Redmond'*
- Linden, Sterling Silver - *Tilia tomentosa 'Sterling'*
- Maple, Arrowhead Sugar - *Acer saccharum 'Arrowhead'*
- Maple, Autumn Blaze - *Acer rubrum x A. saccharinum 'Autumn Blaze'*
- Maple, Autumn Flame Red - *Acer rubrum 'Autumn Flame'*
- Maple, Celebration - *Acer x freemanii 'Celzam'*
- Maple, Cleveland Norway - *Acer platanoides 'Cleveland'*
- Maple, Emerald Queen Norway - *Acer platanoides 'Emerald Queen'*
- Maple, October Glory Red - *Acer rubrum 'October Glory'*
- Maple, Red Sunset Red - *Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset'*
- Maple, Schwedleri Norway - *Acer platanoides 'Schwedleri'*
- Maple, Spaethii Sycamore - *Acer pseudoplatanus 'Atropurpureum'*
- Maple, Superform Norway - *Acer platanoides 'Superform'*
- Mulberry, Kingan Fruitless - *Morus alba 'Kingan'*
- Oak, Burr - *Quercus macrocarpa*
- Oak, English - *Quercus robur*
- Oak, Forest Green Hungarian or Italian - *Quercus frainetto 'Schmidt'*
- Oak, Northern Red - *Quercus rubra*
- Oak, Pin - *Quercus palustris*
- Oak, Sawtooth - *Quercus acutissima*
- Oak, Scarlet - *Quercus coccinea*
- Oak, Shingle - *Quercus imbricaria*
- Oak, Shumard - *Quercus shumardii*
- Oak, Swamp White - *Quercus bicolor*
- Oak, Westminster Globe - *Quercus robur 'Michround'*
- Poplar, Yellow or Tuliptree - *Liriodendron tulipifera*
- Rubber Tree, Hardy - *Eucommia ulmoides*
- Sourgum, Black Tupelo, or Blackgum - *Nyssa sylvatica*
- Sweetgum - *Liquidambar styraciflua*
- Sweetgum, Festival - *Liquidambar styraciflua 'Festival'*
- Sweetgum, Golden - *Liquidambar styraciflua aurea 'Golden'*
- Tuliptree or Yellow Poplar - *Liriodendron tulipifera*
- Tupelo, Black, Blackgum or Sourgum - *Nyssa sylvatica*
- Yellow Wood - *Cladrastis kentuckia*
- Zelkova, Green Vase - *Zelkova serrata 'Green Vase'*
- Zelkova, Village Green - *Zelkova serrata 'Village Green'*

**6. Street trees permitted for use under power wires:**

- Ash, Globe-Headed European - *Fraxinus excelsior globosum*
- Ash, Flowering - *Fraxinus ornus*
- Ash, Golden Desert - *Fraxinus oxycarpa aureopolia*

- Berry, Apple Service - Amelanchier
- Berry, Shadblow Service - Amelanchier canadensis
- Cherry, Flowering - 'Mt. fugi' – prunus
- Crabapple, Flowering - 'Spring snow' or 'indian magic' - malus
- Dogwood, Flowering - Cornus florida
- Dogwood, Japanese - Cornus kousa
- Glorybower - Clerodendrum trichotomum
- Golden Rain Tree - Koelreuteria paniculata
- Golden Chain Tree - Laburnum waterii
- Hawthorn, Washington - Crataegue phaenopyrum
- Hawthorn, Lauelle - Crataegus x lavallei
- Maple, Amur - Acer ginnala
- Maple, Hedge - Acer campstre
- Maple, Paper Bark - Acer griseum
- Maple, Trident – Acer buergerianum
- Pear, Flowering - 'Cleveland select' - pyrus calleryana
- Redbud, Eastern - Cercis canadensis
- Snowball, Japanese - Styrax japonia

#### 7. Prohibited street trees

- Alder, Red – Alnus rubra. Short lifespan. Favorite of tent caterpillars.
- Bamboo
- Big leaf maple – Acer macrophyllum
- Birch, White or Weeping White – Betula alba. Attacked by aphids more than most trees.
- Box elder – Acer negundo.
- Catalpa. Short lived. Brittle. Roots are bad on sidewalks.
- Conifers unless specifically approved by the Community Development Superintendent
- Cottonwood - Populus
- Fruit or nut trees (other than ornamental)
- Hawthorn, Paul's Scarlet and others – Crataegus oxyacantha. Heavily attacked by aphids.
- Holly – Ilex spp.
- Honey locust – Gleditsia triacanthos. Thorny. Choose thornless varieties.
- London Plane or Sycamore – Platanus spp. Destructive roots.
- Maple, Sugar – Acer saccharinum. Breaks up badly in storms.
- Poplars – Populus
- Silk tree – Albizza julibrissin
- Silver maple – Acer saccharinum
- Tree of Heaven - Ailanthus
- Willows - Salix

#### Street Tree Maintenance

It shall be the responsibility of the person in charge of the adjoining property to maintain street trees or other vegetation in the public right-of-way, except when the involved right-of-way is along the back of the property and the person in charge of the adjoining property has no direct access to the right-of-way along the back of their property. For

these purposes, “person in charge” includes the property owner, tenant, bailee, property manager, or other person who exercises control over the property, all of whom shall be jointly and severally responsible. This requirement shall not limit the City’s right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees or other vegetation within any public right-of-way.

Maintenance shall include:

- Watering,
- Fertilizing,
- Pruning,
- Treatment for insects or disease as needed,
- Removal of dangerous limbs, and
- Removal of dead, dieing, unsafe or nuisance trees.

The topping of trees shall be prohibited. Topping is defined as the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs within the tree’s crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions where other pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this prohibition at the determination of the Community Development Superintendent.

All stumps of street trees shall be removed below the surface of the ground so that the top of the stump shall not project above the surface.

### **Protection of Trees**

It shall be unlawful to destroy or injure any street tree, or to remove any street tree without a permit from the city.

It shall be unlawful to attach or keep attached to any street tree, any rope, wire, chain, sign or other device, except as a support for the tree.

During any construction, alteration or excavation activity, adequate steps shall be taken to protect street trees. The property owner and contractor shall be jointly and severally responsible for any damage that occurs to a street tree, in addition to being in violation of this ordinance.

Excavations shall not occur within six feet of any street tree without the approval of the Community Development Superintendent.

All building materials, debris and stored equipment shall be kept at least ten feet from any street tree.