



City of Takoma Park - Public Works Department **Approved Tree Species List**

Approved Tree Species List

The Public Works Department is excited to announce the completion of a new and improved 'Approved Tree Species List' to guide tree-planting efforts in the City. The primary function of the list is to specify which trees are approved for planting by the City and for replacement plantings required for a resident to receive Tree Removal Permits. We also hope that this list can serve as a resource for all residents interested in planting trees.

The list documents a broad selection of tree species native to Maryland and some found more broadly in the Eastern United States that are well-suited for planting in Takoma Park. With this list, we hope that residents will become more aware of native species options suited for a variety of planting sites and design goals. If your site is wet or dry, shady or sunny, and your design goals are to provide shade, privacy, flowers, food, or wildlife benefits, then the list should have a tree for you.

While the list provides a number of helpful traits about each tree species, for the sake of brevity, it does not attempt to cover every detail. Some additional traits you may want to consider may include the tree's expected lifespan, its growth rate, its rooting habit, and what specific services it may provide to native wildlife. Additionally, species selection must occur along with a holistic approach to designing your landscape. How will the quality of the soil be improved or maintained?

How might potential future landscape or construction work impact the roots of the tree? What activities near the tree might lead to increased soil compaction? It can be valuable to work with local extension agents, landscape designers, and arborists to plant trees in your landscape appropriately. With increasing urbanization and development, our natural forest communities are experiencing elevated pressure. However, we can design and nurture a landscape that integrates the needs of a healthy and resilient urban forest with our built environment. To achieve this goal, we must plant trees to replenish and maintain the forest canopy. The forest is the ecological heritage of the landscape of Takoma Park, and we honor that heritage by planting and nurturing trees. We hope that this species list can be one of the tools in the tool bag for fulfilling these goals.

Please see the '**Tree Permits**' page of the City of Takoma Park website to find the list. The list is currently in draft form and is subject to updates based on comments we receive from the community.