

HOW TO PLANT STREET TREES IN FRONT OF YOUR PROPERTY

Street trees can make urban places like Hudson more beautiful. They also make sidewalks safer and more inviting for pedestrians; add value to adjacent real estate; absorb storm water; purify air; reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions; and provide a sense of well-being and connection to nature. By planting a tree in front of your property, you can not only enjoy these benefits yourself but also make a valuable contribution to our community. **This leaflet explains the steps you need to follow to plant a street tree in Hudson.**

A separate **Street Tree Guide**, prepared by the Hudson Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), is available at the CAC page of the Hudson City website, or [here](#), or in print from the Department of Public Works in City Hall. Those guidelines will help you choose the right tree and location, to avoid future problems like sidewalks being heaved and broken by the tree's roots. The guidelines also explain how to plant a tree properly and maintain it so that it can have a long and healthy life.

What is the process for planting a street tree in Hudson?

- Consider the location and its conditions, and choose an appropriate type of tree. Use the information in the Street Tree Guide.
- **Complete and submit the attached street tree permit.** Trees cannot be planted in the public right of way (that is, the sidewalk) without an approved permit.
- Follow the planting and maintenance practices described in the Street Tree Guide, to ensure that your tree grows to healthy maturity.

What kinds of trees should be planted?

- Trees should be appropriate to the particular conditions where they are planted, such as the width of the street and sidewalk, or the presence of overhead utility lines. Types with deep roots are preferable, to minimize the heaving and breaking of sidewalks. Street trees should be pedestrian friendly and not, for example, have a low-branching or weeping form.
- **A list of recommended species that have these characteristics and are known to thrive in urban conditions included in the Street Tree Guide.**

How should street trees be planted and maintained?

- The Street Tree Guide describes how planting holes and soil should be prepared, and how newly planted trees should be stabilized and physically protected.
- In the Street Tree Guide you'll find suggested best practices for watering, pruning, fertilizing and mulching to ensure healthy growth and longevity

Who is responsible for street trees in Hudson?

Similar to the situation with our sidewalks, responsibility for the costs, planting and maintenance of street trees lies with the owner of the adjacent property. The CAC will review your selection of a type of tree, and the Department of Public Works will review your application to ensure that the tree type and location you have selected are appropriate. The DPW will make a sidewalk cut, if one is needed, free of charge. All other costs and liabilities are yours, as the property owner.

City of Hudson, New York
Department of Public Works
Application for Street Tree Planting Permit

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Proposed location for tree [be specific, like: "10 feet east of fire hydrant in front of 456 Elm St.]

Are you the owner of the property in front of which this tree will be planted? YES _____ NO _____

First and second choice of tree species _____

Proposed dimensions of planting hole or sidewalk cut _____

Please be aware of local law regarding street trees in the public right of way, and who is responsible for what: Hudson's City Charter gives the power to regulate the planting of trees in the public right of way (which includes the sidewalk) to the Commissioner of Public Works. The Commissioner may also determine that a street tree has become unsightly, dangerous, or an impediment, and require the adjacent property owner to address such problems at such property owner's expense. See [C22.22 of the Hudson City Charter](#).

You, as owner of the adjacent property (or a third party donor) will be responsible for the purchase and planting of the tree. You, and any subsequent owner of the adjacent property, are also responsible for the tree's care and maintenance.

Signature _____ Date _____

What happens next?

- Submit this application by email to CAC@cityofhudson.org or by mail to: Hudson CAC, City Hall, 520 Warren Street, Hudson, NY 12534.
- The Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) will evaluate your choice of tree species. The Department of Public Works (DPW) will evaluate the proposed location. The DPW will call in Underground Utility Locate to make sure there will be no conflict with underground power or water lines (this is required by State law). Your application will also be evaluated for consistency with the recommendations in the Street Tree Guide. The CAC and DPW may suggest alternate species and or locations for your tree.
- Once your application is approved, the Department of Public Works will make a sidewalk cut (if needed) and excavate a planting hole up to three feet deep.
- If any utilities need to be relocated, the DPW will coordinate the project between you and the utility provider, but you will be responsible for all costs incurred in moving utilities.
- You can then plant your tree. [If the location of your tree gets heavy foot traffic, the DPW may require you to install a tree grate, for the safety of pedestrians.]

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) Var. 'Bowhall' or 'Red Sunset' | X | | X | | | X | X | | M |
| Aesculus octandra / Yellow Buckeye (N) | | | X | | | X | X | | M |
| Amelanchier canadensis / Serviceberry (N, F) (Single stem only) | | | X | | X | | | X | M |
| Carpinus betulus / European Hornbeam (D) Var. 'Fastigiata' | X | X | | | | X | | X | M |
| 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) Var. 'Crusader' | | | X | | X | | X | | S-M |
| Crataegus viridis / Winter King Hawthorn (N, S, D, F) Var. 'Winter King' | | | X | | X | | X | | S-M |
| Ginkgo biloba / Ginkgo (S, D) (Male trees only) | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | S |
| Gleditsia triacanthos / Honeylocust (N, S, D, F) Var. inermis (Thornless) | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | F |
| 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 virginiana / 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) Var. 'Redmond' | X | | X | | | X | X | | M-F |
| Tilia cordata / Little Leaf Linden (F) Var. 'Glenleven' or 'Greenspire' | X | | X | | | X | X | | M-F |
| Syringa reticulata / Japanese Tree Lilac (S, D) | X | X | | | X | | | X | S |
| Ulmus Americana / American Elm hybrid(N, S, D) Var. 'New Harmony' or 'Valley Forge' | | | | X | | X | X | | M-F |
| Zelkova serrata / Japanese Zelkova (S, D) Var. 'Green Vase' or 'Musashino' | X | X | X | | | X | X | | M |

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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