

City of Erie Urban Forest

Native Trees Recommended for Along Streets

SHORT (10-25 feet tall)

Plant Tree-form, not bush-form

Okay under utility lines

| Common Name | Latin Name | Characteristics | Notes | Height |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|--------|
| Crabapple | <i>Malus species</i> | Fragrant, pink spring flowers; vigorous grower; tends to have suckers | | 10-25' |
| Fringe Tree (Old Man's Beard) | <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> | Large white, wispy, very fragrant flower clusters in spring; prefers full sun; tolerates urban conditions | | 15-20' |
| Hawthorn - Green | <i>Crateagus viridis</i> | Bright red fall berries last into winter, loved by Cedar waxwings; hardy; choose thornless variety | | 25' |
| Hornbeam - American | <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> 'Ascendens' | Prefers moist sites, so mulch well | Plant in spring | 25' |
| Mountain Ash - American | <i>Sorbus americana</i> | Fragrant white, spring flowers; bright orange fruit loved by birds; prefers acid soil and mulch | | 25' |
| Redbud - Eastern | <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | Purple-pink spring flowers, loved by butterflies; heart-shaped leaves | Water during drought, especially in sunny sites | 25' |
| Serviceberry | <i>Amelanchier arborea, A. laevis</i> | White spring flowers; edible berries | Sensitive to salt | 15-25' |
| Smoketree | <i>Cotinus obovatus</i> | Misty, tiny flowers resembling smoke; prefers alkaline soil; very hardy | | 10-20' |
| Winterberry | <i>Ilex verticillata</i> | Deciduous tree holly; red berries on female plants, loved by birds; tolerates wet and flood-prone sites | | 10' |
| Witch Hazel | <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> | Late fall-winter, spicy-scented, spidery flowers; mulch well | Water during droughts | 10-20' |

MEDIUM (25-40 feet tall)

May be planted under utility lines, but may need trimmed over time.

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| Birch - River | <i>Betula nigra</i> | Attractive peeling bark; tolerates flooding & clay soils | Plant single trunk trees, multiple trunks too wide, may split apart | 40' |
| Black Gum (Tupelo) | <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> | Bright fall color; edible, but sour, blue berries, birds love | Plant in spring | 30-50' |
| Buckeye - Ohio | <i>Aesculus glabra</i> | Large, showy clusters of yellow flowers, humming birds love; poisonous fruit, squirrels eat; mulch well | Water during droughts | 20-40' |
| Buckeye - Red | <i>Aesculus pavia</i> | Large, red flowers clusters in spring; prefers cool, moist sites, so mulch well | Plant in spring | 20-40' |
| Hophornbeam (Ironwood) | <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> | Sensitive to salt; tolerates drought and neglect | | 20-40' |
| Maple - Ash-leaved (Box Elder) | <i>Acer negundo</i> | Hardy; fast growing; any soil; prefers full sun with moisture or part-shade | Easily grows from seed | 30-40' |
| Osage Orange | <i>Maclura pomifera</i> 'White Shield' | Fast growing; urban tolerant; large grapefruit-sized fruit; may choose fruitless variety | Plant in spring | 20-40' |
| Yellowwood | <i>Cladrastis kentukea</i> | Long chains of fragrant, white, spring flowers | Plant in spring | 30-40' |

TALL**(40-60 feet tall)****Do not plant under utility lines.**

| Comman Name | Latin Name | Characteristics | Notes | Height |
|-------------------|--|---|---|--------|
| Buckeye - Yellow | <i>Aesculus flava syn. A. octandra</i> | Similar to Ohio Buckeye, but larger in every way; poisonous fruit, eaten by squirrels; bright yellow flowers, loved by hummingbirds | Naturally occurs more southeastern, but grows to USDA zone 3 | 40-50' |
| Catalpa | <i>Catalpa speciosa</i> | Large clusters of white spring flowers; large seed pods; hardy; tolerates salt | | 40-60' |
| Ginkgo | <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> | Edible, fruits have foul odor when ripe, but are sweet and edible; may choose fruitless variety | Once thought to be extinct, old groves found in China & Japan | 45-60' |
| Hackberry | <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> | Hardy; tolerates urban conditions: wet to dry, salt, compaction; prefers full sun; rough corky bark; birds love small berries; butterfly larvae love leaves | May take up to two years to recover from transplanting | 40-50' |
| Locust - Honey | <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> | Full sun; very hardy; urban tolerant: drought, salt, alkaline, compacted soils | Choose thornless, seedless varieties | 35-45' |
| Maple - Red | <i>Acer rubrum</i> | Bright, beautiful fall color; easy to transplant; needs acid soils | | 40-50' |
| Oak - Shingle | <i>Quercus imbricaria</i> | Willow-like leaves; tolerates dry soils and city conditions | Northern version of Willow Oak, north to USDA zone 4 | 40-60' |
| Oak - Swamp White | <i>Quercus bicolor</i> | Sweetest of all acorns, great for wildlife; needs acid soil; tolerant of urban conditions: drought, and salt | Transplant in spring | 50-60' |
| Sweetgum | <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> | Star-shaped leaves; hard, spikey fruit balls (gumballs); prefers acid soils | | 50-60' |

VERY TALL**(60-100 feet tall)****Do not plant under utility lines.**

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| Elm - American Hybrid | <i>Ulmus americana</i> | Adaptable and easy to transplant | Choose disease resistant hybrids | 60-80' |
| Maple - Sugar | <i>Acer saccharum</i> | Bright fall color; easy to transplant; sensitive to salt, drought, soil compaction | | 60-70' |
| Oak - Bur | <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> | Fringed cap acorns, great for wildlife; difficult to transplant; prefers full sun & rich soil, but tolerates soils moist to dry, acid to alkaline | Very massive, can be as wide as it is tall, best for large spaces; transplant in spring | 55-70' |
| Oak - Red | <i>Quercus rubra</i> | Large acorns; fall color; prefers full sun & acid soil; tolerates urban conditions: compaction, salt, pollution | Transplant in spring | 60-75' |
| Sycamore - American | <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> | Grows rapidly, shedding old bark in spring, exposing beautiful, new, white bark; transplants easily | Grows very large | 70-80' |
| Tulip Tree | <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> | Yellow, tulip-shaped, spring flowers; tulip-shaped leaves; tall, straight trunks; prefers rich, well-drained soils | Water during droughts | 70' |

* Trees should be kept 30' from Intersections, 15' from Utility Poles, and 10' from Fire Hydrants.

* Minimum Planting Site Size: Short- 4'x6', 5'x5' Medium- 4'x8', 6'x6' Tall- 5'x10', 6'x8' Very Tall- 5'x12', 8'x8'

* Heights listed are average maximum heights. Because city right-of-ways are harsher environments, trees are often shorter in stature & in life expectancy than when grown in lawns, parks, etc.