

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.		
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.**

Common Name	Latin Name	Characteristics	Notes	Height
Buckeye - Yellow	<i>Aesculus flava</i> syn. <i>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.**

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.