

## **CHAPTER 24: RIGHT-OF-WAY STREET TREE STANDARDS**

### **24.00 Introduction and Goals**

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## 24.00 INTRODUCTION AND GOALS

The goal of this chapter is to promote the health and development of the Urban Forest in the City of Champaign in a manner that increases the value of real property and improves the quality of life in the City.

## 24.01 ADMINISTRATION

- A. All new subdivisions within the City limits and within the 1-1/2 mile extra territorial jurisdiction shall have street trees installed on the right-of-way per the requirements within these standards.
- B. Tree planting will be accomplished at developer cost through one of the following means:
  - 1. Developer installation.
  - 2. City installation: The City will require a payment of \$500.00 per tree to contract for new subdivision planting. (This cost will be subject to change to accommodate future price changes.)
- C. A tree-planting permit obtained from the Public Works Department Forestry Supervisor will be required prior to planting (see Standard Attachment 24.01).

## 24.02 STANDARDS

- A. **Introduction:** The following outlines the permit requirements, standards and procedures for planting trees on the City right-of-way.
- B. **Standards and Procedures:**
  - 1. *Subdivision Planting Standards:*
    - a. Trees shall be planted at least one every 60 ft., with a minimum of one per lot.
    - b. The parkway must be 6 ft. or more in width.
    - c. Trees must be 10 ft. from driveways, alleys and fire hydrants.
    - d. Trees must be 35 ft. from intersection curb line.
    - e. The planting site should be free of overhanging crown growth from trees growing off the right-of-way.
    - f. Trees must be approved species (see Standard Attachment 24.02).
    - g. Trees planted under or next to utility lines must be of species and cultivars whose height at maturity will not interfere with these lines. Large trees planted adjacent to overhead lines should be planted a minimum of 30 ft. from overhead lines.
    - h. Planting trees on the City right-of-way prior to construction will not be permitted with the exception of medians that will not be affected by construction activities. Problems arising from driveway placement and construction disturbances to trees make pre-construction planting a poor choice.

2. *Tree Planting Procedures for all Locations (including Subdivisions):*
  - a. The planting hole should be 24 in. – 36 in. larger in diameter than the diameter of the root ball, and the root balls shall be placed on undisturbed subgrade to prevent settling.
  - b. The root flare, where roots spread at the tree base, should always be at the ground line. Often, nurseries mound soil around the tree base above the root flare. When bailed with burlap, the basal flare is hidden. If the tree is planted with the top of the ball at ground line, the tree will have been planted too deeply.
  - c. The twine holding the burlap around the ball must be cut and the burlap loosened from around the top of the ball. Wire baskets shall be removed from the top one-half of the root ball prior to backfilling.
  - d. The hole should be backfilled and gently tamped so that no air pockets are left around the ball. Backfill soil should not be amended unless planting in building rubble, poor or severely disturbed soils.
  - e. The trunks should be vertical after planting.
  - f. Excess soil should be removed from the site and a 3 in. to 4 in. thick layer of wood chip mulch placed around the base of the tree. Avoid placing wood chip mulch directly in contact with the trunk.
  - g. Trees should be watered at the time of planting and regularly thereafter as needed.
  - h. Staking is not typically recommended; however, when necessary, follow current recommendations of City Forester. Wire in a hose is unacceptable.
  - i. Plants should be pruned after planting only to remove broken or dead branches.
3. *Quality of Trees:*
  - a. All trees must be true to species, variety, and/or cultivar, and each plant must be labeled when delivered.
  - b. All trees must have normal trunks, leaders, tops and branches typical of the species, variety, or cultivar, and exhibit evidence of proper nursery pruning practices.
  - c. All trees must be certified free of insect pests and diseases by the Department of Agriculture, Division of Entomology, State of Illinois.
  - d. All trees must be free of mechanical injuries and not show evidence of recent or previous wounds on the trunk.
  - e. All trees must be nursery grown and must have received proper fertilizing, watering, top and root pruning as is normally needed for that particular kind of tree. Plants must have been grown in nursery conditions for the past two years under soil and climate conditions similar to that of Champaign, Illinois.
  - f. All plants must be balled and burlapped. The twine used to tie the burlap must not be plastic. The balls should be of firm earth from the original soil in which

the tree grew in the nursery. No trees with broken, loose or manufactured balls are acceptable.

g. Trees on the list of approved species must have trunks at least 2 in. in diameter measured 6 in. above the ground, and a soil ball of at least 24 in. in diameter.

h. Trees shall be guaranteed for a period of one year following planting.

4. *Approved Species*: Refer to the Approved Species List incorporated herein (see Standard Attachment 24.02).

**24.03 STANDARD ATTACHMENTS:**

Standard Attachment Number 24.01 – Permit Form

Standard Attachment Number 24.02 – Approved Species List



**TREES THAT MAY BE PLANTED ALONG PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN CHAMPAIGN**

**Small Trees:**

*Note: Small trees only permitted for use where overhead restrictions exist (i.e., utility lines).*

Crabapple (cultivars resistant to apple scab)	Hawthorn (thornless)	Laurel magnolia
Corneliancherry dogwood	Hornbeam	Loebner magnolia
Kousa dogwood	Japanese tree lilac	Redbud
Pagoda dogwood	Amur maple	Serviceberry
	Paperbark maple	Carolina silverbell
	Tatarian maple	Tree form viburnum

**Medium to Large Trees:**

Black alder	Sugar hackberry	Bur oak
Blue ash	European hornbeam	Chinkapin oak
White ash	Ironwood	Overcup oak
Baldcypress	Katsura	Red oak
Basswood	Crimean linden	Shingle oak
American beech	Littleleaf linden	Swamp white oak
European beech	Silver linden	White oak
Amur corktree	Cucumbertree magnolia	Dawn redwood
Elm (cultivars resistant to Dutch elm disease)	Black maple	Hardy rubber tree
Turkish filbert	Freeman maple	Sassafras
Ginkgo (male)	Hedge maple	Tuliptree
Goldenraintree	Miyabe maple	Black tupelo
Hackberry	Red maple	Yellowood
	Sugar maple	Japanese zelkova

**TREES THAT MAY NOT BE PLANTED ALONG PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN CHAMPAIGN**

Apple	Siberian elm	Russian olive
Arborvitae	Slippery elm	Osage orange
Green ash	Empress tree	Peach
Mountain ash	Fir	Pear
River birch	Hemlock	Callery pear
White birch	Hickory	Pecan
Boxelder	Honeylocust	Pine
Ohio buckeye	Horsechestnut	Plum
Butternut	Juniper	Poplar
Catalpa	Black locust	Spruce
Cedar	Norway maple	Sweetgum
Cherry	Silver maple	Sycamore
Chestnut	Mimosa tree	Tree of Heaven
Cottonwood	Mulberry	Walnut
Flowering dogwood	Pin oak	Willow
American elm	Scarlet oak	