

Suitable Trees for Fort Wayne Streets

Street trees can add interest, beauty, and value to a city's forestry landscape. There's nothing quite like driving down any city's oldest thoroughfare lined with large, historic street trees. If selected carefully, street trees will bring urban beauty for decades and maybe centuries to come. To ensure that you have the best fit for your street tree, it is important to evaluate the location you are considering and then get the best tree to fit the space. The City's experts are trained to identify potential problems for each planting location. If the proposed planting site is not appropriate for your primary species request, our arborist will select the most appropriate tree for your situation. The following list includes some of the best varieties of the hardiest trees for planting along our city streets. The tree list below is a list of trees that we approve to be planted in the city right of way. The availability of each species differs from one season to the next

List Key:

Potential Urban Height x Spread:	Anticipated size at maturity considering urban limitations. Our tree lawns typically do not offer ideal growing conditions. As a result, street trees generally do not grow to their full potential
Availability:	Will this tree species be available to us at our currently contracted price?
Available (A):	Available in large numbers
Limited Availability (LA):	Available, but not in large numbers
Very Limited Availability (VLA):	Not readily available, but may be able to get a few as special requests
Not Available (NA):	Not available in the sizes that we need
Standard Parkway:	Grass strip between the curb and sidewalk that is at least 5 feet wide
Large Parkway/Median:	Grass or landscaped space that is larger than 6' wide
Tolerates Poor Soils:	Post construction soils. (Compacted, shallow, lacking soil profile, minimal organic material)
Promotes Diversity:	We have learned that having a diverse urban canopy is critical for the long term success of our urban forest. Our goal is to have no more than 10% of any one species and no more than 20% of any genus.
Native to Indiana	Originally occurring within Indiana as the result of natural processes rather than human intervention.
Tolerant of Soil PH>7.2:	Our naturally occurring soils in Fort Wayne are typically slightly alkaline. Choosing a tree that can tolerate these soil conditions will reduce future tree health issues.

Citizen Match-Approved Street Tree List

Common Name	Potential Urban height x Spread	Availability	Standard Parkway	Large Parkway/Median	Tolerates poor soils	Promotes Diversity	Native to Indiana	Tolerant of Soil PH>7.2
Sugar Maple	60'x40'	A	X	X			Y	
<p>A Midwest native loved for its exceptional fall color ranging from brilliant yellow to burnt-orange. In summer, its lustrous foliage provides excellent shade</p> <p>Limitations: Requires plenty of room for its dense, spreading root system. Vary limited planting currently due to diversity goals</p>								
River Birch	30'x20'	A		X		X	Y	
<p>Fast-growing native tree. Attractive salmon-pink to reddish-brown bark exfoliates to reveal lighter inner bark. Dark green foliage turns a beautiful buttery yellow in the fall.</p> <p>Limitations: CoFW has limited experience using this species in urban settings. Tends to be short-lived (30 to 40 years). Better suited for suburban planting sites. Watering may be needed during dry summer months.</p>								
Northern Catalpa	40'x20'	LA	X	X	X	X	Y	X
<p>Catalpa has a narrow, open, irregularly rounded crown and spreading branches. It has large, heart-shaped leaves and large clusters of fragrant, white flowers. Very adaptable to adverse conditions.</p> <p>Limitations: Seed pods persist through the winter and may be considered a nuisance</p>								
Common Hackberry	40'x40'	LA	X	X	X		Y	X
<p>A sturdy, tolerant shade tree for streets and parkways, or parks and other large areas. Its fleshy, purple-brown berries ripen in late summer and persist through winter. The persistent fruits attract many birds</p> <p>Limitations: Berries are fairly discrete and not considered a nuisance by most. Leaf galls are common and do not impact the general health of the tree.</p>								
Katsuratree	40'x20'	LA	X	X				
<p>Foliage offers an array of color throughout the year. In spring, heart-shaped leaves emerge reddish-purple, changing to blue-green as they mature. In autumn the color display changes again as leaves turn clear yellow or apricot color.</p> <p>Limitations: Best grown in rich, moist, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Tolerates full sun, but has little tolerance for drought particularly when young. Best sited in a location protected from strong winds and hot afternoon sun.</p>								
American Yellowwood	35'x20'	VLA	X	X		X	Y	X
<p>Medium-sized, deciduous tree with upright branching and a broad, rounded crown. Pinnately compound foliage. Pink flowers in large, drooping, panicles will cover a mature tree in late spring. Profuse bloom every 2 or 3 years.</p> <p>Limitations: Tolerates some dry soils once established. Best sited in a location protected from strong winds. Yearly bloom may not occur. Branching is fragile and vulnerable to damage from winter snow/ice or high winds</p>								
Turkish Filbert	40'x25'	VLA	X	X		X	N	X
<p>Heavy-textured, dark green foliage is free of insect and disease. This tree is also pH adaptable and tolerant of heat, cold, and drought once it is established. Nuts may be roasted and eaten, but are commonly left for the squirrels.</p> <p>Limitations: Newly planted trees need consistent moisture. Once established in the landscape, trees tolerate drought. Suckering may occur. Difficult to find in commerce.</p>								
Hardy Rubber tree	40'x30'	LA	X	X		X	N	X
<p>Round to broad-spreading form with thick glossy green leaves. Very low maintenance and drought tolerant. Tear a leaf, break a twig or peel off some bark and a stringy latex-like sap appears.</p> <p>Limitations: Prone to storm damage</p>								
Maidenhair Tree	50'x40'	VLA	X	X	X	X	N	X
<p>Distinctive fan-shaped, rich green leaves that turn bright yellow in fall. Ginkgos are dioecious (separate male and female trees). Tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions, compacted soils. Adapts well to most urban environments.</p> <p>Limitations: No serious insect or disease problems. Usually slow growing, with initial growth being sparse. Female trees produce seeds encased in fleshy, fruit-like coverings which, at maturity in autumn, are messy and emit a noxious, foul odor.</p>								

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Honeylocust	50'x40'	A	X	X	X		Y	X
<p>Honeylocust has been used extensively as a street and shade tree. It transplants easily at large sizes and casts a light shade. It complements many architectural features in the landscape.</p> <p>Limitations: Has been overplanted in many areas. Susceptible many insect and disease pests.</p>								
Kentucky Coffee Tree	60'x40'	A	X	X	X		Y	X
<p>The Kentucky coffeetree's tolerance to pollution and a wide range of soils makes it a suitable tree for urban environment. One of the last trees to leaf out in the spring. The tree's profile stands out and can be attributed to a unique growth habit.</p> <p>Limitations: No serious insect or disease problems. Seedless varieties are not expected to present a litter issue</p>								
Sweetgum	60'x40'	VLA	X	X		X	Y	X
<p>An attractive shade tree with its star-shaped leaves, neatly compact crown, interesting fruit and twigs with unique corky growths called wings. The glossy green leaves turn beautiful shades of yellow, orange, red and purple in the autumn.</p> <p>Limitations: Yields long-stemmed, woody, burr-like fruit that is approximately 1½" in diameter. Needs plenty of space for root development. Does not tolerate pollution. Fruitless varieties are questionable.</p>								
Tulip Tree	70'x35'	A	X	X		X	Y	X
<p>A member of the magnolia family and has distinct tulip-shaped characteristic in its leaves, flowers, and fruit. The showy, goblet-shaped, orange-yellow-green flowers appear in late spring after the leaves. Golden-yellow fall color.</p> <p>Limitations: Trees are fast-growing and somewhat weak wooded, making them susceptible to limb breakage in high winds or from ice/snow. A consistent supply of moisture is necessary for successful transplant and establishment.</p>								
Dawn Redwood	70'x20'	A		X		X	N	
<p>A deciduous, coniferous tree that grows in a conical shape. It is related to and closely resembles bald cypress (<i>Taxodium</i>) and redwood (<i>Sequoia</i>). feathery foliage is dark green in summer, then a russet-brown in autumn.</p> <p>Limitations: Prefers moist conditions and has <u>some</u> drought tolerance after establishment. Potential site obstruction.</p>								
Sycamore	75'x50'	VLA	X	X			Y	X
<p>The signature ornamental feature of this tree is its brown bark which exfoliates in irregular pieces to reveal creamy white inner bark. Mature trees typically display mottled white bark that facilitates identification from great distances.</p> <p>Limitations: Sycamore anthracnose is a significant disease that can severely damage the foliage and twigs, often precipitating premature leaf drop. Litter from twigs, large leaves, bark and fruiting balls can pose significant clean-up problems.</p>								
London Planetree	75'x50'	A	X	X			N	X
<p>A hybrid cross between American sycamore (<i>P. occidentalis</i>) and Oriental planetree (<i>P. orientalis</i>). The resulting hybrid is very similar in appearance to the Sycamore tree.</p> <p>Limitations: This species has shown some resistance to Sycamore anthracnose . Litter from twigs, large leaves, bark and fruiting balls can pose significant clean-up problems.</p>								
White Oak	50'x50'	LA	X	X			Y	
<p>Pyramidal when young, but matures into a substantial tree with a wide-spreading, rounded crown. Variable fall color ranges from uninteresting browns to quality shades of dark red.</p> <p>Limitations : Widely used in landscapes, but slow growth rate and large size has somewhat tempered its popularity. Acorns ripen in fall and can be considered a litter problem OR an important food source for wildlife</p>								
Swamp White Oak	50'x30'	A	X	X			Y	
<p>One of the easiest oaks to transplant and more tolerant of poor drainage than other oaks. The lobed leaves have a two-tone appearance. Fall color is an orange-gold to yellow in mid-autumn.</p> <p>Limitations: Widely used in landscapes, but slow growth rate and large size has somewhat tempered its popularity. Acorns ripen in fall and can be considered a litter problem OR an important food source for wildlife.</p>								

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Northern Pin Oak	60'x40'	A	X	X			Y	X
<p>A medium-sized deciduous oak of the red oak group. Cylindrical shape and rounded crown. Leaves turn a relatively non-showy russet red in fall.</p> <p>Limitations: Chlorosis (yellowing of leaves) is common in alkaline soils and can severely damage this tree. Acorns ripen in fall of the second year and can be considered a litter problem OR an important food source for wildlife.</p>								
Shingle Oak	50'x50'	A	X	X			Y	
<p>This tree is not easily recognized as an oak due to an atypical, unlobed leaf. Medium sized red oak that typically grows in a conical form to, with the crown broadening and rounding with age. Variable fall color</p> <p>Limitations: Old leaves tend to persist on the tree throughout most of the winter. Acorns ripen in fall of the second year and can be considered a litter problem OR an important food source for wildlife.</p>								
Bur Oak	60'x60'	A	X	X			Y	X
<p>One of the most majestic of the native North American oaks. It is a medium to large sized deciduous oak of the white oak group with a broad-spreading, rounded crown. Fall color is an undistinguished yellow-brown.</p> <p>Limitations: Widely used in landscapes, but slow growth rate and large size has somewhat tempered its popularity. Large acorns ripen in fall and can be considered a litter problem OR an important food source for wildlife.</p>								
Chinquapin Oak	50'x40'	LA	X	X			Y	
<p>Glossy, coarsely-toothed leaves are yellow-green and small compared to most oaks. Medium sized deciduous oak of the white oak group with an open globular crown. Acorn is sweet and said to be edible.</p> <p>Limitations: Seems to prefer moist fertile loam soil and can tolerate some alkalinity in cultivation. We have not had great success transplanting this species as a street tree</p>								
English Oak	75'x75'	LA	X	X		X	N	X
<p>A large, majestic, deciduous oak of the white oak group with a broad-spreading, rounded crown. May take up to 25-30 years for this tree to bear a first crop of acorns. Leaves are variable in shape. No notable fall color.</p> <p>Limitations: English oak is considered to be a low-maintenance tree with few problems.</p>								
Heritage Oak	60'x60'	LA	X	X		X	N	X
<p>A cross between English Oak and Bur Oak. One of the best oaks to use in high PH soils. This trees grows faster than one would think. It has a broad pyramidal growth and offers attractive foliage that is dark green and glossy.</p> <p>Limitations:</p>								
Northern Red Oak	60'x60'	A	X	X			Y	
<p>A medium sized, deciduous tree with a rounded to broad-spreading, often irregular crown. Leaves turn brownish-red in autumn. Valued for its adaptability and usefulness, including its hardiness in urban settings.</p> <p>Limitations: Widely used in landscapes, but slow growth rate and large size has somewhat tempered its popularity. Acorns ripen in fall of the second year and can be considered a litter problem OR an important food source for wildlife.</p>								
Japanese Tree Lilac	20'x15'	LA	X	X			N	X
<p>Typically grows as a small tree or large shrub with an oval-rounded crown. Its best ornamental feature is its showy, fragrant, creamy white flowers which bloom in upright panicles to 12" long in late spring to early summer.</p> <p>Limitations: Flower buds are susceptible to frost injury in early spring.</p>								
Bald Cypress	50'x20'	A		X		X	Y	
<p>A long-lived, pyramidal conifer (cone-bearing tree). Although it looks like a needled evergreen (same family as redwoods) in summer, it is deciduous ("bald" as the common name suggests).</p> <p>Limitations: Prefers moist conditions and has <u>some</u> drought tolerance after establishment. Potential site obstruction.</p>								

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American Linden	60'x30'	A	X	X	X		Y	X
<p><i>Limitations: A medium to large deciduous tree. This tree is noted for its cymes of fragrant, pale yellow, late spring flowers and large ovate dark green leaves. Fall color is an undistinguished pale green to pale yellow.</i></p> <p><i>Limitations: Generally intolerant of air pollution and urban conditions. Highly susceptible to Ice damage and Japanese Beetles.</i></p>								
Littleleaf Linden	60'x30'	A	X	X	X		N	X
<p><i>A great ornamental shade tree, well suited urban settings due to its ability to withstand polluted environments. It has shiny dark green leaves that turn a clear yellow in fall, and in summer it has dangling, fragrant pale yellow flowers.</i></p> <p><i>Limitations: Highly susceptible to Japanese Beetles. Can create site obstructions due to its low branching nature.</i></p>								
Silver Linden	50'x25'	A	X	X	X		N	X
<p><i>Noted for its attractive foliage, which is glossy green above and silvery-white below. The foliage flutters in the breeze, showcasing the silver and green leaf colors. This is a medium to large deciduous tree. Characteristic yellow flowers</i></p> <p><i>Limitations: Highly susceptible to Japanese Beetles. Can create site obstructions due to its low branching nature.</i></p>								
American Elm Hybrids	50'x40'	A	X	X	X		Y	X
<p><i>Exhibits good resistance to Dutch elm disease (DED) and demonstrates resistance to elm beetles as well. This large, fast-growing, vase shaped tree is tolerant of many adverse site conditions.</i></p> <p><i>Limitations: As time goes on, better cultivars are developed, but some of the older ones may still be on the market.</i></p>								
Smoothleaf Elm Hybrids	45'x35'	A	X	X	X		N	X
<p><i>Most of these trees are hybrids that cross various species of American, Asian and European elms. Not all these trees have the characteristic vase-shaped arching branch structure of the beloved American elm, but some come close.</i></p> <p><i>Limitations: As time goes on, better cultivars are developed, but some of the older ones may still be on the market.</i></p>								
Japanese Zelkova	50'x50'	LA	X	X		X	N	
<p><i>Closely related to elms but is resistant to Dutch elm disease (DED). This tree has interesting bark, clean serrated foliage, changing to yellow, orange, or reddish-purple in the fall</i></p> <p><i>Limitations: Drought tolerant and fairly tolerant of urban sites <u>once established</u>.</i></p>								