

Recommended Tree List

Genoa Township Parks - *Adopted January 2021*

Trees provide shade, natural beauty, improve air quality, reduce noise, provide privacy, control erosion and storm-water runoff, provide habitat for birds and wildlife, and numerous other benefits. To maximize longevity, trees should be selected for site compatibility and diversification. To mitigate the impact of potential future disease on particular tree species (e.g. emerald ash borer, Dutch elm disease, etc), the township should strive to plant a wide variety of regionally appropriate trees. An assessment of the current park trees (and recent housing developments) in the township shows a heavy reliance on Maple (acer sp.) plantings. While maples have proven to be a popular tree, the township should consider planting fewer of them until a more diverse inventory has been established.

Small Trees

Appropriate for small tree lawns, below overhead utility lines, in parks and open spaces

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

25' H x 25' W - Showy spring flowering of pinkish-purple blooms, well suited for group plantings

Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn (*Crataegus crusgalli inermis*)

25' H x 25' W - White blooms in the spring, red berries in fall/winter, bird favorite

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier* sp.)

20' H x 15' W - Often multi-stemmed, white spring blooms give way to June berries, bird favorite

American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

25' H x 25' W - Low maintenance understory tree, tolerant of shade, aka Musclewood, Blue Beech

American Hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)

30' H x 25' W - Also known as Ironwood, this is a tough understory tree

Medium to Large Trees

Appropriate as street trees in medium to large tree lawns, in parks and open spaces

Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

45' H x 25' W - Prefers moist soil. Dark green summer leaves turn to spectacular scarlet fall color.

Thornless Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos inermis*)

50' H x 30' W - Provides dappled shade, lacy foliage. Durable and adaptable to a wide range of sites.

Freeman Maple (*Acer x freemanii*) – or similar Red Maple hybrids

50' H x 30' W - Hybrid of a red maple and a silver maple. Beautiful fall color. Popular street tree.

Kentucky Coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)

60' H x 40' W - Adapts well to urban conditions and a variety of soils. Underutilized unique tree.

Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

50'-75' H&W -- One of the fastest growing Oaks. Tolerant of salt and air pollution. Stately, long lived.

Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*)

50'-60' H&W - Well suited for street planting due to tolerance of compacted soils, salt spray, pollutants.

Shingle Oak (*Quercus imbricaria*)

45'-60' H&W - Not easily recognized as an oak due to atypical unlobed small leaves.

Shumard Oak (*Quercus shumardii*)

45'-60' H&W- Tolerates and adapts to a wide range of soil conditions from dry locations to wet ground.

Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)

50'-70' H&W- One of the best oaks for alkaline soil. Beautiful large spreading tree with sufficient space.

Linden (*Tilia* sp.) – Many suitable cultivated varieties

60' H x 40' W, attractive foliage, summer flowers are a pollinator magnet.

Elm Hybrids (*Ulmus* sp.) Many suitable cultivated varieties

60' H x 35' W - A number of American Elm cultivars are disease resistant and fast growing.

Large Trees

Appropriate in parks and large open spaces
(not generally suitable as street trees due to size or environmental factors)

American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

80' H x 60' W – Very fast growing, large shade tree. Peeling gray and white bark is most recognizable attribute. Can handle wet sites.

Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

80' H x 40' W – Like the Sycamore, it is one of the fastest growing and tallest shade trees native to North America. Distinct and showy tulip-shaped flowers in spring. Prefers well drained soil.

Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

70' H x 70' W – A majestic long-lived specimen tree in the landscape. Tolerant of both drought and poor drainage. Produces large desirable acorns that are an important food source to wildlife.

Overcup Oak (*Quercus lyrata*)

50' H x 40' W – Medium size oak tree that prefers low lying areas with adequate moisture. Transplants easily, uniform branching, leathery dark green leaves in summer.

Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)

60' H x 35' W – Fast growing oak, tolerates wet soil. Glossy dark green leaves turn bronze or red.

White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

70' H x 70' W – While not fast growing, this massive, stately oak will last for generations and make for a fine large landscape centerpiece. Prefers upland, well-drained soil.

Cucumbertree (*Magnolia acuminata*)

60' H x 50' W – Large member of the magnolia family native to the Eastern U.S. Its attractive foliage and large spreading branches are an excellent fit for a park or large open area. Moist, well-drained soil.

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

60' H x 40' W – Exceptional fall colors. Can be tapped for maple syrup. Avoid compacted soil, poorly drained soils, and urban pollutants.

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

50' H x 40' W – Adaptable and tolerant shade tree. High wildlife value. Fast grower.

Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

60' H x 45' W – Unique star shaped leaves. Brilliant fall color with a mix of yellows, oranges, purples and reds.

Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

45' H x 30' W – Recognizable by its unusual rugged, blocky bark. Females produce edible orange fruit in fall.

Evergreens / Conifers

Appropriate in parks and large open spaces (not generally suitable as street trees due to tree shape or environmental factors)

Concolor Fir (*Abies concolor*) – aka White Fir

40' H x 20' W – Considered a primary replacement option for dying Blue Spruce with similar look but hardier and more disease resistant. Tolerant of drought, heat, and cold temperatures. Avoid poor drainage.

Canaan Fir (*Abies balsamea* var *phanerolepis*)

40' H x 20' W – Attractive bluish-green soft foliage makes it a popular Christmas tree. Performs best in well-drained soil with ample moisture. More resistant to spring frost damage than either Fraser or balsam fir.

Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

60' H x 30' W – Fine, feathery needles with open canopy. Fast growing. Prefers acidic soils.

Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)

40' H x 15' W – While it may not have the nature beauty of spruces and firs, it is among the most adaptable and tolerant of various conditions. Blue berry-like fruits are a bird favorite in winter.

Eastern Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*)

40' H x 10' W – Common landscape plant for dense screening and narrow spaces. Useful in parks around utility boxes and the like.

Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)

60' H x 25' W – Unlike most conifers, it is actually deciduous, losing its needles each winter. Relatively fast grower. Adaptable to a variety of sites including wet clay soil.

Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)

70' H x 25' W – Closely related to the baldcypress, it is also a unique deciduous conifer. Fast grower. Hardy and tough. Adaptable to wet or dry soils.

Special note on Spruce trees: While the **Blue Spruce** (*Picea pungens*) has long been a favored landscape tree in Ohio, it has come under increased disease pressure in recent years and is no longer recommended for new plantings. There are several fungal diseases affecting blue spruces, likely exacerbated by environmental changes – milder winters and wetter springs in the Midwest. **Norway Spruce** (*Picea abies*) has shown susceptibility to a lesser degree and new plantings may be used but should be balanced with non-spruce plantings as well. Other spruces for consideration include **White Spruce** (*Picea glauca*) and **Siberian Spruce** (*Picea omorika*). If planting spruce, limit to well-drained soils with full sun exposure. Avoid poorly drained soil and heavy clay.