

Landscaping Guidelines & Tree List



Where can I find landscaping requirements?

This handout provides guidelines to the City's landscaping policies and procedures and offers material and design recommendations. For more detailed requirements please refer to the Landscape Ordinance, Chapter 36-364 of the City Code, which can be found on the City's website at www.stlouispark.org. In the event of a conflict between this policy handout and the City Code, the provisions of the City Code shall prevail.

Other sections of the City Code may contain additional landscaping requirements, such as the specific zoning districts, floodplain ordinance, subdivision ordinance.

When is landscaping required?

Landscaping is required for all new development, additions or modification to an existing development that affects landscaping.

Is a landscape plan required?

A landscape plan is required to show:

- Building and parking locations,
- Existing topography and proposed grades,
- Size and location of all existing trees and shrubs,
- Proposed landscaping details,
- Location and details of irrigation,
- Details and cross sections required screening,
- Tree protection and site restoration details,
- Planting schedule and installation details.

What are some of the requirements?

Plant material minimums:

- Single & two family =
1 trees per lot in the boulevard.
- Multi-family =
1 tree per unit
- Nonresidential = greater of:
1 tree per 1,000 sq ft gross floor area, or
1 tree per 50 lineal feet site perimeter
- Shrubs = greater of
6 per 1,000 sq ft gross floor area, or
6 per 50 lineal feet site perimeter
Single and two-family dwellings exempt

All open areas must be landscaped with trees, shrubs, flowers, sod, ground cover or other site design feature.

Screening:

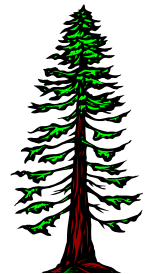
The following must be visually screened from adjacent property:

- Buildings and accessory structures to adjacent to residential uses
- Drive-through uses adjacent to residential
- Off-street parking within 30 feet of residential
- Off-street parking within 30 feet of right-of-ways
- Loading and service areas
- Outside storage and refuse handling
- Mechanical and ancillary equipment
- Utility service and maintenance structures

The screening shall consist of vegetation, fence, wall, berm, hedge, landscape materials or a combination of. All walls and fences must match the architecture of the buildings. Single family and two-family dwellings are exempt.

Parking lots:

Off-street parking areas with over 25 stalls must have landscape islands at the end of each row of cars or every 15 stalls, whichever is less. At least 2 trees and additional shrubs or ornamental grasses must be provided in each island.



Plant materials & installation:

Minimum size of planting:

- Deciduous tree =2.5 inch caliper
- Ornamental tree =1.5 inch caliper
- Evergreen tree =3 inch caliper
- Shrubs – 5 gallon pots

The complement of trees required for this section shall be at least 25 percent deciduous and at least 25 percent coniferous. No more than 30% may be one species.

Evergreen shrubs shall be planted in clusters in order to maximize survival.

Underground irrigation is required.

All trees and shrubs must be wood mulched to preserve soil moisture.

No landscaping or design features shall be selected or located in a manner which results in the creation of a safety or visibility hazard.

Landscaping surety

Cash escrow is required in an amount equal to 125% of the estimated cost necessary to furnish and plant the required landscaping. This surety will be released 1 year after all landscaping is installed per the landscape plans.

Can landscaping requirements be modified?

The City encourages the use of special design features such as xeriscaping, rain gardens/bioswales, rooftop gardens, native landscapes, integrated pedestrian facilities, and public art. A degree of flexibility may be granted by the zoning administrator in unique situations to encourage these features. Alternative ways to meet landscape standards may be provided if certain conditions are met.



Can trees be removed from my property?

Public land: Trees may be removed from public land (including right of ways) if authorized by the City. These trees must be replaced on a caliper inch for caliper inch basis in a location approved by the city.

Private land: Trees may be removed from private property if authorized by the City; however significant trees* are required to be replaced. Before removing trees, a tree removal plan is required that includes tree protection plans, grade changes, site plan, type, size, number and location of trees required to be replaced. The amount of trees to be replaced is based upon a formula provided in the code.

Single-family and two-family dwellings do not require city approval to remove trees from their exiting property.

How should trees be protected during construction?

Trees to be saved on any site must be physically protected from harm or destruction by the following specifications:

- Before any construction or grading activity occurs an orange safety fence, 4 feet high, must be placed around the drip line border of trees to be saved.
- Nothing may be stored within the drip line.
- Changes in soil chemistry must be prevented.
- Drainage patterns may not change the soil moisture content of trees to be saved.
- Pruning of oak and elm trees must not take place from May 1 through July 31.

Tree protection specifications:

Figure 1: One common method used to define a tree's protected root zone (PRZ) is to consider it to be the part of the roots that lie directly below its branches within an area known as the dripline.

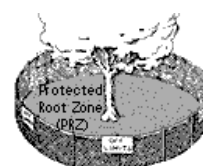
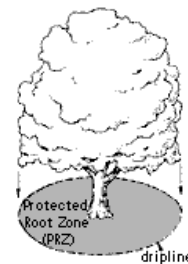
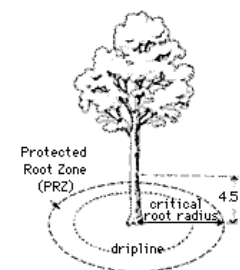


Figure 2: Put up fences and signs around trees you want to save to alert construction workers to damage potential.

Figure 3: Approximate a tree's Protected Root Zone by calculating the critical root radius (crr). First, measure the tree diameter in inches at breast height (dbh). Then multiply that number by 1.5 or 1.0. Express the result in feet. Example; dbh= 8 inches
 $8 \times 1.5 = 12$
 crr = 12 feet



Use 1.5 for older, unhealthy, or sensitive trees
 Use 1.0 for younger, healthy or tolerant trees.

Source of information: University of Minnesota Extension Service: Protecting Trees from Construction Damage: A Homeowner's Guide

Landscaping Guidelines & Tree List

General guidelines or design recommendations

- Landscaping should add visual interest through color and materials year round.
- The city recommends trees be placed 5' from all property lines.
- Emphasis should be given to site boundaries, structure perimeters, parking areas, and areas to be screened.
- The City encourages the use of native plant materials.

Gopher State One Call



Before you Dig Call:
(800)-252-1166 or
(651)-454-0002

Protect yourselves and your property against underground utility damage. Find out where the underground utility lines might be buried before you dig! This is a FREE service.

Questions?

Call the Community Development Department at 952-924-2575.

Or, visit the customer service counter on the second floor of City Hall between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Last updated: January, 2009

St. Louis Park TREE LIST

***Significant Tree:** Any tree, with the exception of Salix (Willow), Boxelder, Siberian Elm and Black Locust is considered to be significant under the landscaping section of the zoning ordinance if it is at least five caliper inches for deciduous trees and six caliper inches for conifers. Aspen, Cottonwood or Silver Maple is considered significant if it is at least 12 inches in diameter at breast height-DBH.

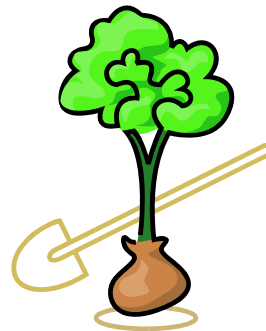
Caliper Inch means a unit of measurement describing the diameter of a tree measured one foot above the finished grade level. To convert the height of existing evergreen trees to caliper inches the following formula should be used: 0.415 caliper inches = 1 foot evergreen height

Diameter at breast height (DBH) means the diameter of a tree measured at a height of 4 ½ feet from the ground level.

Recommended Plant Materials: The following list of plant materials are offered as guides in the selection of plants for street and boulevard trees as well as trees for confined spaces. A detailed list of reliable plant materials for yards is also available upon request. All plant materials should be selected from a local nursery (within 200-250 miles) to ensure the species is appropriate for this area's hardiness zone and the physical characteristics of the site.

Prohibited Trees:

- Ginko (female only)
- Boxelder
- Non-disease resistant elm species
- Nonhybrid cottonwood species
- Black Locust
- Siberian Elm
- Mulberry
- Russian Olive
- Buckthorn



Landscaping Guidelines & Tree List

Recommended Trees for St. Louis Park Streets and Boulevards

Deciduous trees – hardwoods or trees that lose their leaves in the fall

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Basswood	<i>Tilia Americana</i>
Elm	<i>Ulmus Americana</i> - ‘Accolade’
Elm	<i>Ulmus Americana</i> – ‘Princeton’
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>
Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i> ‘Skyline’
American Linden	<i>Tilia Americana</i> ‘Redmond’ or ‘Greenspire’
Freeman maple	<i>Acer x freemanii</i> ‘Autumn Blaze’
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i> ‘Northwood’
Sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i> ‘Green Mountain’
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>

Smaller Trees for under utility lines or confined spaces

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Amur Corktree	<i>Maackia amurensis</i>
Amur Maackia	<i>Maackia amurensis</i>
Blue Beech	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Crabapple	<i>Malus spp.</i> ‘Prairifire’, ‘Coralburst’, Spring Snow’ or ‘Red Splendor’
Dogwood Pagoda	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>
Hawthorn (thornless)	<i>Crataegus crusgalli</i> var. <i>inermis</i>
Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
Japanese tree lilac	<i>Syringa reticulata</i> ‘Ivory Silk’
Pin cherry	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier spp.</i> or <i>grandiflora</i> ‘Autumn Brilliance’

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Recommended Trees for St. Louis Park Yards, Away from Streets

The list for streets/boulevards is also fine for yards. The following are additional trees, but the list is not exhaustive. This should be a good start for native trees that do well in our climate.

Deciduous trees

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Apple	<i>Malus spp.</i>
Aspen – Bigtooth	<i>Populus grandidentata</i> ‘Bigtooth’
Aspen – Quaking	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Paper birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>
Ohio buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>
Catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus spp.</i>
Kentucky coffee tree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>
Northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Tamarack	<i>Larix laricina</i>

Coniferous trees – “Evergreens”

Most are fine, Colorado blue spruce- *Picea pungens* is not recommended

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Balsam fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i> - UNAVAILABLE
White fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>
Eastern white pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i> (needs room to grow)
Red / Norway pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>
Black spruce	<i>Picea mariana</i>
Norway spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>
White spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>
Arborvitae/ Northern White Cedar	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>

For more information, try these web sites:

1. Minnesota Dept of Transportation Plant Selector:
<http://plantselector.dot.state.mn.us/MainFrame.html>
2. University of MN Arboretum Home page: <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu> or
<http://plantinfo.umn.edu/>
3. For rain gardens, native plants, etc.: <http://bluethum>.