

St. Louis Park tree list

This document provides guidelines for tree species to be planted in the City of St. Louis Park. Species are categorized as **preferred**, **acceptable** and **limited space**. The city promotes planting the right species in the right place for the right reason (i.e., slowing stormwater, shading buildings, providing habitat for wildlife, etc.). It is highly recommended that native tree species be selected over nonnative species wherever the native selection would succeed.

Species listed in **bold text** are **keystone species**. The National Wildlife Federation defines keystone species as “native plants critical to the food web and necessary for many wildlife species to complete their life cycle.” It’s a priority of the City of St. Louis Park to protect and restore ecosystem function wherever possible for the health of our residents, as well as our plant and wildlife communities.

Preferred tree species (native, large, food web supporters)

Common name	Scientific name	Cultivars or varieties for consideration	Spring blooms	Minnesota native	Boulevard	Yard	Under utility lines	Park	Natural area
White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>			Y					
Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>			Y					
Northern pin oak	<i>Quercus ellipsoidalis</i>			Y					
Bur oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>			Y					
Northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>			Y					
River birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>			Y					
Bitternut hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>			Y					
Shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>			Y					
Common hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>			Y					
Honey locust (thornless)	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i>	Northern Acclaim, Skyline		Y					
Kentucky coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Espresso		Y					
Black walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>			Y					
White spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>	Black hills spruce		Y					
Eastern white pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>			Y					
American linden (basswood)	<i>Tilia americana</i>	Boulevard, Redmond, American	Y	Y					
American elm (disease resistant)	<i>Ulmus x</i>	St. Croix, Valley Forge		Y					

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Acceptable tree species (large to medium, native or adapted)

Common name	Scientific name	Cultivars or varieties for consideration	Spring blooms	Minnesota native	Boulevard	Yard	Under utility lines	Park	Natural area
Balsam fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i>			Y					
White / concolor fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>								
Red maple*	<i>Acer rubrum</i>		Y	Y					
Silver maple*	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>			Y					
Sugar maple*	<i>Acer saccharum</i>		Y	Y					
Freeman maple	<i>Acer x freemanii</i>	Autumn Blaze, Sienna Glen							
Ohio buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>		Y						
Yellow birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>			Y					
Paper birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>			Y					
Northern catalpa	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>		Y						
Ginkgo (male only)	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Autumn Gold, Presidential Gold							
Eastern red cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>			Y					
Tamarack / eastern larch	<i>Larix laricina</i>			Y					
Ironwood	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>			Y					
Jack pine	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>			Y					
Red / Norway pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>			Y					
Balsam poplar	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>			Y					
Eastern cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>			Y					
Bigtooth aspen	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>			Y					
Quaking aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>			Y					
Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>		Y	Y					
Oak hybrid	<i>Quercus x</i>	Heritage							
Black willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>		Y	Y					
Northern white cedar / arborvitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Multiple varieties		Y					
Elm hybrid	<i>Ulmus x</i>	Triumph							

* Native maple species have been classified as "acceptable" rather than "preferred" to align with the city's commitment to its tree planting diversity goals. Currently, maples are overrepresented in our community; priority should be placed on other native, keystone species.

Tree species for limited space (small native trees)

Common name	Scientific name	Cultivars or varieties for consideration	Spring blooms	Minnesota native	Boulevard	Yard	Under utility lines	Park	Natural area
Speckled alder	<i>Alnus incana</i>			Y					
American plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>		Y	Y					
Common chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>		Y	Y					
Pin cherry	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>		Y	Y					
Blue beech	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>			Y					
Pagoda dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>		Y	Y					
Apple serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier x grandiflora</i>	Autumn Brilliance	Y	Y					
Downy serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>		Y	Y					
Inland serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier interior</i>		Y	Y					
Allegheny serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>		Y	Y					
Showy mountain ash	<i>Sorbus decora</i>		Y	Y					
Northern redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Northern strain	Y						
Prairie crabapple [^]	<i>Malus ioensis</i>		Y	Y					
Crabapple (thornless)	<i>Malus x</i>	Prairiefire, Donald Wyman, Showtime, Profusion, Dolgo	Y						
Cockspur hawthorn (thornless)	<i>Crataegus crusgalli var. inermis</i>	Crusader	Y						
Fleshy hawthorn [^]	<i>Crataegus macracantha</i>		Y	Y					
Downy hawthorn [^]	<i>Crataegus mollis</i>		Y	Y					

[^] Thorns present on branches

Tree species to try (climate adaptive species)

Common name	Scientific name	Cultivars or varieties for consideration	Spring blooms	Minnesota native	Boulevard	Yard	Under utility lines	Park	Natural area
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Used by wildlife	Y						
American yellowwood	<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	Native to southern United States	Y						
Tuliptree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	High wildlife value, native to eastern United States	Y						
Cucumbertree	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	Native to eastern and southern United States	Y						
American sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Fast growing, native to eastern United States							
London planetree	<i>Platanus x acerfolia</i>								
Black oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Native to southeast corner of Minnesota		Y					
Bald cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Deciduous conifer, loses its needles							

Climate adaptive tree species may be native to warmer regions of the United States. It is speculated the native range of these species will move north as our climate warms, making them good candidates for trees that will thrive in Minnesota in the future.

Prohibited trees

There are certain tree and shrub species that should not be planted in the City of St. Louis Park. These species are considered invasive and/or a nuisance in our community.

Prohibited trees include:

- Amur corktree
- Amur maple
- Black locust
- Buckthorn
- Callery pear
- Elm (non-disease resistant)
- Ginkgo (female only)
- Japanese barberry
- White mulberry
- Multiflora rose
- Nonnative bush honeysuckle
- Nonnative knotweeds
- Norway maple
- Russian olive
- Siberian elm
- Siberian peashrub
- Tatarian maple
- Tree of heaven
- Winged burning bush

Resources on plants invasive to Minnesota:

- [Terrestrial invasive species](#) – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Additional resources on trees and native plants

- [Minnesota native trees](#) – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- [Pollinator beneficial trees and shrubs](#) – Blue Thumb
- [Trees and shrubs](#) – University of Minnesota Extension
- [Keystone plants by ecoregion](#) – National Wildlife Federation
- [Landscaping with native plants](#) – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- [Rethinking Maple: Selecting trees for your yard](#)