

*Street trees provide shelter from the wind, privacy from the roads, shade from the sun and add diversity to our yards. Without street trees, our streets and neighborhoods would be much less attractive and comfortable.*

## What are Street Trees?

“Street Tree” is any tree, shrub or other woody vegetation located within the public right-of-way, between the property line and the roadway.

## Selecting a Tree and a Site

When planting a street tree, consider the particular site where the tree will be planted. Ask these five questions before planting begins:

- What is the ground width between the street and the sidewalk?
- Are above and below ground utilities present?
- Will the tree growth interfere with street signs or lighting?
- What is the soil type of the site?
- Is water readily available or will it have to be brought to the tree?

Taking time to answer these questions and any others that might arise will save you time and headaches later. Trees planted in the wrong sites will uplift sidewalks, become tangled in power lines, obstruct thruways, and become unhealthy and unattractive over the years.

With these limits in mind, select a tree that will fit the situation. Matching the tree to the site is the best way to guarantee its success. Choose a tree you will care for and appreciate, and enjoy for its unique characteristics.

**The Green Zone map is on page 2.**

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## Street Tree Recommendations

The Street Tree Exhibit is a demonstration of space and width requirements that trees need at maturity.

The pavers designate the sidewalk edge and the minimum planting width to accommodate the trees' mature size. You can see examples of trees requiring a minimum of 5 feet planting width, 5-8 feet planting width and 8-12 feet planting width.

There are many good recommendations for street trees. Selecting a tree on the basis of its size is a good place to start. A few good recommendations are:

Trees less than 25 feet with a 5 foot planting width:

- Japanese Tree Lilac (*Syringa reticulata*)
- Small Magnolias (*Magnolia x loebneri*)
- Crabapple (*Malus spp.*)

Trees 25 feet to 50 feet with a 5-8 foot planting width:

- Katsura (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)
- Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)
- Flowering Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*)

Trees greater than 50 feet with a minimum of 8 feet planting width:

- Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)
- Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*)
- Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

The Street Tree Landscaping Exhibit is #10 on The Green Zone map. The Green Zone is located at the Spokane Conservation District and WSU/Spokane County Extension, 210 & 222 N. Havana, Spokane WA 99202.  
(509) 535-7274 (SCD)  
(509) 477-2048 (WSU)

## Trees Not Recommended for Street-side Planting

- Large, spreading trees. Their aggressive root systems are notorious for damage to curbs and sidewalks.
  - Cottonwoods/Poplars (*Populus spp.*)
  - Willows (*Salix spp.*)
  - Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
  - American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
  - Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)
- Trees that are easily attacked by insects or disease that defoliate branches, decrease tree vigor, and shorten life spans.
  - Box Elder (*Acer negundo*)
  - Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
  - Elms (*Ulmus spp.*)
  - Birches (*Betula spp.*)
- Trees that produce nuts or fruit that may cause hazardous conditions for pedestrians and extra clean-up work for the landowner/resident.
  - Common Horsechestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)
  - Walnut (*Juglans spp.*)
  - Mountain Ash (*Sorbus spp.*)
  - Fruit Trees—Any edibles; apples, cherries, plums, apricots or pears.
- Trees that are very large, obstruct travel ways, reduce visibility and are continuously dropping needles and/or cones. These are most of the large conifers, including:
  - Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*)
  - Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)
  - Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
  - Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*)

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This informational pamphlet is one of a series.

