Trees and Community Character
Trees say so much about the character of a community. The choices we make in selecting trees for public landscapes and streetscapes will determine the nuances of that character. Appropriate tree choices can also minimize future maintenance needs and increase the likelihood that trees will reach their mature potential. “Tougher” trees should be matched to less hospitable sites, and large-scale, native, and less abundant species should be used to diversify your community’s urban forest.

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place!
This is the most important concept to understand whenever you are considering planting trees. Basically, every tree has certain needs and characteristics (mature size, growth habit, light requirements, soil needs, etc.), and every planting site has characteristics (growing space, obstructions, soils, light patterns, topography, etc.). Before planting any tree, you should do your best to make sure the tree is compatible with the site. Remember to consider the size of the tree at maturity. Visit a local arboretum to see a variety of trees at their mature sizes. You should also visit your local nursery personally and hand-pick the best trees for your community.

Get to Know the Nuances of Your Community Forest
A street tree inventory or survey can help you identify what currently exists in your community forest, what species may already be over-planted, and what is lacking. Get to know how street trees grow in your community by observing them in a landscape over different seasons. Make note of attractive mature specimens thriving in town or in a neighboring community, in parks, cemeteries, on golf courses, or in an arboretum. Communities should consider developing their own list of recommended streetscape trees based on the needs and character of the community, the existing environmental conditions, and the capacity for maintenance. There are a host of resources to aid selecting appropriate tree species. Consult some of the publications below. Finally, browse local nursery catalogs to determine availability and visit them early to find the very best tree for your community.

Additional Resources:

SOME SUGGESTED STREETSCAPE TREES FOR MASSACHUSETTS
Park Trees: (For areas with ample space away from pedestrian and motorized traffic)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paperbark maple</td>
<td>Acer griseum</td>
<td>Black walnut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese maple</td>
<td>Acer palmatum</td>
<td>Dawn redwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horsechestnut</td>
<td>Aesculus hippocastanum</td>
<td>Eastern white pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shagbark hickory</td>
<td>Carya ovata (n)</td>
<td>Japanese black pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese chestnut</td>
<td>Castanea mollissima</td>
<td>American sycamore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American beech</td>
<td>Fagus grandifolia (n)</td>
<td>White oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolina silverbell</td>
<td>Halesia tetrafleora (syn. H. carolina)</td>
<td>Bur oak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butternut</td>
<td>Juglans cinerea (n)</td>
<td>Japanese stewartia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pinus strobus (n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pinus thunbergii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Platanus occidentalis (n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Quercus alba (n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Quercus macrocarpa (n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Stewartia pseudocamellia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Massachusetts Urban & Community Forestry Program

SELECTING TREES FOR YOUR URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST

Large Trees: Consider these only in areas with adequate rooting space and without any overhead wires or other obstructions

- **Red maple** *Acer rubrum* (*,n,w)
- **Sugar maple** *Acer saccharum* (s,n)
- **Red horsechestnut** *Aesculus x carnea* (s)
- **River birch** *Betula nigra* (s,n)
- **Hackberry** * Celtis occidentalis* (*,n)
- **Katsura** *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*
- **Turkish filbert** *Corylus colurna* (s)
- **Ginkgo** *Ginkgo biloba* (*)
- **Honeylocust** *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* (thornless, fruitless)
- **Kentucky coffeetree** *Gymnocladus dioicus* (m)
- **Sweetgum** *Liquidambar styraciflua* (m)
- **Tulip tree** *Liriodendron tulipifera*
- **Cucumber tree** *Magnolia acuminata*
- **Black gum** *Nyssa sylvatica* (n)
- **London planetree** *Plantanus x acerifolia* (w)
- **Sawtooth oak** *Quercus acutissima*
- **Scarlet oak** *Quercus coccinea* (n)
- **Pin oak** *Quercus palustris* (n)
- **Red oak** *Quercus rubra* (n)
- **English oak** *Quercus robur*
- **Japanese pagoda tree** *Styphnolobium japonicum* (*)
- **Korean mountain ash** *Sorbus alnifolia*
- **Bald cypress** *Taxodium distichum*
- **Silver linden** *Tilia tomentosa*
- **Little-leaf linden** *Tilia cordata* (*)
- **American elm** *Ulmus americana* (n, m)
- **Cultivars include 'Homestead', 'Princeton', 'Valley Forge'**

Medium Trees: (Plant near power lines or other obstructions WITH CAUTION)

- **Amur maackia** *Maackia amurensis*
- **American hornbeam** *Carpinus caroliniana* (n)
- **Yellowwood** *Cladrastis kentuckea* (syn. *C. lutea*)
- **Goldenraintree** *Koelreuteria paniculata*
- **American hophornbeam** *Ostrya virginiana* (n)

Small Trees: (Appropriate for planting near power lines or small spaces)

- **Hedge maple** *Acer campestre* (*)
- **Serviceberry** *Amelanchier* sp. (n)
- **Eastern redbud** *Cercis canadensis*
- **Fringetree** *Chionanthus virginicus*
- **Kousa dogwood** *Cornus kousa*
- **Cornelian cherry** *Cornus mas*
- **Washington hawthorn** *Crataegus phaenopyrum* (*)
- **Crabapple** *Malus sp.* (*)
- **Sweet bay magnolia** *Magnolia virginiana*

You might also consider planting additional fruit and nut species in open areas or park areas.

Invasive Trees (DO NOT PLANT) Illegal to import, propagate, or sell in Massachusetts. (Authorized under General Laws Chapter 128)

- **Norway maple** *Acer platanoides*
- **Sycamore maple** *Acer pseudoplatanus*
- **Tree of heaven** *Ailanthus altissima*
- **Amur corktree** *Phellodendron amurense*
- **Black locust** *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Trees that have shown invasive tendencies (Plant with caution. Not recommended for planting where they may spread into natural areas)

- **Amur maple** *Acer ginnala* prohibited in CT and VT
- **Japanese tree lilac** *Syringa reticulata* *instances of naturalization in riparian areas in MA, NY, WI, and VT or escape from cultivation MN, NH

(Notes: **m**-maintenance issues, **i**-invasive, **s**-requires ample space, **w**-already widely planted, **l**-short longevity, **n**-native to Massachusetts, ***-hardy in stressed sites**

Bureau of Forestry
Urban & Community Forestry Program
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114
www.mass.gov/dcr/urban-and-community-forestry

In Partnership with:
USDA Forest Service and
the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, age, sexual orientation, Vietnam Era Veteran status, or disability.