

Park District of La Grange, IL Urban Forest Management Plan



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OVERVIEW OF PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE'S URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Park District of La Grange (PDLG) currently manages 816 trees throughout its park system. There is also a fair amount of room in the parks for future tree planting, which represents tremendous potential for growth of the park district's urban forest. These trees were inventoried as part of a project this past year culminating in this Urban Forest Management Plan, which will detail how these trees will be managed for the benefit of Park District of La Grange and its residents and patrons over the next 10 years, with a focus which begins in 2022, and projects out to 2032.

In terms of the condition of the Urban Forest in La Grange, there are both strengths and opportunities for improvement. In terms of strengths, the park district has a very good stocking density, which we define as the number of trees the district has vs what they could have if they planted more. The diversity of species is fair at 72 species. In terms of opportunities, the diversity level could be higher. We will examine this in much further detail below, but this is as easy as diversifying new plantings based on our recommendations. Per the recommendations of this plan, the forestry management budget has been increased to meet the needs of the district and will be evaluated on a yearly basis.

In order to enhance the Urban Forestry program so it will create long term benefits to the community while reducing costs, the following Urban Forest Management Plan will address each one of these strengths and opportunities and create goals and milestones for each. Further detail is given in the body of the Plan, with separate sections detailing specific Urban Forestry activities, and how we propose they are achieved, along with standards and Best Management Practices for each.





An urban forestry program has been created in this Plan which attempts to achieve the greatest benefit for the community, based on the available data we have from the inventory, as well as input from stakeholders and residents of the Village of La Grange. However, all plans are subject to change based on new information, budgets, or other unforeseen circumstances. For this reason, it is asked that readers consider this plan to be a living, breathing document, and goals and strategies will be updated to fit new circumstances as needed.

This Urban Forestry Management Plan should be reviewed periodically, at which point the park district, and its residents, business owners, and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide input and help improve the Plan during those annual reviews. These strategies and goals are not absolute, but rather serve as guideposts to mark the road to success.

MISSION STATEMENT

It shall be the mission of this Urban Forest Management Plan to outline goals, budgets, and Arboricultural Best Management Practices for the management of the Urban Forest for the Park District of La Grange in order to increase canopy cover and maximize the benefits trees provide, while minimizing cost, and create a program to manage the Urban Forest for the greatest public good in a manner that is both financially and programmatically sustainable, while maintaining flexibility for future adaptive management.

PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE'S URBAN FOREST: AT A GLANCE...

Total Number of Trees	816	
Total Number of Species	72	
Annual Benefits Provided	\$109,918/yr	
Standing Value	\$2,195,863	



DIRECT GOALS

Listed below are the direct goals of this Urban Forest Management Plan (herein referred to as “UFMP”, or “the Plan”), as well as a brief discussion of how they shall be met. Direct goals are those which this plan addresses very explicitly in describing pruning, removal, planting, and other activities. Every attempt was made to make these goals realistic and achievable, so they do not place an undue burden on Park District of La Grange, its residents and patrons, or its resources. Instead, the direct goals of this UFMP are to save money and provide greater benefits over time through proactive, as opposed to reactive, management. The Plan is also meant to be adaptive: new concepts, the introduction of new pests or pathogens, or changing climate (both social and meteorological) may all change the way the Urban Forest is viewed.

The Plan and its goals are intended to be reviewed periodically by the Park District of La Grange, its Board of Commissioners, and any other stakeholders. The review process should include evaluation of progress made towards these goals. Goals may be altered after the review, as conditions warrant. This UFMP is written with the understanding that organizations, stakeholders, and residents change over time, and therefore its goals require a degree of flexibility. Since trees represent a long term (50-80+ year) commitment, this UFMP is intended to provide guidance and continuity through those changes, while also adapting to them as the need arises.

Create a Needs Analysis	Establish Goals and Milestones	Maintain Tree Planting Standards
Enhance Annual Tree Pruning Program	Increase Overall Diversity by 2032	Update Village Policies and Procedures
Manage Tree Removals	Maintain Accurate Tree Inventory	Properly Mulch New Plantings
Incorporate BMPs into Tree Care	Create Tree Risk Management Policy	Increase Urban Tree Canopy
Create Strategic Partnerships	Enhance Tree Protection Standards	Consider Natural Areas in Planning
Engage the Community	Provide Education and Outreach	Climate and Stormwater Abatement

Create a Needs Analysis for the Current Tree Population

Every tree population today is the result of decades of past management decisions. Over time, we increase our overall level of knowledge, skill, and efficiency in managing trees. Based on that new knowledge, we sometimes discover that decisions made decades ago may appear in retrospect to have been wrong, even though they seemed like a good idea at the time. It is the goal of this Plan to assess the current state of the Park District of La Grange's Urban Forest and examine its overall strengths and benefits, as well as look for opportunities for improvement to inform future decisions.

Each aspect of the park district's tree data has been analyzed: How many trees, what condition they are in, how old they are, what needs do they have, and more were all examined to create goals to improve the tree population for the benefit of the organization, its residents and patrons, and other stakeholders. Specific goals in terms of planting, removals, pruning, budgets, personnel, and

maintenance are all addressed by acknowledging both strengths and opportunities, and suggesting how they might be used to the park district's advantage. These strengths and opportunities will be the guiding principles for the management strategies and specific goals outlined in each section below. To avoid repeating past mistakes, the Plan shall also attempt to leave room for adaptive management, so the plan may be changed when appropriate.



Establish Goals in Order to Enhance Strengths and Realize Opportunities

In order to accomplish anything, goals are necessary to help guide organizations through the process. Establishing or enhancing an urban forestry program will require a series of attainable goals to be achieved. This UFMP seeks to accomplish those goals within a realistic budget and attainable timespan. As stated previously, goals are intended to change over time as the park district's capacity to manage the resource may increase or be reduced.

In each section of the Plan related to direct goals, language has been included which incorporate both a budget and a time frame in which those goals can be accomplished. The overarching goal will be to have the park district have a sustainable and adaptable forestry program within a 10-year period.

This program will include tree planting, tree maintenance, and tree removal for the park district's Urban Forest, so that the tree population will be healthy, and provide the greatest benefits to the community while maximizing benefits and minimizing risk. To learn more about the budgets, see the individual goals in each section below, or turn to the budget table on page 61.

Update Language for Enforcement of Tree Policies

A review was performed with our staff and the Morton Arboretum to edit and improve internal policies governing trees in Park District of La Grange. The Park District of La Grange does not have traditional municipal ordinances. These internal policies are meant to reinforce proper practices while discouraging improper practices and care, and are not meant to be overly punitive, but rather to encourage the community to engage in proper tree care practices. These policies are common industry regulations, such as enforcing rules about what trees cannot be planted because they are unsafe trees, or defining exactly what trees are the park district's and the resident's responsibility, among other things. The goal of these policies is to create a tree population which is diverse, healthy, and improving, providing the greatest benefit to the park district and its residents and patrons over the long term.

Increase Overall Diversity by 2050 Through Tree Planting

Tree species diversity is one of the most important concepts in Urban Forestry today. The reason pests and diseases like Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and Dutch Elm Disease were so devastating is that there were too many Ash and Elm trees. When EAB arrived, many communities' Ash population was 20% or more, resulting in mass tree loss. This can be avoided by planting a greater diversity of tree species, so that when new pests or pathogens are introduced, we only lose small amounts of specific tree species. Diversity leads to stability, and stability leads to reduced costs and increased benefits over time.

An achievable "Diversity Vision" has been created for 2050 which will see the tree population become far more diverse than it is at present. Currently, the tree population in Park District of La Grange is composed predominantly of Maples, undesirable species such as Mulberry and Siberian Elm, screening evergreens such as Arborvitae and Pine, and Honeylocust. This is typical for many park Districts and tree populations overall in the Midwest region, but this Plan will seek to introduce far more diversity and create a more robust and resilient tree population.

For this Plan, trees will be planted which are underrepresented in the current population and planted in a manner that selects the right tree for the right site. A direct goal will be to create a tree planting program where trees are matched to existing sites for the next 10+ years. Currently, the Park District plants approximately 20 trees each year, and this plan seeks to increase that number from 20 to 45 trees per year over the next 10 years, to both be able to replace older declining trees, as well as to grow the tree population by approximately 250 trees overall by 2032. Ideas such contract growing, creating in in house liner nursery and others will be explored. To learn more about tree planting and reforestation, turn to pages 45-49 and appendices A-E.



Maintain an Acceptable / Unacceptable Species List

The urban environment is a difficult place for a tree to live. Between road salts, urban pollutants, limited soil, and other challenges, not all trees will thrive in the urban environment. Fortunately, parks are much more forgiving than street tree sites. That said, trees which have very weak wood, are known invasive species, which produce messy or foul-smelling fruits, or which create a public nuisance should also be avoided. Acceptable species are those which are adapted to our Midwest climate, are not invasive, and do not pose high risk. Included in this Plan is an “acceptable and unacceptable” which will detail specific trees which may be planted on boulevards, in parks, and by schools. The park district and Board of Commissioners will review the list periodically to ensure that it is maintained in accordance with the latest information on specific trees. For more information on what species can and cannot be planted, see the Acceptable Species list in Appendix A.

Manage Tree Removals

For public safety, or to prevent the spread of tree pests and pathogens, sometimes tree removal is unavoidable. During the inventory, 33 trees were located which require removal. To keep the patrons of Park District of La Grange safe, a tree removal program has been created in this Plan which budgets for the safe removal of all these trees over the next year after adoption of this plan in order to maintain public safety. Beginning this year, these 33 trees can be budgeted for removal. Cost projections for tree removals have been made based on the number, age, and condition of trees in La Grange’s parks for the next 10 years, so that long term budgeting projections can be made. Also included are ANSI and ISA safety standards, as well as suggested bid specifications to ensure the park district is hiring qualified contractors who will be held to the highest industry standards. For more information on the proposed tree removal program, turn to section _.



Create a Cycle Pruning Program

Properly pruned trees establish faster, grow quicker, and live longer lives than trees which are not pruned, or improperly pruned. Since large trees provide the greatest benefits to the community, pruning is a critical part of the Urban Forestry program in La Grange. Pruning will be done by trained Park District of La Grange staff, Certified Arborist contractors, and for some of the newer trees to be planted, potentially by local, well-trained volunteers. Currently, the park district prunes approximately 100 trees each year. The initial goal will be to prune the 68 trees which were identified in the inventory as being in the greatest need of pruning, and begin the cycle pruning process.

As Park District of La Grange begins to increase its budgets and capacity for tree pruning, we hope to establish a cyclical pruning program. This program will ensure that all trees on park district property are pruned at a minimum every 6 years, increasing tree health and vigor while reducing costs associated with storm damage and tree failure. We also propose that a volunteer group be trained in proper pruning and maintenance of young trees, so the community can assist in caring for this Urban Forest resource. This group may assist in other tasks as well, such as monitoring for new insects and diseases. For more information on tree pruning and maintenance, turn to pages 49-53.

Maintain an Accurate Tree Inventory on an Annual Basis

Managing an urban forest requires a clear understanding of the trees, their ages, conditions, and locations, so that park district crews and contractors can perform work on these trees. A stem-by-stem tree inventory was completed in February of 2022. This inventory and consulting resulted in an unbiased assessment of all of the trees in La Grange’s parks and will serve as the data which will guide the forestry program throughout the next 10 years.



All inventories are a snapshot in time. With 816 trees in La Grange’s parks, the tree inventory should be maintained at a high level of accuracy so that it doesn’t become out of date.

Currently, PDLG has decided to purchase an online, cloud-based GIS software (ArcGIS Online) which will help them map and manage their trees and new plantings over the long term. We also recommend that the inventory be updated periodically by a Forestry Consultant, to keep the information at its most current on a park district-wide scale. Maintaining this tree data at a high level is vital in the execution of this Plan.

Proper Mulching of All New Plantings

The urban environment is a difficult place for a tree to become established and to live a long, healthy life. Proper mulching can significantly increase a tree’s ability to do this. Mulch helps to conserve water during the summer by preventing it from evaporating from the soil. It also helps prevent weeds from growing around the tree and competing for water and nutrients and keeps lawn equipment such as weed whips away from the trunk where they can damage the tree. All new park district plantings will be properly mulched at the time of planting by the planting contractor and maintained by Park District staff.

Another intended outcome of this initiative will be to educate staff and residents about proper mulching and notify them when poor mulching techniques are being used. Of particular concern is the practice known as “Volcano Mulching” which has the opposite effect of proper mulching and can severely damage a tree over time. For more information on proper mulching, turn to pages 54-55.

Incorporation of Best Management Practices in Tree Care operations

“Best Management Practices” is a term which means being on the cutting edge of your industry. All contractors working for the park district should be compliant with the latest industry Best Management Practices, based on the appendices in this report. The ANSI and ISA Best Management Practices shall be integral parts of any Request for Proposal (RFP) or bid documents when seeking qualified contractors. Full text of all referenced standards shall be made available to all park district employees and contractors performing tree care operations. Public outreach and education shall be performed by the Park District’s staff, and/or a local, qualified organization ensuring that residents understand these practices as well. This UFMP will be placed in the public domain for all residents to use as a reference.

Creation, utilization, and maintenance of a Tree Risk Assessment policy

Trees create great benefits, but they may also pose various degrees of risk. Tree limb failure can have catastrophic effects on people or property, and trees need to be well-managed and healthy to avoid that risk. A risk assessment policy has been created for Park District of La Grange as part of this Plan. This policy will aid in identifying, documenting, and designating for removal or mitigation trees which may pose a threat to public safety in a timely manner. This will reduce the overall level of risk posed by trees, as well as exposure to liability from tree related incidents. Basic risk assessment language is included in this document, and a draft Tree Risk Assessment Policy has been created on pages 57-60, and sample Risk Assessment forms are included in Appendix H.

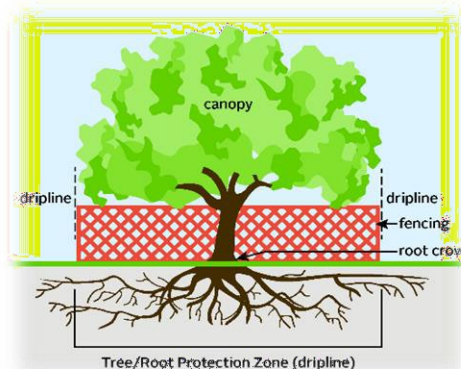
Increase Urban Tree Canopy from 39% to 40%

Tree canopy is important to the community because more and larger trees provide greater benefits such as decreased heating and cooling costs, pollution reduction, and increased storm water uptake. Tree lined streets are more attractive to homebuyers and potential new businesses, which increases home values, home ownership, and tax revenue. All of these factors benefit the community, so a direct goal will be to increase tree canopy in the Village of La Grange. Currently, La Grange contains 39.1% tree canopy coverage, compared to other land cover types. Increases in tree canopy also come with increases in total benefits provided to the community.

Based on data from the Chicago Region Trees Initiatives, we believe that an increase to 40% canopy cover is a realistic goal for La Grange by 2032. This will be accomplished by increasing the number of trees on park district owned property, as well as improving tree care allowing trees to live longer, become larger, and create more canopy cover. Tree planting on private property will also be incentivized through public-private partnerships between the park district, Village of La Grange, and local organizations and businesses. As we will show in the detailed portions of this Plan, these are real benefits that will help La Grange residents save money. For more information on Urban Tree Canopy, tree benefits, and other such information, turn to pages 29-33.

Tree Preservation / Invasive Species Management

Sometimes trees can become damaged by construction activities, costing the park district money, and eliminating the benefit the tree had to the community. A basic tree survey and assessment should be conducted prior to any construction activities on park district owned land. A tree protection zone must be established and maintained during construction. The park district should also confer with the Village when removing trees to ensure compliance with local ordinances. The removal of invasive species such as European Buckthorn and Bush Honeysuckle is also strongly encouraged. This not only increases the amount of usable land in the parks by eliminating thickets of such invasives, but also increases public safety. A direct goal of this Urban Forestry Management plan is to preserve trees during construction and reduce the amount of invasive species within Park District of La Grange.



Increase Awareness of the Urban Forest in Park District of La Grange, and Engage Stakeholders

The reason for the establishment and enhancement of an Urban Forestry program in Park District of La Grange is to improve the lives of the residents, business owners, and other stakeholders to create a healthier, happier community. In order to make this happen, the park district is looking for partners in the community to provide support for this program. Park District of La Grange staff is reaching out to local garden clubs, La Grange Business Association, Village of La Grange, League of Women Voters, La Grange Library, LT Highschool, residents, and business owners to make the forestry program innovative and community based. In this manner, residents and business owners in La Grange can have a sense of ownership of this important and beneficial resource, and allow it to work for them, their families, businesses, and the good of the whole village.

Increase Tree Count from 816 to 1,050 Trees

Currently, the stocking density of La Grange's parks is quite high. What is meant by this is that it would be difficult to plant more trees in the parks than are already there without interfering with sports fields and other amenities. However, this plan seeks to increase the overall number of trees by creating a multilayered canopy, consisting of large canopy trees with medium sized trees and smaller ornamentals growing beneath them. By using this approach, and also finding areas where new trees would be welcome in the landscape, the number of trees in La Grange's parks can be increased by nearly 30%, which will correspond with an increase in overall benefits of these trees to the community, and aid in growing the overall canopy in the Village of La Grange.

Define Trees as Critical Stormwater Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is rapidly becoming recognized as being just as important as grey infrastructure in many ways. Chief among these green infrastructure components are trees, and specifically the stormwater mitigation effects they provide. A mature tree can intercept or otherwise mitigate over 5,000 gallons of avoided runoff every year. On a population scale, PDLG's tree population of just 816 trees is responsible for intercepting or avoiding over 180,655 gallons of stormwater runoff each year! The loss of this resource due to storm damage, insect or pathogen invasion, or other such damage would have a critical impact on the local stormwater infrastructure. For this reason, a direct goal of this Management Plan will be to define trees as critical stormwater infrastructure, and that these assets should be compensated for when lost to unforeseeable events.

Additional Goals

There are no strategic timelines set forth here for these programs. As the direct goals of the Urban Forestry program in PDLG are met or exceeded, they will be discussed by the Park District of La Grange staff. Other duties and services can be determined by PDLG as time and budgets become available. We believe that many of these programs represent progressive Urban Forestry policies, and that they should all be considered for implementation.

Volunteer Labor (TreeKeepers/Local Organizations)

The ability to use well-trained volunteers for pruning young trees and planting of smaller sized nursery stock may benefit the park district's bottom line and be a phenomenal source of public outreach and education. To accomplish this, several training sessions would be required for these volunteers to be confident enough that they can perform these activities with minimal supervision. The Forestry Consultant, working in tandem with park district staff and local organizations, could educate residents on the proper way to prune young trees, as well as how to plant container-grown trees, water and mulch trees, identify trees, and other basic tree knowledge.

The Openlands Tree Keepers program which is a great example of just such an organization. Openlands is a non-profit which assists in educating people about trees, and how to prune, plant, and manage them, and their benefits to society. There are other local organizations with which Park District of La Grange could partner with as well, please the Strategic Partnerships section on pages 13-15 below. Upon acceptance of this plan, a volunteer program will be examined by District staff.

It is also recommended that PDLG hold several annual tree education sessions. These sessions could be taught by park district staff, Forestry Consultant, or other such qualified organizations, and cover tree watering, fertilization, pruning, and the basics of how to spot insects and diseases. In addition, basic tree care pamphlets shall be made available at Park District offices. An Arbor Day celebration is an example of one such outreach event where trees could be planted, and education sessions run.

Contract Growing Program

One of the keys to a successful Tree Planting Program is the availability of high-quality nursery stock from local sources. Incorporated with the UFMP for the Park District of La Grange is a diversity vision for 2032 that includes a great variety and diversity of different trees. A new approved species list has also been developed, as well as a list of tree species that should be prohibited on public property. Having this information is an advantage for the district, in that the nature of the urban forest's species composition is already known. It is believed that a comprehensive tree planting plan will be an important part of this process as well.

This knowledge, however, does not guarantee the availability of those specific trees when the time arrives to fill a particular site. One way to assure the availability of nursery stock the district desires each year is to have trees contract grown by local nurseries and reserved specifically for PDLG. This way, the park district will not have to compete with other local organizations responsible for tree planting. The way contract growing works is that trees are ordered in annual increments. Each year, La Grange will purchase the trees previously ordered for that year, and place an order for the following year. This gives the supplying nursery time to procure, plant, and bring the agreed upon trees to the size and branching habit specified.

Nurseries should be located within a specified distance of La Grange, to ensure climatic zone compatibility and reduced transportation costs, and planting stock exposure to the elements. Nurseries should be of sufficient production capacity to furnish all trees ordered in advance, as well as possible increases. Nurseries should be chosen on their capacity to produce stock, and meet quality, form, and health standards as specified by the district. The nursery should allow tagging by park district staff or other representative such as the Forestry Consultant as well. For more on tree species selection for the future of the urban forest, turn to pages 34-40, and Appendices A-C.

Memorial Tree Planting Program Enhancement

Seeing as park trees belong to PDLG, and not the residents, the district should ultimately make the decisions on what trees will be planted at specific sites.

However, if residents are interested in planting a specific species of tree in a park location to memorialize a loved one or group, a cost-share program exists called the Commemorative Tree and Bench program, whereby a resident can purchase a tree or bench. With a tree purchase, a metal leaf will be added to the Commemorative Tree sculpture in the lobby. A tree plaque installed at the tree is optional. This program has been very successful, but with the new goals of adding a substantial number of trees, and increasing the diversity of those trees, we believe opening discussion about how to expand this program will not only provide excellent community outreach, but also provide the financial backing to meet these goals.



Private Property Tree Planting Incentive Programs

Tree planting on private property is a direct goal of this Urban Forestry Management Plan, as noted above. Though the park district has no formal jurisdiction to plant trees on private property, the benefits of tree planting on private property are substantial in terms of energy savings, storm water benefits, and other benefits. The district should consider incentivizing residents and business owners to plant trees on their property.

One of the ways this could be accomplished ties in with the volunteer programs outlined above. When holding educational sessions, Arbor Day events, or other such programs, the park district could purchase or otherwise obtain small seedlings from nurseries or other organizations, and either give them away, or purchase them at wholesale and sell them to residents at a slight markup. This would allow residents of La Grange access to young trees to plant at home, while also educating them on how to care for their new tree. Similar programs have been instituted at other park districts in the area, with trees being supplied by local nurseries, or by groups such as the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District MWRD which often supplies Oak saplings at no cost.

Strategic Partnerships

Strategic partnerships are a very effective means of getting forestry projects funded when tax funding may present a shortfall, or when additional volunteer labor is needed. These typically involve either public-private partnerships or partnering with other public entities. Typically, the organizations seen participating in these programs include local garden clubs, scout groups, rotary clubs, businesses, state departments of natural resources, and other such groups. This will be an ongoing goal, and continuing partnerships with new organizations shall always be sought.

Forest Preserve District of Cook County

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County is an organization which manages 70,000 acres of natural areas, trails, and other projects in Cook County. Several preserves are located very close to La Grange. FPDCC would be a valuable partner in sourcing nursery stock, as well as assisting in training volunteers when possible. They have a great wealth of knowledge, and are worth reaching out to for partnership to accomplish the goals of this plan.



La Grange Business Association

The LGBA assists businesses in developing effective programs, creating new ideas and establishing relationships that enhance the economic vitality of La Grange. This group would be invaluable when it comes to promoting businesses to include trees and greenspaces in their business plans, and showcasing the positive impact that green infrastructure has on local businesses and their vitality.



Village of La Grange

Village of La Grange is responsible for the health and vitality of 10,000 trees that make up the Village’s urban forest. The Village maintains an interactive on-line tree inventory that provides information on each public parkway tree, and La Grange has been a Tree City USA recipient for 38 years. The Village and Park District work together to diversify the urban forest for long term resilience; optimize tree planting and protection of existing trees for sustainability purposes; maximize the amount of public spaces and parks accessible to residents; educate residents on the care and importance of trees; and maintain landscapes and streetscapes to enhance gateways and public spaces.



Lyons Township High School

Urban Forestry is by and large an unknown profession, but there are many aspects of STEM concepts that go into it: GIS Mapping, chemistry, physics, biology, and math are all essential facets of Arboriculture. A relationship with LTHS would be a reciprocal relationship, where students could engage in study projects based around trees, citizen science, and volunteerism, and PDLG staff or urban forestry consultants could provide guest lectures to the students in any of these areas and develop careers in the green industry.



La Grange Public Library

The library is a place where people congregate and learn. As such, this would be a first-rate locations to advertise opportunities for volunteerism and learning about urban forestry, as well as stocking and showcasing books related to urban forestry and its related disciplines.



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

MWRD strives to protect businesses, homes and neighborhoods from flood damages, clean wastewater entering our plants and manage water as a vital resource for the area. As one of the primary goals of this UFMP is to define trees as critical stormwater infrastructure, MWRD is a very logical partner. They also give away Oak and other seedling trees every year as part of their efforts and using this resource as a source of trees would be welcome.



OpenLands

OpenLands is a highly diverse NPO in the Chicagoland area which focuses on many aspects of ecology in the urban and suburban environment such as natural areas, urban forestry, wetland conservation, and other such topics. They have a vast network of connections around the area, and also offer trainings and volunteerism efforts, such as the TreeKeepers program, which educates residents on the care of young trees, tree biology, and the like.



La Grange Chapter of the League of Women Voters

Along with various other interests, the League of Women Voters have a very strong focus on environmental issues in the communities they serve. The LVWUS and LWVIL both have stated that the league's mission is to protect our planet from the physical, economic and public health effects of climate change while also providing pathways to economic prosperity. All of this is in keeping with the goals of this UFMP, and we believe LWV will help be a strong local advocate of urban forestry activities.



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

The IDNR's Urban and Community Forestry program is actually how PDLG was funded for this program to begin with! The IDNR's mission is to protect, perpetuate, restore, conserve, and manage the forest and related resources of Illinois, both public and private. To that end, they have an abundance of resources, staff, and a network of partners which can help PDLG accomplish the goals laid out in this plan, including additional funding for such things as tree planting or local education and outreach.

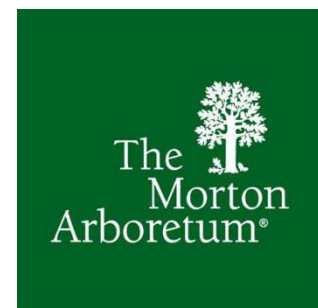


La Grange Garden Club

The LGGC's mission is the advancement of gardening, development of the home grounds, civic beautification, garden therapy, and aiding in the protection of forest, wildflowers and birds. They currently have 45 active members, and would very likely be interested in furthering the goals of this plan, and acting as community leaders when it comes to promoting the importance of urban forestry in La Grange.

The Morton Arboretum

The Morton Arboretum, aside from being a wonderful place to visit to learn about trees, also has significant educational and operational resources available. As the overall administrator on the grant which funded this project, they have a vested interest in seeing it succeed. They offer educational programs, volunteer education, and a whole host of other services which can make this plan a success.



Chicago Regional Trees Initiative

CRTI is actually an amalgamation of many of the above groups acting together as a driving force for establishing the importance of urban forestry in the Chicagoland area and abroad. CRTI has several working groups which handle topics such as forest composition, risk management, communications, etc. They are always looking to partner with local communities to get tasks accomplished and publicized, so they will be a first rate resource for accomplishing the goals laid out in this plan.



Personnel

In order to streamline Urban Forestry Operations, tasks will be assigned to various staff, contractors, and consultants. Below is a representation of tasks, and which of the above parties is responsible for these tasks.

Director of Parks, Planning & Maintenance

The Director of Parks, Planning & Maintenance is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the activities of both in-house staff and outside contractors when it comes to maintaining the grounds. They create requests for proposals, manage field staff, and deal with daily operations related to trees, and are the decision makers when it comes to the planting, pruning, maintenance, and removal of trees in the parks. The Director of Parks, Planning & Maintenance works with the Advisory Tree Committee as well as with the Forestry Consultant as needed and directs field staff and contractors when it comes to maintenance of the Urban Forest.

Board of Commissioners

The Board of Commissioners is responsible for the approval of funds to specific Urban Forestry initiatives. They take direction from their constituents, are informed by the Executive Director, Director of Parks, Planning & Maintenance, and Forestry Consultant, and are tasked with reviewing this information to make sound decisions about funding these programs. The Board of Commissioners will also be tasked with being part of the team that review this Plan on a periodic basis to make recommendations for edits to help adaptively manage the Urban Forestry program for the district.

Executive Director

Provides oversight into the entire park districts operations, including both parks and recreation. The Executive Director provides guidance and budget allocations to all of the positions listed in this section, and has final say on initiatives, but is also required to listed to all staff members to obtain a balanced perspective on potential projects and initiatives.

Advisory Tree Committee

This planned committee will consist of the Director of Parks, Planning & Maintenance, selected Board Members, and highly trained volunteers. Planning staff will exercise authority related to planning of large-scale programs related to the Urban Forest, with the assistance and guidance of the Board of Commissioners and Urban Forestry Consultant.

Urban Forestry Consultant

The Forestry Consultant is responsible for impartially assessing the tree population on a periodic basis, at the discretion of the Director of Parks, Planning & Maintenance. The Forestry Consultant communicates the needs of the trees to the Director of Parks, Planning & Maintenance so that needs in terms of tree planting, removal, and maintenance can be performed. PDLG staff will provide updates to the Board of Commissioners after consultations. The Forestry Consultant may also function as the Park District Arborist during periods of PDLG staff absence at the request of the park

district.

Tree Care Contractors

Tree Care Contractors are responsible for performing work identified by the Advisory Tree Committee, Forestry Consultant, and PDLG staff in a timely, safe, and expeditious manner. The Tree Care Contractor must have at least one International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist on site when work is being performed. The contractors will also guide and participate in the performance of Tree Trimming, Pruning, Removal, and Plant Health Care operations. Other operations, such as Tree Planting, Tree Watering, and Tree Mulching do not have to be performed under the direct supervision of a Certified Arborist.

State of the Urban Forest

In February of 2022, Certified Arborists from Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management began data collection for a comprehensive inventory of the publicly managed park trees in the community of La Grange, Illinois. This inventory resulted in a total of 816 trees and 2 stumps. The charts and statistics in this portion of the Management Plan illustrate that the tree population in La Grange can be characterized as younger to middle aged, and the stocking density is relatively high. The species diversity in La Grange is fair but could certainly use improvement. Based on the following data in the Management Plan, the Park District of La Grange will be equipped to use this valuable information to address short term concerns, long term management considerations, and overall planning objectives.

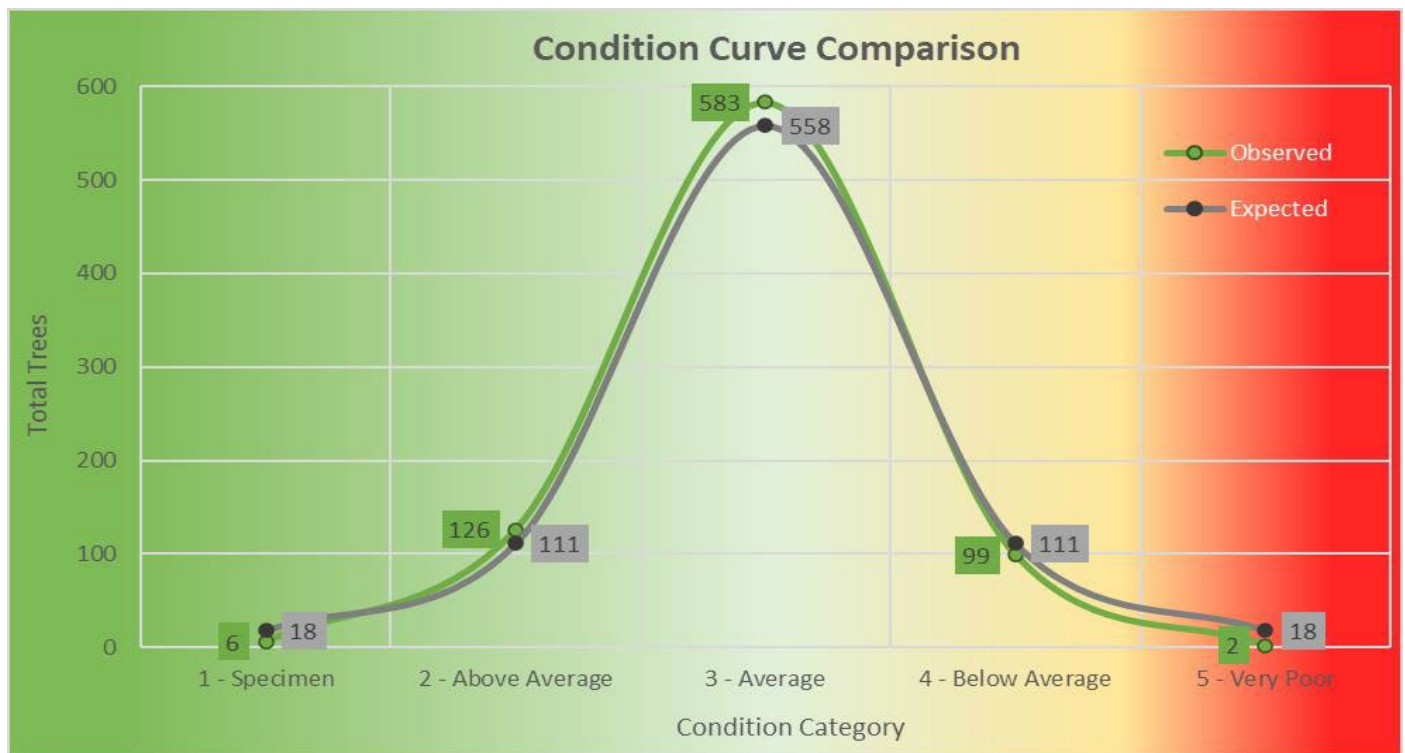
Basic Statistics - Managed Trees

Total Number of Trees	816
Total Number of Stumps	2
Total Number of Species	72
Total Diameter Inches	10,455"
Average Tree Diameter	12.81"
Average Tree Condition	2.96 (Slightly Above Average)
Average Mature (8" and up) Tree Condition	2.90 (Above Average)

Condition Curve

During the tree inventory, the Forestry Consultant rated the condition of each tree using a 1-5 rating system. The rating criteria is as follows:

Condition 1	Specimen - Tree has no observable defects, wounds, diseases, and has perfect form for the species. Since younger trees are generally trouble free, a condition 1 tree must by the Forestry Consultant’s definition be greater than 16” DBH. These are legacy trees, and as such are rare.
Condition 2	Above Average - Tree may have a small amount of deadwood, or a very limited number of minor defects. The overall form of the tree must be good, and consistent for the species. These trees, by the Forestry Consultant’s definition, must be larger than 8” DBH.
Condition 3	Average - Tree has moderate amounts of deadwood, wounds, or other defects, but is generally healthy. A wide variety of forms is acceptable for this group, which is meant to define the middle ground around which better or worse trees can be defined.
Condition 4	Below Average - Tree has defects, deadwood, wounds, disease, etc. which are likely to cause a need for removal. Very poor form or architecture can put an otherwise healthy tree in this category as well.
Condition 5	Very Poor - Tree must be removed. Defects are too far advanced for the tree to be reasonably saved. Like condition 1 trees, these are rare, as generally trees approaching this level are removed before they deteriorate to this level.



The chart above represents the distribution of trees in each of the 5 categories. We have included the tree condition ratings we observed in the field, as well as a curve representing an “average” distribution so that comparisons can be made. The green line represents what we observed in the field, and the grey line represents an average or “normal” tree population.

As can be seen from the above chart, the tree population is almost exactly what would be expected from a tree population on average, with most condition categories being very close to what is considered an average distribution.

The number of specimen trees is almost always lower than statistics alone would predict, but in a smaller tree population of 816 trees, having 6 specimen trees is quite good! These are trees that should be highlighted to the public as being very important to the community.

The number of above average trees was slightly higher than expected, as was the number of trees in average condition. This shows a high level of care and maintenance of the trees in PDLG. The number of trees in the “average” condition category always skews slightly high, and this has to do with the 8” diameter size requirement to become better than average or specimen. As these trees grow, and the level of care continues to be high and improves ever more as a result of things outlined in this plan, we can expect to see more of these trees move into higher condition ratings.

Also, the number of trees in the lower than average or very poor classes is lower than would be expected. Once again, this points to a proactive program and a high level of care for the trees.

Overall, this curve shows a well-cared for tree population!

Age Class Analysis



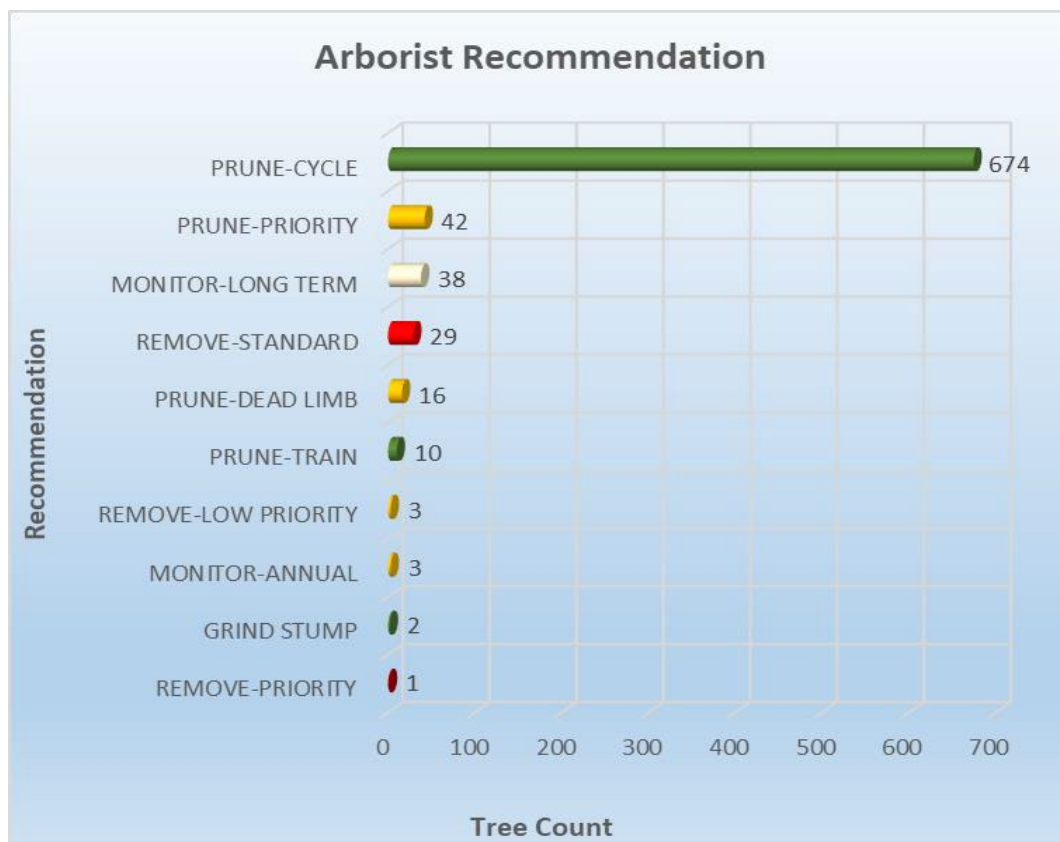
In terms of the ages of trees in La Grange, the tree population was split into 8 classes of 6" diameter each. This shows how many trees are in each "age class". Because trees are measured by trunk diameter, this breakdown can help show where trees are in their life cycles. Some trees like Cottonwood and Silver Maple grow in diameter very quickly, up to 1" per year or possibly more. Other slower growing trees such as Oak and Hickory may only add ¼" or less every year. As a broad generalization, it can be said that most trees on average grow at around ½" per year.

Year	Population Size
1920	6,525
1930	10,103
1940	10,479
1950	12,002
1960	15,285
1970	17,814
1980	15,693
1990	15,362
2000	15,608
2010	15,550
2020	15,332

What this chart shows is a younger to middle aged tree population overall, with most trees (~650) being approximately 40 years old or younger (18" DBH or less), with a smaller but significant number of trees (~135) which are 40-60 years old on average (19-30"). The table of La Grange's population growth since 1920 is shown at the lower right, and it is apparent that the growth in the number of trees in the PDLG system increases around the same time as the population of the village was increasing at that same time.

The chart also shows that there was a spike in tree planting around 15-25 years ago (7-12" DBH), but tree planting has slowed in recent years. A goal of this plan will be to increase tree plantings in coming years to not only replace removed trees but grow the population as well.

Arborist Recommendation / Maintenance



During the inventory, the Forestry Consultant’s staff recorded an Arborist Recommendation for each tree which outlines what maintenance work needs to be performed in the coming years.

By and large, most trees fell into the “Prune-Cycle” category, which simply means the trees just need to be pruned on the 6-year cycle that we have proposed, with no other work in the interim. Again, this shows a high level of care for the trees. Between “Priority Pruning”, “Dead Limb Pruning”, and “Training Pruning”, there were a total of 68 trees which require pruning on a more priority basis, and we have shown that in our budget tables in the pruning section below. It is anticipated these 68 trees can be pruned next year under the current budget.

In terms of removals, there were only 33 removals identified in the entire population, which once again is evidence of a high level of care and monitoring. It is anticipated that PDLG will be able to complete all 33 in the 2022/2022 calendar year based on past performance.

Outside of these standard Urban Forestry maintenance activities, there are a handful of stumps which require removal, as well as 41 total trees which the Forestry Consultant deemed as being in need of monitoring. It should be noted here that trees listed as annual monitor (only 3) are generally in more critical condition than those requiring long term monitoring. Long term monitoring means the tree is in a state of change, and it should be reviewed periodically to look for signs of either improvement or worsening condition.

Risk Assessments



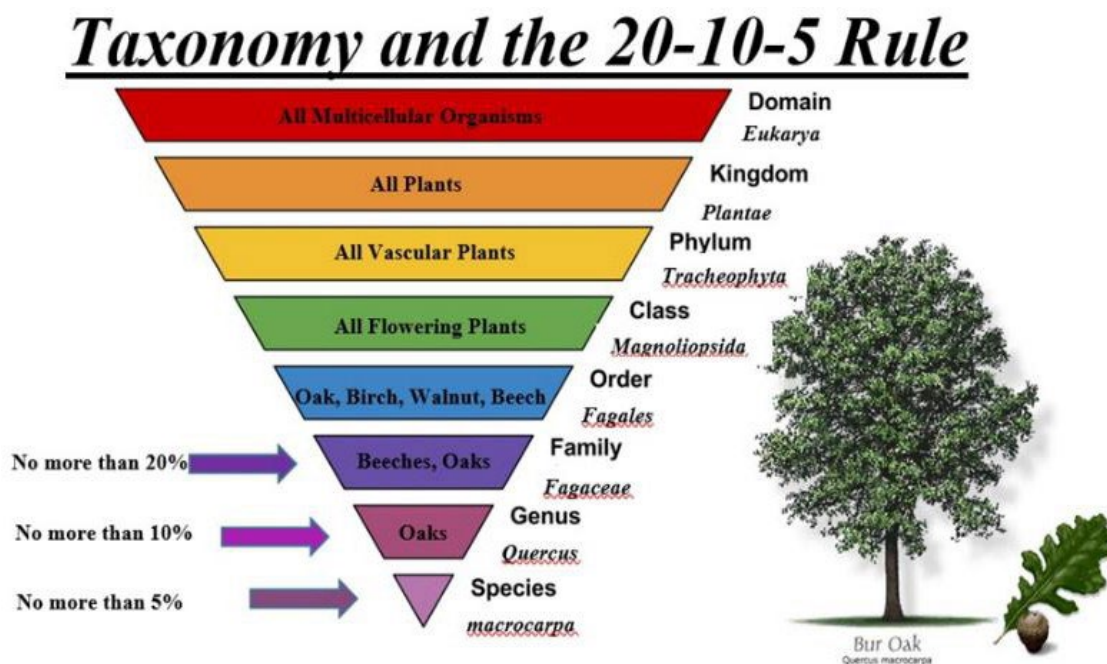
Each tree inventoried was subject to a rapid tree risk assessment. The International Society of Arboriculture has a professional qualification program called “TRAQ” (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification) which uses specific information for assessing how much risk a tree poses. The Forestry Consultant’s staff used a rapid tree risk assessment based on this protocol. Such rapid assessments are used in applications such as disaster relief assessments after extreme weather events where tree risk must be documented, but time frames are very short. For this reason, we must state unequivocally that these assessments are NOT meant to be legally binding, and do not represent a full TRAQ evaluation of the level of risk individual trees may pose.

The vast majority of trees (793) showed no observable signs of risk, which is very positive. 21 trees showed signs of elevated risk, though this is far from saying they pose any measurable risk to the public, more that they have some defects that could evolve over time to become higher risk trees.

The categories of risk most concerning are the Substantial and Critical risk levels. There were only 2 trees in the Substantial category, and none in the critical category. The trees in the Substantial category area already marked for priority maintenance in the Arborist Recommendation field, and therefore this risk should be mitigated within a year of this writing per the maintenance analysis above. No trees were found to be in need of any sort of advanced risk assessment, which is very positive overall.

Diversity Analysis

Taxonomy is the method by which scientists classify plants, animals, and other life forms into distinct categories. A species is unique. There is only one type in that category, such as Burr Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), which refers to only one specific type of tree. A genus, however, is a group that may contain multiple species. All Oak trees, for instance, are in the genus *Quercus*. The further down the taxonomic ladder you go, the more similar things become.



The more similar tree species are to each other, the higher the likelihood that an insect or pathogen can exploit every species of that genus. Emerald Ash Borer is a classic example of this, as it affected every tree species in the ash genus. The most effective prevention of tree loss we have is to limit the number of trees planted that a new pest or pathogen can affect. While diversity at the species level is important, it is also important to achieve diversity on the genus and family levels, so that a large election of trees are planted.

The “20-10-5” rule for La Grange’s future tree plantings is recommended, which states that no more than 20% of any one family, 10% of any one genus, and 5% of any one species shall be planted during any single planting cycle. It will also be a long-term direct goal of the forestry program to have the tree population as a whole in compliance with the 20-10-5 Rule, although it may not be possible by the 2050 date used in this document. This level of taxonomic diversity is consistent with today’s arboricultural industry standards (see above graphic).

The old paradigm of urban forestry was to create landscapes in which every tree was the same type, shape, age, and height. This was thought to produce a uniform appearance. Urban foresters have since learned that once a pest or pathogen is introduced into a monoculture planting, an epicenter of infestation is created that may cause serious damage, both ecologically and financially. Diversity in the urban forest helps to prevent and reduce the impacts of pests and pathogens. There are three aspects of diversity in the urban forest. We will examine these in detail below.

Taxonomic (Species) Diversity

Why is it important to plant a diverse set of trees at the species, Genus, and Family levels? Simply put, it is to ensure that communities will not fall victim to mass tree loss from pests and pathogens in the future. The reason Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was such a devastating expense for many organizations was because their tree populations were composed of over 20% Ash trees. When these trees died and had to be removed, those organizations lost 20% of their trees.

This comes with the obvious expenses of having to remove these trees and replace them. But it also comes with hidden expenses as well, namely the loss of the ecological services that those trees provided: Homes cost more to heat and cool, storm water infrastructure falls under heavier pressure, and increases in pollutants and greenhouse gases may be observed. For all of these reasons, a more diverse group of trees needs to be planted, such that we are never at risk of losing more than 5-10% of our trees at any given time.

The diversity in La Grange’s parks overall is relatively low, and dominated by Maples, undesirable volunteer species such as Siberian Elm and Mulberry, screening evergreens, and Honeylocust. This is not uncommon in park district settings, where the need for privacy demands a high number of evergreens, and many undesirable volunteer species tend to come with the park when the land is acquired. And of course, Maple is universally overplanted in our Illinois landscapes, which again is very common. That said, it appears that recent plantings have been of a more diverse nature, and this Plan will assist in reinforcing and guiding that effort.

Spatial Diversity

Spatial diversity is the concept of mixing tree species over the whole geographic area. The easiest way to slow the spread of any new pest or pathogen is to increase the distance between potential host trees. Every pest or disease, such as EAB or Dutch Elm Disease (DED), has a limited area to which it can spread in a given time frame. The more difficult it is to get to the next host tree, the less of a problem the pest or pathogen becomes, and the easier quarantine becomes.

In addition to the functional benefits provided by increasing spatial diversity, organizations which have implemented diverse planting over the past several decades have demonstrated that such diversity yields an arboretum-like landscape that is both functional and aesthetically pleasing. At present, the Spatial Diversity in La Grange is fair. During the tree planting planning phase, extra care should be taken to ensure that new plantings are done in a manner that yields a spatially diverse tree population, and creation of areas of low spatial diversity (monocultures) will be avoided.

Age-Class Diversity

Age-class diversity is also an important consideration. A healthy natural forest has trees of many ages. Young, intermediate and mature trees allow for regeneration, replacement and vigor in the overall forest community. A mixture of tree species, locations, and ages will lead to great diversity, which insulates a natural forest against pest and pathogen outbreaks. The Urban Forest is no different. The outdated urban forestry paradigm promoted even-aged tree plantings, so that all trees were approximately the same size and age. However, once these trees begin to decline, most will require removal and replanting simultaneously. This can leave an entire street segment or neighborhood without shade and aesthetics for a long time.

The current approach of the urban forestry community is to strategically plant trees on streets or in neighborhoods over a longer timeframe. With this strategy, trees will grow to maturity in different stages, and decline at different times. When declining trees are eventually removed, there will always be a variety of age classes and tree sizes on a block or in a neighborhood. This reduces the pressure to plant trees in an area immediately after tree removal, helping to manage costs. A mixed age-class planting ensures that mature trees are always present in a neighborhood. It also will allow for strategic planting of smaller or medium sized trees.

An additional benefit of mixed-age plantings is the ability to plant shade-loving trees as well as sun-loving trees. When a street or neighborhood is newly planted with trees of the same age, all the trees are essentially in full sun. This reduces the ability to plant shade loving trees, as they tend to dry out in the summer sun. With mixed-age stands, shade-tolerant, trees may be planted underneath the canopy of larger, mature trees. This approach will be used for future tree removal and replacement and help to create an Urban Forest that has mature trees, middle aged trees, and young trees in similar quantities.

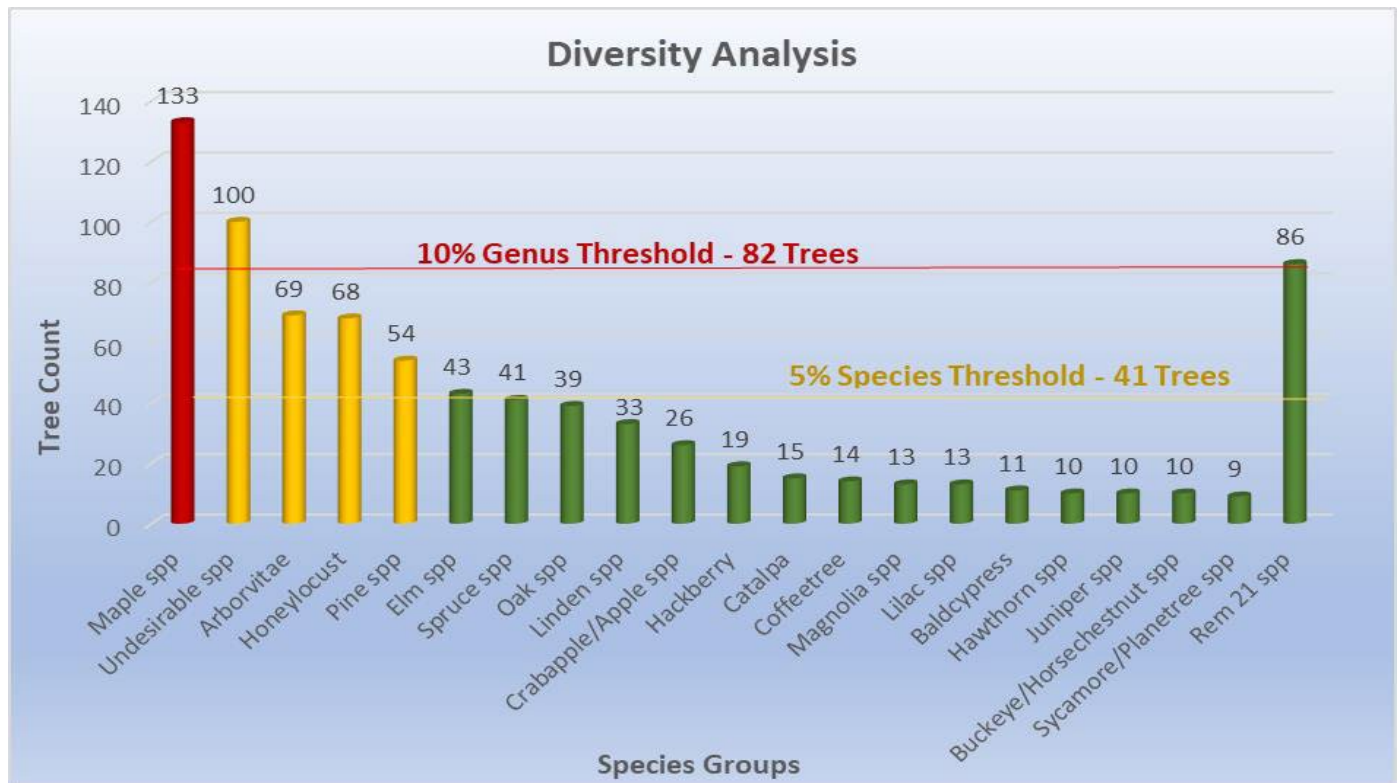
Current Tree Population

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COUNT</u>	<u>% OF TOTAL</u>	<u>AVG DBH</u>	<u>AVG COND</u>
ARBORVITAE	69	8.46%	8.58	3.01
HONEYLOCUST	68	8.33%	20.75	2.72
PINE-AUSTRIAN	53	6.50%	13.21	3.15
MAPLE-NORWAY	41	5.02%	15.95	3.07
SPRUCE-BLUE	37	4.53%	11.19	2.86
MAPLE-SUGAR	33	4.04%	11.06	2.91
BLACK LOCUST	30	3.68%	13.00	3.27
MULBERRY-SPP	27	3.31%	15.67	3.33
APPLE-CRAB SPP	25	3.06%	6.88	3.00
LINDEN-LITTLELEAF	24	2.94%	14.21	2.83
ELM-AMERICAN	23	2.82%	18.78	2.83
MAPLE-RED	22	2.70%	7.27	3.00
ELM-HYBRID	20	2.45%	10.85	2.65
MAPLE-AUTUMN BLAZE	20	2.45%	9.35	2.75
HACKBERRY	19	2.33%	18.68	2.42
OAK-RED	16	1.96%	13.50	2.44
CATALPA	15	1.84%	16.60	2.73
ELM-SIBERIAN	15	1.84%	26.87	3.53
KENTUCKY COFFEETREE	14	1.72%	6.71	2.86
MAGNOLIA-SPP	13	1.59%	4.38	3.00
MAPLE-SILVER	12	1.47%	22.50	3.42
BALDCYPRESS	11	1.35%	6.27	2.73
COTTONWOOD	11	1.35%	37.82	2.55
HAWTHORN-SPP	10	1.23%	10.00	3.10
JUNIPER-COMMON	10	1.23%	7.70	3.10
OAK-SWAMP WHITE	10	1.23%	10.50	2.90
LILAC-TREE	9	1.10%	8.33	2.89
LINDEN-AMERICAN	9	1.10%	17.44	3.11
VIBURNUM	8	0.98%	4.25	3.13
WITCH HAZEL	8	0.98%	5.25	3.00
AMERICAN REDBUD	7	0.86%	5.29	3.00
AMERICAN HORNBEAM	6	0.74%	4.67	3.33
BIRCH-RIVER	6	0.74%	12.33	3.00
BUCKTHORN	6	0.74%	12.17	4.00
BURNING BUSH	6	0.74%	6.83	3.33
SYCAMORE	6	0.74%	14.00	2.33
YELLOWWOOD	6	0.74%	3.33	2.83
ASH-WHITE	5	0.61%	13.60	3.00
CHERRY-BLACK	5	0.61%	11.60	3.20
GINKGO	5	0.61%	26.60	2.00
OAK-BURR	5	0.61%	9.20	2.80
SERVICEBERRY-SPP	5	0.61%	4.40	3.00

PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>COUNT</u>	<u>% OF TOTAL</u>	<u>AVG DBH</u>	<u>AVG COND</u>
TULIPTREE	5	0.61%	5.80	3.00
WALNUT-BLACK	5	0.61%	17.40	2.60
BUCKEYE-OHIO	4	0.49%	4.50	3.00
LILAC-SHRUB	4	0.49%	7.00	3.00
MAPLE-TATARIAN	4	0.49%	1.25	3.00
PEAR-CALLERY	4	0.49%	14.50	3.00
BOXELDER	3	0.37%	16.00	3.33
BUCKEYE-RED	3	0.37%	3.00	3.00
HORSECHESTNUT	3	0.37%	10.33	3.00
LONDON PLANETREE	3	0.37%	5.33	3.00
OAK-ENGLISH	3	0.37%	7.00	3.00
SPRUCE-NORWAY	3	0.37%	15.33	2.67
ASH-GREEN	2	0.25%	20.50	4.00
EASTERN REDCEDAR	2	0.25%	13.00	3.00
OAK-CHINQUAPIN	2	0.25%	2.00	3.00
WILLOW-WEeping	2	0.25%	9.50	3.00
APPLE-EDIBLE	1	0.12%	17.00	3.00
BLACKGUM	1	0.12%	2.00	3.00
DOUGLAS FIR	1	0.12%	11.00	3.00
FIR-CONCOLOR	1	0.12%	16.00	3.00
FIR-SPP	1	0.12%	10.00	3.00
HAZELNUT-TREE	1	0.12%	4.00	3.00
HONEYSUCKLE	1	0.12%	8.00	3.00
MAPLE-PAPERBARK	1	0.12%	3.00	3.00
OAK-PIN	1	0.12%	1.00	3.00
OAK-SHINGLE	1	0.12%	8.00	3.00
OAK-WHITE	1	0.12%	3.00	3.00
PINE-WHITE	1	0.12%	21.00	3.00
SPRUCE-WHITE	1	0.12%	1.00	3.00
UNKNOWN	1	0.12%	3.00	5.00

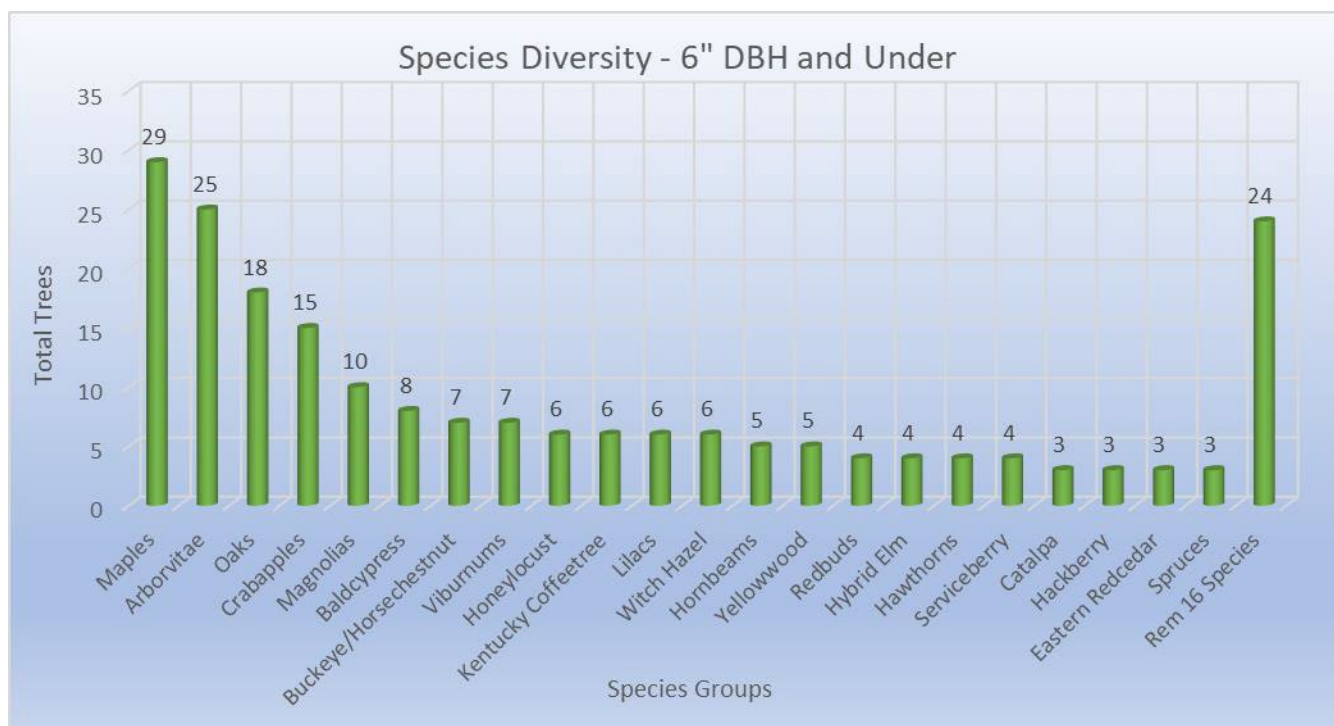
The Park District of La Grange tree population consists of 72 distinct tree species, accounting for 816 total trees. The above table shows the percent of the total population each species makes up, as well as the average Condition and Trunk Diameter. To see which trees are performing well, we would look for trees with a Condition rating of less than 3, with a large DBH. This population is shown graphically below:



As can be seen above, and has been discussed several times, the tree population of PDLG is dominated by Maples, screening evergreens, Honeylocusts, and undesirable volunteer species. From there, the number of tree species representing more than 1% of the total tree population drops off considerably. However, what is in the parks now may not be an accurate reflection of the current tree planting practices. For this, we will examine what the diversity of trees planted in the past 10 years has been below.

Young Tree Diversity

This Management Plan has spent significant time discussing the existing diversity. It should be noted that the diversity of new plantings has been much improved, as can be seen from the chart showing all trees 6" in diameter and less below. This chart represents the trees planted in the last 10 years or thereabouts. As can be seen, Maples and Arborvitae are still among the most planted species. However, after these 2 groups, the planting has gotten more diverse in general. In this plan, and the Future of the Urban Forest section below, it will be examined how to not only continue this effort, but enhance it as well thorough strategic and targeted plantings.



A long term tree planting plan would be an invaluable tool for PDLG to pursue in the future. Such a plan would not only further improve overall diversity, but also maximize the lifespan of trees in the parks by carefully matching tree species requirements and tolerances with each individual planting sites. Trees that are well adapted to their growing conditions will establish more quickly, require less maintenance, be healthier overall, and more resistant to disease and insect problems. By matching the right trees with the right planting spaces using a tree planting plan, the Park District of La Grange can help protect its investment in each new tree.

Going forward it is recommended that the Park District of La Grange sets a goal to limit widespread planting of Maple species and to opt for improved varieties of Maple species when necessary. It is also recommended to significantly slow the planting of any new Honeylocust, and to find a more diverse selection of evergreens to plant as screening trees. In addition, the planting of more, and more diverse, sets of smaller ornamentals other than crab apples is highly recommended in order to help build the multilayered canopy discussed above, and help the district increase its overall stocking density without needing too much more space to do so.

The district has many species to choose from which are commercially available and currently underrepresented in their population. As mentioned above, the Urban Forest Management Plan will lay out strategies to correct this imbalance.

iTree Report / Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

iTree is a state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite from the USDA Forest Service that provides Urban Forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools. The iTree tools help communities of all sizes to strengthen their forest management and advocacy efforts by quantifying the structure of trees and forests, and the environmental services that trees provide.

iTree Streets Analysis Results

La Grange

Total Annual Benefits, Net Benefits, and Costs for Public Trees

2/26/2021

Benefits	Total (\$) Standard Error	\$/tree Standard Error	\$/capita Standard Error
Energy	5,544 (N/A)	6.78 (N/A)	0.36 (N/A)
CO2	606 (N/A)	0.74 (N/A)	0.04 (N/A)
Air Quality	1,542 (N/A)	1.89 (N/A)	0.10 (N/A)
Stormwater	14,487 (N/A)	17.71 (N/A)	0.93 (N/A)
Aesthetic/Other	78,738 (N/A)	96.26 (N/A)	5.06 (N/A)
Total Benefits	100,918 (N/A)	123.37 (N/A)	6.49 (N/A)

The iTree suite calculates hard dollar values that trees provide to communities. Trees provide “ecological services” that saves the district money, such as in heating and cooling costs, where large trees help shade facilities in the summer, saving on air conditioning and electricity bills, and provide windbreaks during the winter, saving on heating and natural gas costs. They also provide CO2 uptake, reducing the effects of climate change, as well as air quality improvements by the absorption of urban pollutants. Trees also absorb stormwater, which reduces strain on stormwater infrastructure, and saves money in replacement costs. Finally, trees contribute up to 15% of the total value of a property, so they have monetary aesthetic benefits as well.

Using the data from the tree inventory, several iTree reports have been prepared the Park District of La Grange. Below you will find reports on the net annual benefits of the tree population, replacement values, and breakdown of benefits per species. We performed both the iTree Streets analysis which looks primarily at energy savings, and an iTree Eco analysis which focuses more on ecological benefits such as Carbon Storage and Sequestration. The results of these analyses are below.

Total Standing Value of Park District of La Grange's Tree Population

\$900,963

(Per CTLA's 9th Guide to Plant Appraisal)

iTree Eco Analysis Results

- Number of trees: 816
- Tree Cover: 8.178 acres
- Most common species of trees: Northern white cedar, Honeylocust, Austrian pine
- Percentage of trees less than 6" (15.2 cm) diameter: 24.4%
- Pollution Removal: 416.4 pounds/year (\$5.84 thousand/year)
- Carbon Storage: 380.5 tons (\$64.9 thousand)
- Carbon Sequestration: 5.89 tons (\$1 thousand/year)
- Oxygen Production: 15.71 tons/year
- Avoided Runoff: 24.15 thousand cubic feet/year (\$1.61 thousand/year)
- Building energy savings: N/A – data not collected
- Avoided carbon emissions: N/A – data not collected
- Structural values: \$1.23 million

Total Standing Eco Value of La Grange Parks Trees **\$1,294,900**

Total Annual Eco Value of La Grange Parks Trees **\$8,450/year**

To summarize these values together, we have created the following summary table

<u>Annual Values</u>	
Benefits to Residents	\$100,918/year
Benefits to Environment	\$8,450/year
SUBTOTAL	\$109,368
<u>Standing Values</u>	
As a Commodity	\$900,963
As an Ecological Resource	\$1,294,900
SUBTOTAL	\$2,195,863

As can be seen from the above tables, the tree population in the Park District of La Grange currently provides approximately \$109,368 in benefits every year, directly related to trees and their effect on facilities and the environment. In addition, the total standing value as a commodity and an ecological resource of the whole tree population is \$2,195,863. These benefits can be viewed as “income” to La Grange’s residents, and so long as the trees are well maintained, they will continue to provide these benefits, and more as the tree population grows in size.

As trees grow, they also increase their benefits! For example, a 3” diameter tree provides less than \$50/year in benefits, whereas a 20” tree can provide up to \$500 per year. The goal is to increase benefits even more, where the tree population pays for itself and even yields “profits”!

The replacement value of trees was also calculated. Currently, the standing value of all trees in the Park District of La Grange population is \$900,963. This value is calculated using the industry standard reference, the 9th Edition *Guide to Tree and Landscape Appraisal*, which is published by the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers.

The iTree Eco data looks at the value of the trees in the absence of the effect of homes or businesses, and looks at trees more from an ecological perspective, mostly what the tree’s value is in sequestering and storing carbon. These numbers are based on peer reviewed science in both arboriculture as well as climatology and other disciplines.

The goal of this Plan is to create a tree population which maximizes all of these ecological services to La Grange residents by increasing the number of trees in the parks, and how long they live, while minimizing costs in order to create a healthy, well maintained, and vibrant tree population.

Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

Based on data available from the US Forest Service and Morton Arboretum, the total Urban Tree Canopy of La Grange can be determined. This is expressed as the percent of the Village covered by tree canopy from an aerial view. This assessment included 7 total land cover types, including trees, grass and shrub, bare soil, water, buildings, roads/railroads, and other paved surfaces. The result of this tree canopy assessment was that La Grange contains 39.21% total tree canopy. The map of the canopy assessment appears on the following page.

The tree inventory itself was only conducted on publicly owned land in the parks themselves. Detailed information on each tree is not included in this assessment, only total coverage. Aerial images were used to estimate how much tree and other land cover types were in the Village using a software which is similar to Google Earth.

The goal is to increase the total tree canopy in La Grange to 40% by 2032. This goal has been estimated by analyzing data from many different urban tree populations in the Chicago and Northwest Indiana regions and is based on preliminary data from the Chicago Region Trees Initiative’s (CRTI) Forest Composition Workgroup.

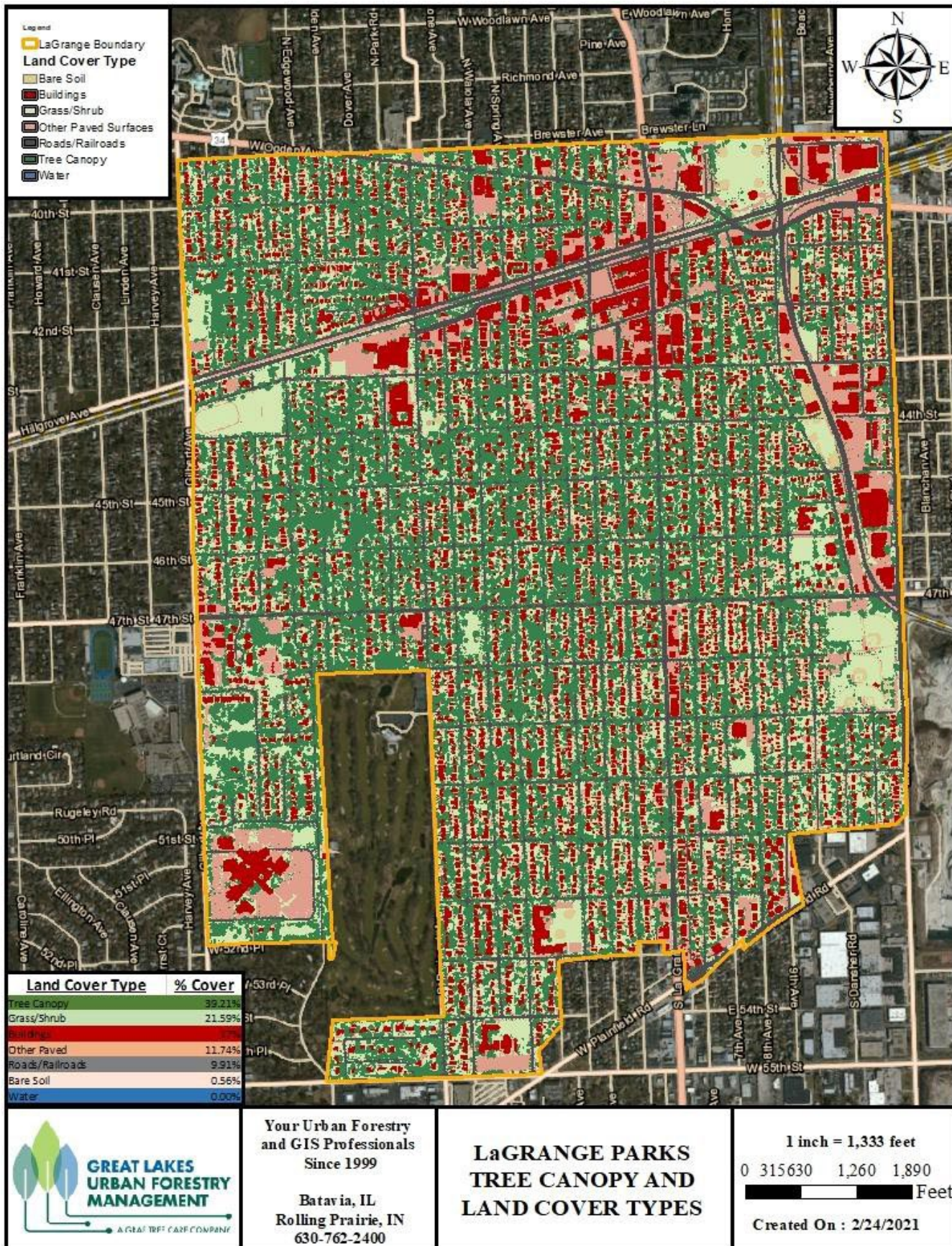
We believe this is an attainable goal over this time period. La Grange as a whole has a very significant amount of tree canopy, far above the average for the northeast Illinois region. This is why the goal set is a rather small increase, as even maintaining the current tree canopy coverage would be considered significant. So even a small increase would be beneficial.

This will be accomplished through increasing the number of trees in the parks, municipal campuses, schools, and on the parkways. It will also be accomplished by maintaining the existing tree population in a proactive fashion, by enhancing the Urban Forestry program in PDLG. This will ensure that existing trees will live longer as they are given appropriate care. Tree planting and maintenance will also be encouraged on private property, by incentivizing residents and business owners to plant trees through public private partnerships such as those outlines above.

Outreach and education will also be provided to residents through events such as Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations. This goal will be monitored by using aerial imagery analysis like the analysis presented below. Every 10 years, the imagery will be assessed, and a new canopy cover percentage will be calculated for La Grange.

<u>Land Cover Type</u>	<u>% Cover</u>
Tree Canopy	39.21%
Grass/Shrub	21.59%
Buildings	17%
Other Paved	11.74%
Roads/Railroads	9.91%
Bare Soil	0.56%
Water	0.00%

PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN



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**LaGRANGE PARKS
TREE CANOPY AND
LAND COVER TYPES**

The Future of the Urban Forest

In this section, a vision of what the tree population of Park District of La Grange could become by 2032 was created and compared with the current population. Using the tree data, and the diversity vision, we will then define how PDLG can move to where it is envisioned it could be.

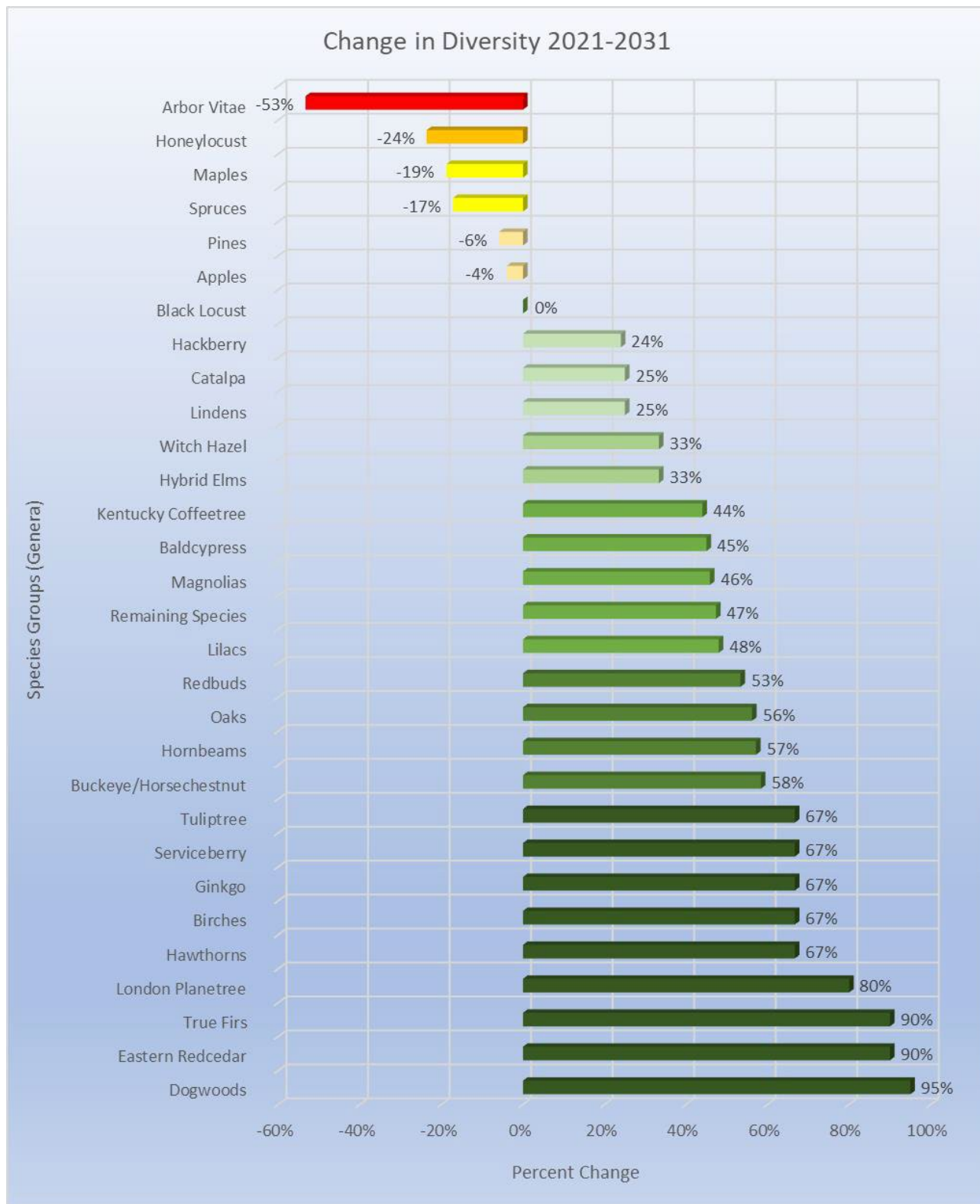
Change in Species Composition 2022 - 2032

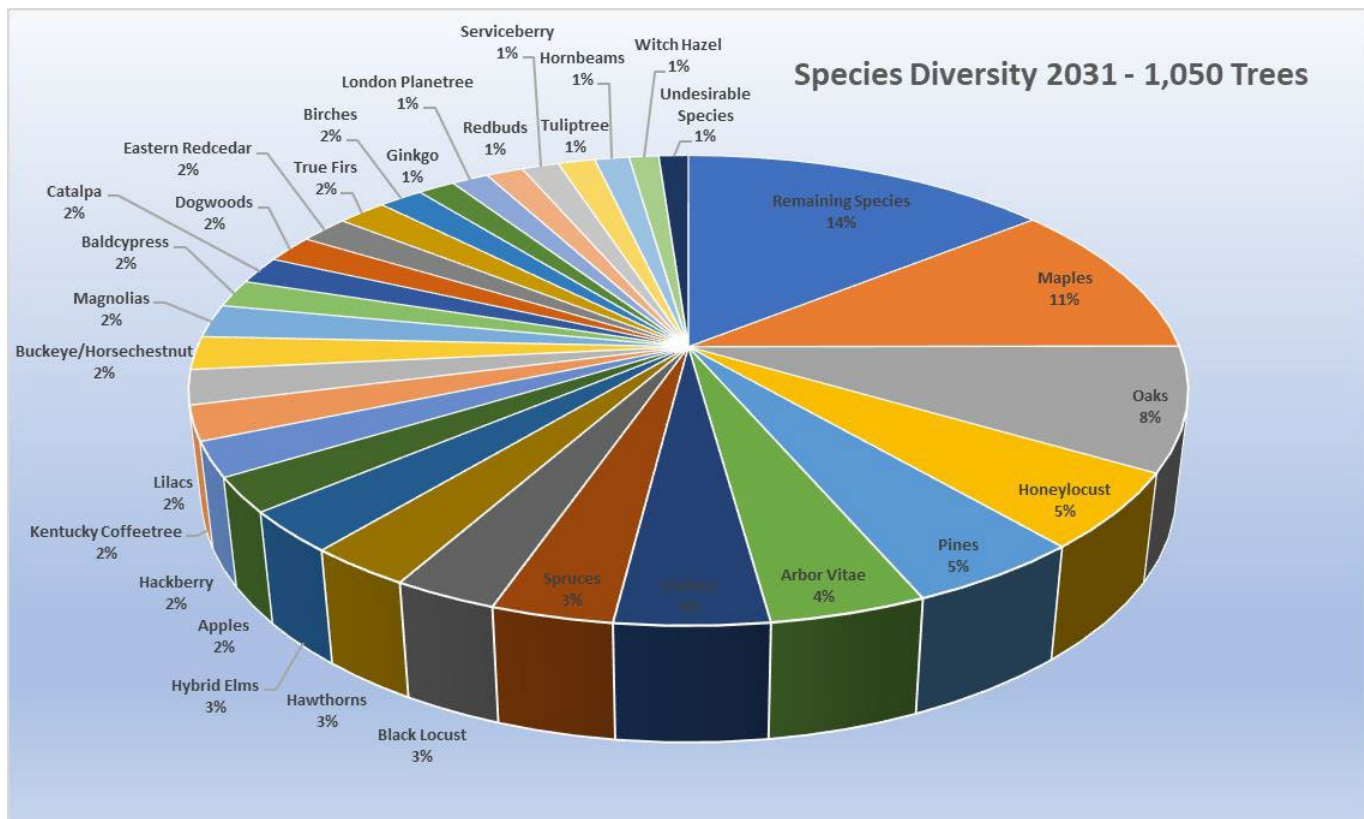
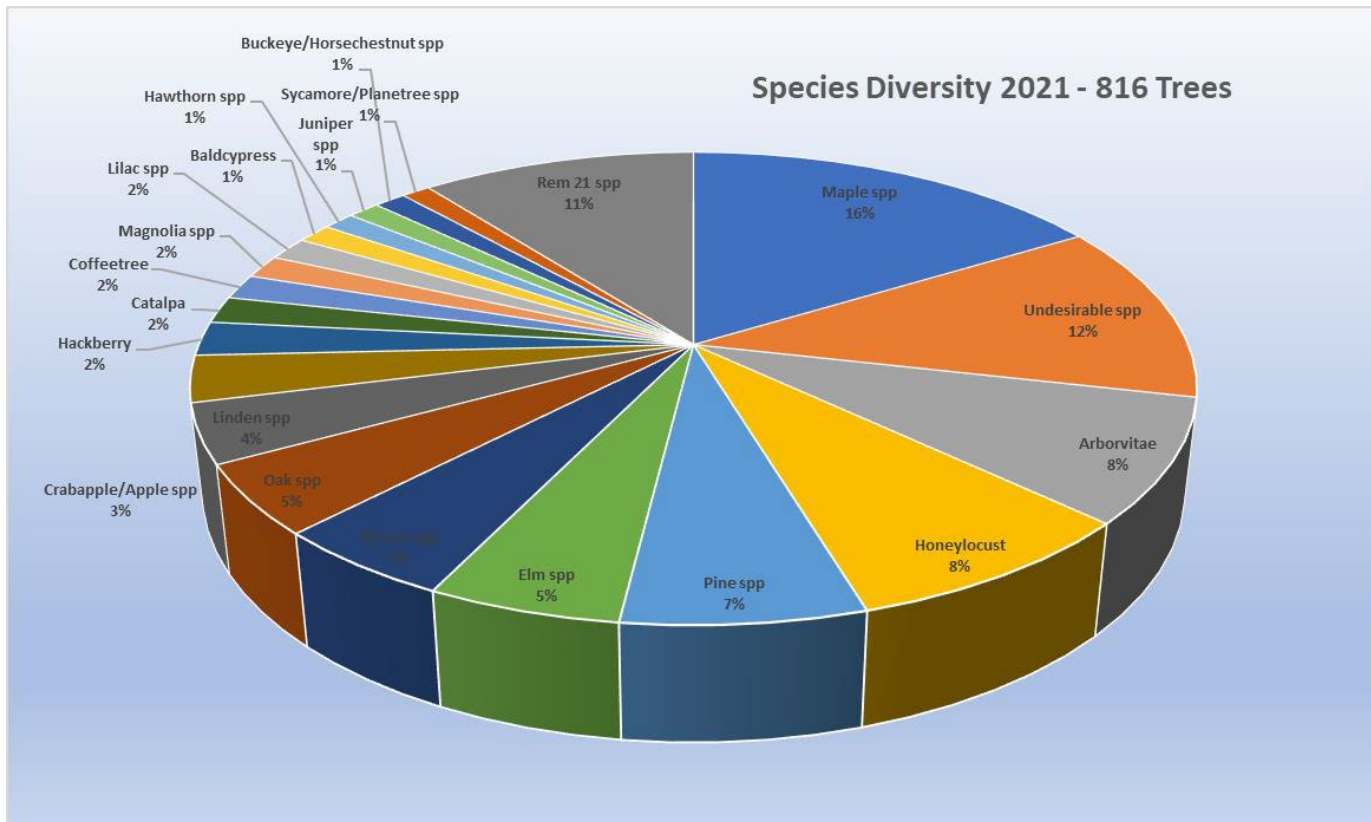
It should be noted here that the full calculations for this change in diversity were performed by hand, and not using automated software. Local knowledge of the trees, their conditions, what is growing well and what isn't were all used, and yielded this very customized planting list. These goals are meant as general guideposts, and not absolutes. Please be aware that this plan, and particularly the species composition goals, are meant to be adaptively managed over time, and as new information becomes available.

SPECIES	COUNT 2021	COUNT 2031	SPECIES	COUNT 2021	COUNT 2031	SPECIES	COUNT 2021	COUNT 2031
AMERICAN HORNBEAM	6	10	HACKBERRY	19	25	OAK-BURR	5	15
AMERICAN REDBUD	7	15	HAWTHORN-COCKSPUR	0	10	OAK-CHINQUAPIN	2	6
AMUR MAACKIA	0	6	HAWTHORN-SPP	10	20	OAK-ENGLISH	3	10
APPLE-CRAB SPP	25	25	HAZELNUT-TREE	1	4	OAK-PIN	1	4
ARBOR VITAE	69	45	HEMLOCK	0	10	OAK-RED	16	20
ASH-GREEN	2	0	HICKORY-SHAGBARK	0	2	OAK-SHINGLE	1	6
ASH-WHITE	5	1	HICKORY-SPP	0	4	OAK-SWAMP WHITE	10	20
BALDCYPRESS	11	20	HONEYLOCUST	68	55	OAK-WHITE	1	4
BEECH-SPP	0	6	HONEYSUCKLE	1	0	PAGODATREE	0	4
BIRCH-RIVER	6	15	HORSECHESTNUT	3	8	PEACH	0	4
BIRCH-WHITE	0	3	HYDRANGEA-PEEGEE	0	7	PEAR-CALLERY	4	0
BLACK LOCUST	30	30	IRONWOOD	0	10	PERSIAN IRONWOOD	0	4
BLACKGUM	1	10	KATSURATREE	0	4	PINE-AUSTRIAN	53	25
BOXELDER	3	0	KENTUCKY COFFEETREE	14	25	PINE-LIMBER	0	7
BUCKEYE-OHIO	4	8	LILAC-SHRUB	4	5	PINE-SCOTCH	0	7
BUCKEYE-RED	3	8	LILAC-TREE	9	20	PINE-WHITE	1	7
BUCKTHORN	6	0	LINDEN-AMERICAN	9	20	PLUM-SPP	0	4
BURNING BUSH	6	4	LINDEN-LITTLELEAF	24	20	SERVICEBERRY-SPP	5	15
CATALPA	15	20	LINDEN-SILVER	0	4	SMOKETREE	0	4
CHERRY-BLACK	5	0	LONDON PLANETREE	3	15	SPRUCE-BLUE	37	20
COTTONWOOD	11	2	MAGNOLIA-CUCUMBER	0	4	SPRUCE-NORWAY	3	10
DOGWOOD-CORENELIAN	0	10	MAGNOLIA-SPP	13	20	SPRUCE-WHITE	1	5
DOGWOOD-PAGODA	0	10	MAPLE-AUTUMN BLAZE	20	20	SWEETGUM	0	10
DOUGLAS FIR	1	10	MAPLE-MIYABEI	0	10	SYCAMORE	6	3
EASTERN REDCEDAR	12	20	MAPLE-NORWAY	41	20	TULIPTREE	5	15
ELM-AMERICAN	23	15	MAPLE-PAPERBARK	1	4	UNKNOWN	1	0
ELM-HYBRID	20	30	MAPLE-RED	22	20	VIBURNUM	8	8
ELM-SIBERIAN	15	0	MAPLE-SILVER	12	5	WALNUT-BLACK	5	2
EUROPEAN HORNBEAN	0	4	MAPLE-SUGAR	33	25	WILLOW-WEeping	2	0
FIR-CONCOLOR	1	10	MAPLE-TATARIAN	4	8	WITCH HAZEL	8	12
FIR-SPP	1	10	MULBERRY-SPP	27	10	YELLOWWOOD	6	10
GINKGO	5	15	OAK-BLACK	0	4	ZELKOVA	0	4

	Plant in Abundance
	Plant in Limited Quantities
	Maintain Existing Population
	Reduce Population Size

Change in Species Composition 2020 - 2032





As can be seen from the above several pages of charts showing the change in species composition over the next 10 years, there will broadly be a move away from the overrepresented and overplanted species discussed above, and a proliferation of new species, and those which are underrepresented. This will lead to an increase from 816 to 1,050 trees total in the parks by creating a multilayered canopy, as well as an increase from the current total of 72 species up to a total of 100 species. This will make the Park District of La Grange eligible for Level 2 Arboretum status through the ArbNet accreditation program (another potential future goal), whereas now it is only eligible for Level 1 status. It will also create a more diverse Urban Forest which is resistant to pest and pathogen outbreaks by not relying on only a few species with which to fill its parks.

The Benefits of Larger, Healthier Trees

Larger trees provide greater benefits to the community: They create more shade to offset cooling costs, absorb more storm water, create greater buffers against cool winter winds for heating costs, and absorb and sequester more carbon than smaller trees do. For the 2032 vision of the tree population, a variety of methods were used to arrive a reasonable age-class distribution. We used the current population structure, and anticipated high rates of survival based on new planting practices which would involve a “right tree/right site” approach, as well as increased survivorship of existing trees due to better management and care practices. Predicted growth, survivorship, and eventual tree losses are based on current species composition and future plantings and removals. This allowed the creation of a vision of what the tree population will look like 30 years from now.



It can be seen from the above chart that the existing tree population (grey bars) shows what was described as a younger to middle aged tree population overall. The projected age class chart shows not only a dramatic uptick in the number of young trees in the population, but also more trees surviving into the older age classes, where they will provide the greatest benefits in terms of ecological services to the community.

	2021	2026	2031
0-6"	205	375	450
7-12"	237	225	250
13-18"	210	150	150
19-24"	84	100	110
25-30"	52	40	45
31-36"	19	25	30
37-42"	5	10	15
>42"	4	5	10

This is based on the fact that increased levels of care for existing trees will enable them to survive longer. The table in the upper right of this page shows a general expectation of how the changes in tree diameters might change over the next 10 years based on the methods to be applied in this Urban Forestry Management Plan. These numbers were projected by hand, based on our prior experience, and the methods detailed below.

For projections of future age classes of trees, a ½" per year average growth rate was roughly estimated by assuming that it would take an average tree 10 years to go from one age class to the next (6" = appx 10 years growth). Also used were the number of trees to be planted and removed annually, as calculated below in the Tree Planting and Tree Removal sections. These numbers were arrived at based on all the above, as well as the best professional opinion of the Forestry Consultant. As time goes by, these projections will likely change.

The overall increase in size of the tree population and diameters of the individual trees will yield a much greater dollar figure when it comes to the ecological services provided and provide park patrons with a greater sense of being in a more arboretum like setting when they are enjoying the parks.

Below are several examples of Ecological Services provided by trees:

Energy Savings: During the summer when temperatures are warm, trees create shade, and temperatures are cooler in the shade. The "heat island" effect of pavement is moderated by the presence of trees. Cooler temperatures cause air conditioners to have to work less, which reduces the amount of energy a household uses. During the winter when temperatures are cold, winter winds cool your home quickly. Trees act as windbreaks, causing heating systems to use less natural gas, saving energy and money.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Sequestration: The amount of CO₂ which is put into the atmosphere each year has a direct correlation with global climate change. That change causes more severe storms, greater drought conditions, and many other costly outcomes. Reducing CO₂ from our atmosphere lessens these effects. Trees uptake CO₂ and act as a carbon sink, putting carbon into long term storage

in its woody tissues, removing it from our atmosphere, creating a net benefit to society, and saving money.

Air Quality: Industrial processes and vehicle emissions put pollutants into our air. These pollutants can cause or worsen health conditions such as heart disease, asthma, and lung disease. In addition, these pollutants can mix with water in the atmosphere and create nitric and sulfuric acid, causing acid rain, which can destroy fisheries and contaminate water supplies. Trees absorb these compounds with their leaves and other tissues and prevent them from remaining in the atmosphere. Reductions in these pollutants results in overall better health, reducing the cost of healthcare to society, and saving communities money.

Storm Water Mitigation: The cost of delivering fresh water to homes, as well as removing and treating wastewater and storm water is considerable. One of the greatest costs comes when these systems are overwhelmed, such as during flooding, which can cause millions of dollars of damage to homes and vehicles, or when these systems need to be replaced. Fortunately, trees take up water from the soil and put it back into the atmosphere through the process of transpiration. Therefore, the more trees an organization has, the less flooding is an issue, and the less strain is put on storm water infrastructure, resulting in fewer repairs and replacements. In addition, tree canopy slows rainfall’s effects on flooding by “intercepting” it with leaves and branches, delaying how quickly rainfall can become floodwater. All of this adds up to savings for an organization.

Economic & Aesthetic Value: Up to 15% of the value of a property can be attributed to its trees and other landscaping. Tree lined streets are much more appealing to homebuyers than streets devoid of trees, resulting in increased home sales, and therefore increased tax revenue, or increased tax revenue with which to fund initiatives relating to trees, attract new businesses, etc.

Return on Investment

Return On Investment (ROI) for an individual tree is strongly favorable over the life of a tree in terms of investment in planting, care, and removal versus the ecological benefits the tree provides. As we strive to justify the expenditures on trees and tree care, it is important that organizations and their staff are aware of this.

On the following page, we have provided an ROI calculation sheet. This sheet breaks the tree’s lifetime down into three phases, based on the anticipated costs of pruning in the budget sections below. These phases are the young (3-12” DBH), mature (13-24” DBH), and full grown (25-36”) ranges shown below.

Data were taken from the iTree algorithm, and applied towards the average benefits provided by a tree at each of these life stages, and multiplies it out over the 20 year period each phase accounts for. We also looked at costs for planting, watering, routine maintenance, emergency maintenance, and eventual removal of that tree over 60 years.

The results are pictured below, with the calculations on the following page.

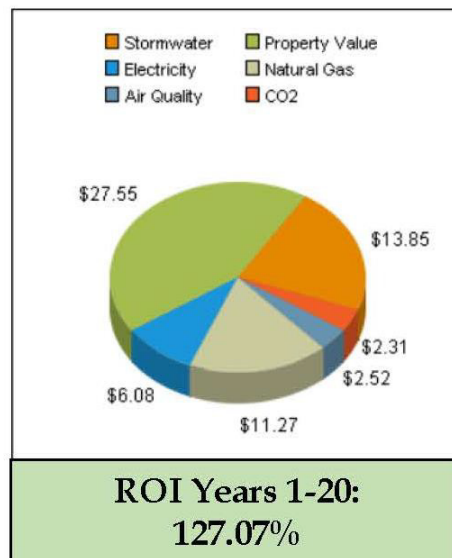
Total Investment	\$3,610.00
Total Return	\$10,819.60
Total ROI Over 60 Years	199.71%

Return on Investment: Years 1-20 (3-12" Diameter)

Costs

Initial Purchase and Installation	\$300.00
Watering for 2 Years	\$100.00
Pruning - 4x @ \$40/prune	\$160.00
TOTAL INVESTMENT	\$560.00

Benefits	Avg/Year	Over 20 Years
Electricity	\$6.08	\$121.60
Natural Gas	\$11.27	\$225.40
Property Value	\$27.55	\$551.00
Stormwater	\$13.85	\$277.00
Air Quality	\$2.52	\$50.40
CO2 Reduction	\$2.31	\$46.20
TOTAL RETURN		\$1,271.60

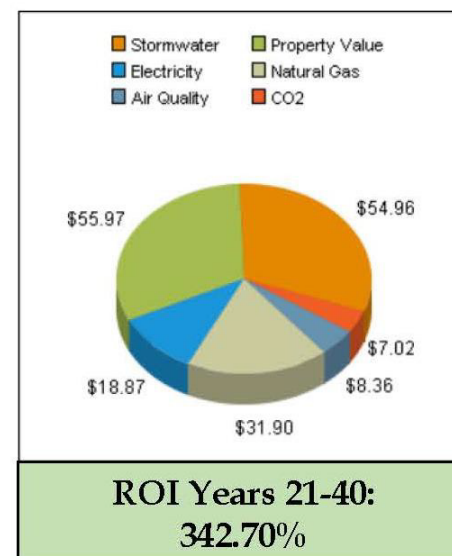


Return on Investment: Years 21-40 (13-24" Diameter)

Costs

Pruning - 4x @ \$75/prune	\$300.00
Emergency Maintenance (2x)	\$500.00
TOTAL INVESTMENT	\$800.00

Benefits	Avg/Year	Over 20 Years
Electricity	\$18.87	\$377.40
Natural Gas	\$31.90	\$638.00
Property Value	\$55.97	\$1,119.40
Stormwater	\$54.96	\$1,099.20
Air Quality	\$8.36	\$167.20
CO2 Reduction	\$7.02	\$140.40
TOTAL RETURN		\$3,541.60

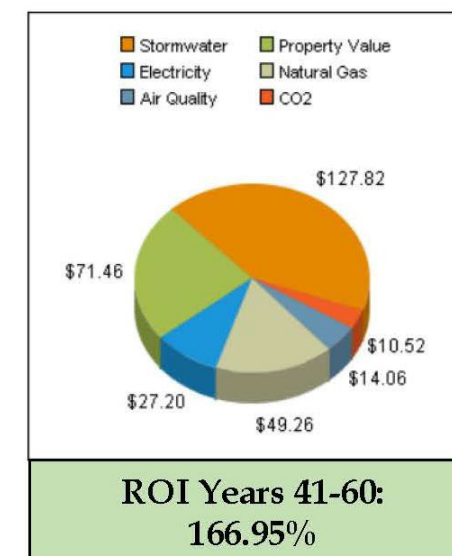


Return on Investment: Years 41-60 (25-36" Diameter)

Costs

Pruning - 4x @ \$150/prune	\$600.00
Emergency Maintenance (2x)	\$650.00
Eventual Cost of Removal	\$1,000.00
TOTAL INVESTMENT	\$2,250.00

Benefits	Avg/Year	Over 20 Years
Electricity	\$27.20	\$544.00
Natural Gas	\$49.26	\$985.20
Property Value	\$71.46	\$1,429.20
Stormwater	\$127.82	\$2,556.40
Air Quality	\$14.06	\$281.20
CO2 Reduction	\$10.52	\$210.40
TOTAL RETURN		\$6,006.40



Tree Removals

The first step towards attaining Park District of La Grange’s forestry goals will be to remove trees which are diseased, dying, or present a hazard. At present, there are 33 trees which have been called for removal during the inventory. Of these, 1 is listed as a Priority Removal, 29 are listed as Standard Removals, and 3 are listed as Low Priority Removals based on the tree inventory data. All of these trees can be removed within the next calendar year based on PDLG’s existing budget. A direct goal of this Urban Forestry Management Plan is to have all identified trees marked as Removals to be removed within 1 calendar year of this plan’s adoption.

By percentage, this is a standard number of removals in terms of comparably sized park districts, with removals representing 4% of the total population. Typically, park district inventories reveal between 2-5% of the tree population requiring some form of removal. Once again, this shows a high level of care and responsiveness to declining trees in the park tree population.

After this initial 1-year period to address the removals identified in the inventory, it is anticipated that the background rate of tree removal will be approximately 30 trees per year. From 2022 forward, reevaluation of the tree population on an annual or semiannual basis by PDLG staff or the Forestry Consultant will specify which trees require removal. These numbers, detailed below, are meant to be placeholders for budget calculations and diversity standards. This does not require that 30 trees be removed each year, this is simply a projection based on the existing inventory data.

For purposes of projection, costs have been estimated using a rate of \$25/ diameter inch for tree removal and stump grinding, which is a conservative estimate based on current market pricing. Rates could certainly be found lower than this in a competitive bid process. As is the case with all cost projections for this Plan, no cost increase is assumed for the first 5 years, and a 3% annual cost increase is assumed thereafter. This is also a conservative estimate based on the Consumer Price Index, and actual costs are likely to be lower than projected.

The number of removals, based on the data, will remain relatively steady based on projections at 30 trees per year. Based on discussions with the park district, this should be well within their existing annual budget. This same process was also used for the remainder of the trees which were marked for removal. Using this data, cost estimates were prepared for the long-term removals, based on the tree inventory data. As this is a program to be adaptively managed, these budget tables can be updated periodically to reflect actual costs being paid.

Milestones	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027-2032
Trees Removed	9	17	20	25	25	25/year avg
Diameter Inches	154"	207"	225"	250"	250"	250"
Notes	1 Priority Removal + Standard Removals Over 14"	Standard Removals 14" and less + all Low Priority Removals	Undesirable Species	Update Inventory for New Removals	Update Inventory for New Removals	Update Inventory for New Removals
Removal Cost (2021)	\$3,850	\$5,175	\$5,625	\$6,250	\$6,250	\$6,250
Removal Cost (CPI)	\$3,850	\$5,175	\$5,625	\$6,250	\$6,250	\$7,188

Tree Removal Activities

Safe Removal of a Tree to an Appropriate Flush Cut

Tree removal can be dangerous, but when performed by professionals is very safe. Therefore, all tree removal activities on PDLG's property should be performed under the guidance of a Certified Arborist or Arborist Trainee. This may be the supervision of PDLG staff or the Forestry Consultant alongside a contractor. The safe removal of a tree involves the safe removal and lowering of all portions of the tree according to all relevant ANSI standards and Best Management Practices. The stump must be flush cut such that the highest portion of the cut is no greater than two inches from the highest part of the ground surface to prevent a tripping hazard on public property.

Stump Grinding

Within a reasonable amount of time following the removal, stumps and surface roots should be removed using an approved stump grinding machine, such that the stump is ground to a minimum depth of 6 inches, and no surface roots are visible. If the site is to be planted with a new tree, that depth should be increased to 12 inches below the soil surface. This will ensure that a new tree may be successfully planted, and that no re-sprouting will occur from the old stump. The depths to which the stump must be ground may be altered by the Park District of La Grange depending on needs for specific circumstances or contracts. Until the planting space is fully restored, the stump hole should be filled and compacted to ground level using the debris resulting from the stump removal.

Planting Site Restoration

Once the tree has been safely removed and the stump has been ground out, the open planting space must be fully restored if a tree is not scheduled to be planted in or adjacent to the old hole. Site restoration consists of removing the stump chips from the hole, filling it with a quality mineral topsoil, tamping down to match the surrounding grade, spreading grass seed over the top of the topsoil, and securing green turf blanket over the topsoil when practical.

Reasons for Tree Removal

Removal of trees on public spaces is an unavoidable reality of managing large tree populations. When the trunk, branches or roots fail, a standing tree can cause personal injury or property damage, and even small dead trees can be an eyesore. Old trees can hold great sentimental value, and many people become attached to them. However, there are times when their presence creates a public hazard, and it is at those times that action must be taken to ensure public safety. It is also important to remember that the removal of a tree today is the promise of a new tree for tomorrow!

Removal of trees on PDLG property shall always be at the discretion of park district staff and/or the Forestry Consultant. Trees will never be removed without a sound reason from the park district or Forestry Consultant. Neighboring residents and concerned park patrons may request a tree to be removed for reasons NOT detailed below.

These requests will be reviewed by park district staff, the Board of Commissioners, or the Forestry Consultant. Generally speaking, trees with a greater need for removal based on public safety will always hold a higher priority. Under no circumstances will PDLG be responsible for trees which are not on park property, with the exception of pruning high risk limbs overhanging park property.

Dead or Dying

If a tree is biologically dead or nearly dead, it will require removal. Trees which are standing dead, have approximately 50% dead crown or greater, or have less than approximately 40% structurally sound wood in the cross-section of the trunk shall be removed as expediently as practical. These determinations shall be at the discretion of park district staff or the Forestry Consultant.

Diseased or Infested

Diseases are caused by viral, fungal, or bacterial pathogens. Infestations are caused by insects or other small animals. Dutch Elm Disease and Oak Wilt, for example, are fungal diseases that kill Elm and Oak trees when they are infected. Emerald Ash Borer is an insect which kills Ash trees by infesting them. The prompt removal of diseased or infested trees limits the exposure of other nearby trees. The removal of 1 tree may save dozens of others. Trees deemed to be diseased or infested by park district staff or the Forestry Consultant shall be removed as expediently as possible in order to slow the spread of such insects and diseases.

High or Extreme Risk

“Tree Risk” is the potential of a tree or tree part to impact a nearby person or piece of property and cause property damage or personal injury. This topic is of great interest in Arboriculture today, and the insurance industry is becoming increasingly involved in the process of assessing and managing the risk posed by trees. Litigation involving trees is a perennial concern for public entities. All trees in PDLG were assessed for a basic level of risk during the initial inventory, and several trees were found to be at elevated risk levels. If such risk can only be safely mitigated by tree removal, as opposed to pruning or other measures, then timely removal is critical because of potential exposure of the public or property to potential harm.

Park district staff, the Forestry Consultant or another TRAQ Qualified Risk Assessor must assess the tree and prepare a Tree Risk Assessment Report to document the details of the situation prior to removal. Often, risk can be mitigated by removing a portion of the tree, or other corrective measures. If the entire tree is deemed to be at high or extreme risk of failure, however, the entire tree shall be removed as a means of reducing its residual risk to zero.



Emergency / Storm Damage Removals

A tree shall be removed if it has been severely damaged and/or compromised by lightning, wind, or other such weather event. "Storm-damaged" shall be generally defined as a tree which has lost 33% or more of its crown, has a large crack or other wound in the trunk, has a lean of greater than ten degrees from vertical resulting directly from strong winds, has sustained a lightning strike, or other such issues directly related to storm events. Park district staff or the Forestry Consultant shall determine the need for removal of a tree in these cases. Though in emergency situations such as a tree impacting a person, vehicle, power lines, or other such emergency, PDLG may perform any actions necessary to abate public hazards so long as they are in compliance with all relevant Arboricultural standards and practices.

Damage from Construction or Vehicle Strike

Park district staff and/or Forestry Consultant shall assess trees that have been impacted by a vehicle strike or piece of construction equipment. If the tree has suffered physical damage or extreme root compaction and is likely to decline and become high risk, it will be scheduled for removal in order to maintain public safety. That decision will be based on the best professional judgement of the Forestry Consultant or park district staff.

Reasonable Resident Request

If a tree has non-terminal pest or pathogen issues, moderately poor structure or is in somewhat poor condition, a concerned resident or park patron may request the removal of the tree. These requests will be reviewed by park district staff and/or the Forestry Consultant and evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If the tree shows significant potential to decline or pose a threat, the park district may agree to the removal within a reasonable time frame of 1 to 3 years. Young and healthy trees will generally not be considered eligible. Priority will always be given to trees in danger of threatening public safety.

Interference with Utility or Signage

A tree shall be removed if it is interfering with the function or visibility of official traffic control devices or has impacted above or belowground utilities in a manner that cannot be mitigated by pruning or other measures. In these cases, it is likely that no new tree will be planted in these sites.

Overplanted and Underperforming

No healthy tree shall be removed for the sole reason of having been overplanted. As a result of this Plan, PDLG will be enhancing diversity in the urban forest, with the goal of building a diverse urban forest. Overplanted species listed as being in poor condition will be reviewed to assess further decline or recovery. Those trees in noticeable decline shall be removed at the discretion of park district staff and/or the Forestry Consultant. This will be used as a preventative measure so that these trees do not continue to decline to a point where they become hazardous, and not used as a reason to remove an otherwise healthy tree.

Basic Park District Tree Removal Requirements and Standards

All of the following requirements and standards shall be met during tree removal activities as matter of local policy. For a detailed view of the specific ANSI and ISA standards, please see Appendix I.

Park District of La Grange Internal Policies

1. All personnel directly involved with process of chainsaw operation, climbing, bucket truck operation, and rigging limbs shall be provided with sufficient training and experience to perform such duties while employed by the Park District of La Grange, as either grounds maintenance, or performing work as a contractor employed by the park district.
2. Only qualified utility arborists may perform tree removal operations within ten feet of an electric utility line. Park District of La Grange employees or contractors may complete the process of trunk removal and stump grinding only if the remaining portion of the tree is greater than ten feet away from a transmission line.
3. The park district will not remove healthy trees in order to meet diversity goals, unless the tree poses a risk to persons or property.
4. The park district shall not perform or assist, programmatically or financially, with the removal of trees on private property. Public/Private tree ownership is defined as having 51% or greater of its trunk diameter on park property. Limbs overhanging park property may be pruned back to the property line with adjacent properties

Tree Planting

Whereas tree removal is necessary to promote public safety, planting of new trees must occur to increase diversity and canopy cover. As a means of attaining the goals of increasing canopy cover to 40%, and increasing overall diversity significantly, this plan calls for the planting of over 500 trees over the coming 10 years. These trees will be planted by park district staff, contractors, and possibly volunteers who have been properly trained. This plan has a direct goal of planting trees where they have the best chances to establish and thrive based on their specific sites and species requirements.

For the goals and milestones shown below, the program began with being able to at least replace 33 trees called out for removal above over the first 2 years. After completing this, a gradual 5 trees planted per year increase is called for. After the first year, plantings begin to outpace removals in this Plan. For the costs of planting, \$300 per tree (installed) has been used. This is a conservative estimate based on retail costs, and likely the park district will be able to perform planting at a more favorable rate. Costs have been estimated using mostly containerized smaller stock, with the occasional 2.5" balled and burlapped tree installed. If volunteer labor is employed, these costs could reduce significantly as mentioned above in the Strategic Partnerships section.

The Importance of Planning Your Tree Planting

The Right Tree in the Right Site

Urban Forestry has an unfortunate history of not planning carefully for tree planting. Whatever was readily available, inexpensive, urban tolerant, and grew fast was seen as desirable, and often planning of tree plantings was left to developers, or nurseries and plantsmen. With our history of invasive insects and diseases in the Midwest region and knowing these will only get worse in the future, it is more crucial than ever that we plan our tree plantings.

This process involves assessing each site to be planted in much the same way we would assess a tree, except that in this case, we are looking for factors such as available above and below ground growing space the tree will have, how much light the site receives, the amount of soil moisture present, and possibly other factors such as soil pH and texture. Once this information is collected, planting sites can be matched with trees which are well suited to those sites. Matching the right tree to the right site like this will result in trees which establish faster, grow more vigorously, live longer, and provide far greater benefits.

Playing an active role in tree planting planning also allows for meeting diversity standards such as the taxonomic, spatial, and age class diversity principles outlined above, and attempts to get the tree population into compliance with the “20-10-5 Rule”. Park districts have a distinct advantage here over street tree populations, as trees can be planted nearly anywhere vs needing to replace a tree very close to the removal site of an old tree on the parkway. Being targeted about species selection also allows the use of species which are slightly more difficult to find appropriate sites for. These species that are considered “less urban tolerant” can still be planted when the appropriate site is found!

The success of a tree depends on where and how it is planted. Park District staff or the Urban Forestry Consultant should assess planting sites before trees are purchased and installed each year, to ensure the correct tree is being planted for the correct site. Each tree planted represents a 25-75+ year commitment, and this planning helps to increase the benefits to the community from this commitment. A list of acceptable species to be planted for all land use types appears in Appendix A.

Nursery Stock Procurement

Nursery stock quality is yet another aspect of planning which can help a tree establish, survive, and thrive to provide great benefits to the community. Park district staff will purchase nursery stock from a reputable nursery. Specifications should be for material no smaller than 1.75” caliper, with good form for the species, planted as either balled and burlapped or minimum 5-gallon containerized stock.

Currently, the nursery industry is recovering from a nursery stock shortage due to high demand to replace Ash trees lost to Emerald Ash Borer, which impacted the availability of some species. We strongly recommend to not to accept substitutions in the requested species lists, as many nurseries may still attempt to substitute overplanted trees for some of the higher diversity species which may still be difficult to obtain. It is recommended to have an approved substitution prepared for each requested tree species. A list of species and acceptable substitutes has been included in Appendix C.

Tree Transport and Planting

Proper transport and planting procedures determine a tree's success after planting. Even healthy trees from the field, if improperly transported, may dry out during transport, or suffer structural damage to root balls.

When it comes time to plant, trees planted too deeply will suffer from root compaction and trunk decay. Trees planted without properly dug holes may suffer from stunting. Trees planted without proper removal of packaging materials may develop girdling roots. Trees planted too high may have surface root desiccation. Trees improperly staked or with improper trunk protection may suffer from trunk wounds or girdling of the entire trunk. The standards and Best Management Practices for tree transport and planting are detailed later in this section, as well as Appendix J. Trees may be planted by a local volunteer work force so long as the workers have been adequately trained by a local qualified organization prior to planting, and trees are of a smaller size such as containerized stock.



Tree Spacing and Visibility Requirements

Minimum tree spacing between large, medium, or small sized deciduous shade trees should be appropriate for the species and conform to urban forestry best management practices. It is generally recommended this be no less than 40 feet between plantings, with some exceptions for smaller trees. This will allow trees to grow to their full potential without heavy competition for water and nutrients with neighboring trees, and without limited space for crown growth. As mentioned previously, a direct goal is to create a multilayered canopy, and this may involve some degree of latitude when it comes to spacing requirements.

Watering

Watering of newly planted trees is essential to their establishment, growth, and survival, particularly during the first 2 years of their lives. Since these costs can vary greatly, they have not been included in the budget table above, since staff will water trees for now.

Challenges of Urban Plantings

Urban planting sites are a difficult environment for a tree to thrive in, and based on long term data, it is expected that 5-10% of new plantings fail each planting cycle. The park district's contracts for tree planting should include a one to two-year replacement warranty for any new trees that fail to thrive in their new environment. Urban tree plantings can pose an uphill battle in many ways, due to limited soil volume, salt runoff, airborne pollutants, and other factors. New planting mortality is to be expected, despite best efforts to prevent such an outcome, but the planning measures outlined above will help to mitigate annual new planting mortality

Tree Planting Requirements and Standards

Park District of La Grange Internal Policies

1. Planting sites shall be determined and monitored using the park district's tree inventory, in conjunction with park district staff and Forestry Consultant input.
2. New planting sites should be 10 feet away from signage, driveways, intersections, and utility structures. If this distance cannot be maintained, the site should not be planted, even if a tree was removed from the same site.
3. Choice of species for planting should be done so according to the park district's taxonomic, spatial, and age-class diversity goals. A diverse and resilient urban forest minimizes exposure to financial, environmental, and health risks while maximizing aesthetics, environmental benefits, and ecosystem services to its residents and patrons.
4. All planting stock shall be grown within 150 miles of the Village of La Grange.
5. Acceptable nursery stock shall conform to the following standards:
 - A. Minimum of 1.75 inch caliper, measured at six inches from the trunk flare
 - B. Root ball conforms to ANSI Z60.1 Standards for Nursery Stock
 - C. Less than 10% deadwood in the crown
 - D. Architecture consistent for the species, cultivar, or variety in question
 - E. No included bark or other such narrow branch attachments, unless consistent with species or variety
 - F. Free of pests or pathogens
 - G. Approved species list for the Park District of La Grange
6. Planting and digging of certain species shall only occur at certain times of year, in accordance with nursery industry best management practices and professional judgement. These times are subject to the professional opinions of both the Park District of La Grange and its contractors.

7. JULIE, or another similar utility locating service, shall be contacted, and all utilities located a minimum of three days before planting is scheduled to begin.
8. A minimum of a one-year replacement guarantee shall be extended from approved nurseries and plantmen for all new plantings rated to hardiness zone five or lower.

Tree Pruning

When maintaining a tree population for its greatest benefits and lowest risk, tree pruning is one of the most cost-effective maintenance activities which can be performed. Pruning provides several important services for a tree: It reduces the risk of failure, provides clearance for utilities or other structures, reduces wind resistance and wind damage, maintains overall tree health, and improves overall aesthetics.

For the goals and milestones, the most critical needs of the Park District of La Grange were prioritized. This priority list begins with trees identified as Hazard Prunes, Priority Prunes, or young trees in need of establishment or training pruning. During the inventory, 68 such trees were identified, and can be pruned under the park district’s existing annual forestry budget. For the next 6 years, it is recommended that PDLG slowly increase the number of trees pruned each year through 2026 until they are at full capacity to handle the 5-year pruning cycle which has been proposed for PDLG. Once in the full 5 year pruning cycle for the estimated tree population of 1,050 total trees by 2032, it is anticipated that approximately 200 trees per year will require pruning to maintain this cycle. For cost estimates associated with these activities, several assumptions were made:

First, because young trees (12” and less in diameter) are easy to prune, it is assumed that trained park district staff can prune all trees less than 12”, and \$40 per tree was used as an estimate for this group, based on average cost in the industry at this time. For medium (12”-24”) and large (24”+)trees, average figures of \$75 and \$150 per tree (respectively) were used, once again based on average cost in the industry (see tables below). Consistent with other budget tables, a 3% annual CPI increase was added for every year thereafter.

Currently, PDLG prunes approximately 100 trees per year using a combination of in-house labor and contracted services. Using well-trained volunteer labor to prune young, newly planted trees and smaller trees which can safely be pruned from the ground without power equipment, it is believed that these budget figures could become even more favorable. This makes the budget estimates below fairly conservative, as is the case with all budget projections in this Plan.

Milestones	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027-2032
Trees Pruned	100	120	135	150	160	175/year avg
Notes	68 Priority Prunes + 32 Additional Cycle Prunes	120 Cycle Prunes	135 Cycle Prunes	150 Cycle Prunes	160 Cycle Prunes	Up to 175 Cycle Prunes per Year by 2032
Cost (2021)	\$5,525	\$6,650	\$7,500	\$8,325	\$8,900	\$9,725
Cost (CPI)	\$5,525	\$6,650	\$7,500	\$8,325	\$8,900	\$11,184

Provided below is a series of estimates based on the change in composition of the Urban Forest over time. As larger underperforming trees are removed and smaller trees planted in their place, the size breakdown of the Urban Forest will change. Given this expected change in the average size of trees, we have included several breakdowns below estimating costs as the composition of the Urban Forest changes. Overall, the tree population of PDLG will become younger, which mostly offsets the increase in the number of trees being pruned by providing an overall lower cost of pruning per tree. Please note these are estimates and should be reviewed periodically to ensure accuracy.

2022 Cost Breakdown - Pruning 135 Trees/Year by 2022

	<u>Total Trees</u>	<u>Avg %</u>	<u>Cost/Tree</u>	<u>Pruned/year</u>	<u>Cost/year</u>
Evergreen	190	23.28%	\$20	31	\$ 628.68
Large (>24")	80	9.80%	\$150	13	\$ 1,985.29
Medium (13-24")	215	26.35%	\$75	36	\$ 2,667.74
Small (1-12")	331	40.56%	\$40	55	\$ 2,190.44
					\$ 7,472.15

2027 Cost Breakdown - Pruning 155 Trees/Year by 2027

	<u>Total Trees</u>	<u>Avg %</u>	<u>Cost/Tree</u>	<u>Pruned/year</u>	<u>Cost/year</u>
Evergreen	200	21.51%	\$20	33	\$ 666.67
Large (>24")	80	8.60%	\$150	13	\$ 2,000.00
Medium (13-24")	225	24.19%	\$75	38	\$ 2,812.50
Small (1-12")	425	45.70%	\$40	71	\$ 2,833.33
					\$ 8,312.50

2032 Cost Breakdown - Pruning 175 Trees/Year by 2032

	<u>Total Trees</u>	<u>Avg %</u>	<u>Cost/Tree</u>	<u>Pruned/year</u>	<u>Cost/year</u>
Evergreen	250	23.58%	\$20	41	\$ 825.47
Large (>24")	100	9.43%	\$150	17	\$ 2,476.42
Medium (13-24")	200	18.87%	\$75	33	\$ 2,476.42
Small (1-12")	510	48.11%	\$40	84	\$ 3,367.92
					\$ 9,146.23

Pruning Activities

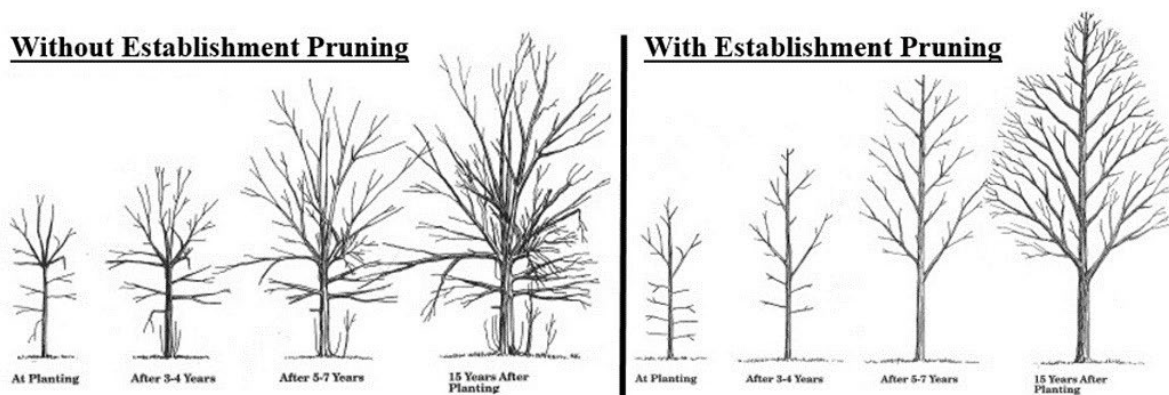
Creation of a Pruning Cycle

Initially, trees have been prioritized which have been identified in the inventory as requiring either Priority, Dead Limb, or Training pruning, regardless of where they are located. This is to prioritize public safety before routine maintenance. After these trees are pruned, La Grange should aim to create a 6 year pruning cycle based on the size of its tree population both now and in 2032. With approximately 1,050 trees total by 2032, this would mean that over a 6-year period, approximately 175 trees would require pruning each year. The number of trees as well as their overall sizes will be changing, hence the above tables showing adaptive management of the tree pruning program.

Though tree pruning may seem expensive, the cost of maintaining trees is significantly less than the costs associated with trees damaging property or injuring residents or patrons. The benefits trees provide when healthy and well maintained can be prolonged and significantly increased, as shown in the projections above. A cycle pruning program is the hallmark of an effective forestry program, and it is highly recommended that PDLG plan to increase budgets for this essential expense.

Pruning of Young Trees

For the purposes for this Plan, a young tree will be considered to be under 12" DBH. Young trees are still trying to acclimate to their sites. The pruning of young trees has different goals and outcomes than the pruning of larger, mature trees. Standard nursery stock has been meticulously pruned for four to ten years to have a single trunk, and the specific branching patterns which are considered common to the various tree species. Without proper establishment pruning, these trees might have multiple trunks, poor branch structure, and overall poor form and architecture.



Pruning of young trees to establish proper form is one of the most cost-effective maintenance activities which can be performed. It is an inexpensive task that does not require a great time commitment and saves thousands of dollars in pruning and maintenance costs later in the tree's life. As mentioned above, due to not having to climb trees or use dangerous equipment, young trees may be pruned by park district staff or well-trained volunteer labor, with proper training from a qualified organization.

Pruning of Mature Trees

A mature tree, for the purposes of this Plan, is considered to be greater than 12" in trunk diameter. Mature trees are established in and acclimated to their sites. The pressure these trees face from their environment generally comes from above-ground factors such as pests, pathogens, man-made structures, other trees, storms or lightning strikes, as well as some below ground factors like girdling roots, limited soil volume, or poor soil quality. Pruning is performed to mitigate the above-ground issues. Natural aging and limb dieback are additional reasons these trees are pruned.

Pruning of mature trees may mitigate a short-term risk, such as after a storm, or pruning may be done to maintain a tree's long-term health and structure. In the wild, trees shed limbs frequently. This is called self-pruning. Allowing trees to self-prune over time is not advisable in an urban setting. Safety factors may arise, and the process of self-pruning may bring up aesthetic issues in an urban environment. Mature public trees should only be pruned by professional Certified Arborists, and done in accordance with industry Best Management Practices and accepted ISA and ANSI standards.

Private Property Trees

The Park District of La Grange shall not be responsible for the pruning of trees located on private property. The park district reserves the right to prune portions of trees overhanging their property, but is under no legal obligation to do so, and will perform such pruning at the discretion of park district staff and/or the Forestry Consultant

Reasons for Pruning

Establishment Pruning

Establishment pruning of newly planted trees is the single most cost-saving measure in tree care, as it establishes good form and branch structure for the life of the tree. Establishment pruning should be performed a minimum of one time prior to the tree reaching six inches in diameter. Once established, the tree will only require periodic cycle pruning to maintain an appropriate form for the urban forest and to maintain health and keep the tree free of dead limbs. As mentioned above, because establishment pruning can be done without the use of dangerous equipment, the use of well-trained volunteers can be an effective means of pruning these young trees.

Cycle Pruning

A Best Management Practice in Urban Forestry is that trees should be pruned on a cyclical basis as preventative maintenance. No tree should go more than seven years without proper pruning. Cycle pruning ensures that dead branches, storm damaged limbs, or unsightly growth are removed before becoming hazardous or bad for the health of the tree. Cyclical pruning also ensures the proper leaf to stem ratio, which provides structural support for the tree. It also ensures that pruning stays relatively inexpensive, as severe issues do not have time to develop. Cycle pruning is a maintenance activity which if performed regularly, actually needs to be performed less often!

Emergency / Storm Damage Pruning

Emergency pruning is nearly always necessary to mitigate severe risk after storm events, such as limbs which have fallen and are blocking traffic, have impacted a structure or playground, are interfering with a utility, or are hanging and in imminent danger of doing any of the above. Emergency and Storm Damage Pruning should be conducted at the discretion of the park district, with the best interests of the public in mind. This is one of the few occasions on which the recommendations of this Plan may be temporarily suspended. When life or property are in imminent danger due to conditions associated with a downed tree or tree part, the park district may take whatever remedial action is practical and reasonable to mitigate such imminent risk.

Sanitation Pruning

When a tree has been diagnosed as having been diseased or infested with a pest or disease, sanitation pruning may be employed to maintain the tree while removing the diseased or infested portions. This technique is only effective when the host tree is infected/infested with certain pests and pathogens, and only in a localized area of the tree. With more widespread cases of disease or insect infestation, removal will be the most cost-effective and safest option to avoid endangering other nearby trees, as these pests and diseases tend to spread, particularly when there is more of the same species nearby.

Removal of High-Risk Limbs

At times, a tree as a whole may not pose a high risk, but a single limb may have defects that make it hazardous. At these times, the removal of such limbs or parts may render the tree to be low risk again, without causing permanent damage to the tree.

Park District of La Grange Internal Policies

1. All activities directly related to the operation of a chainsaw, bucket truck, limb rigging, or tree climbing shall be performed by a qualified park district employee, or under the supervision of a certified arborist or arborist trainee.
2. No pruning or maintenance activity that takes place within ten feet of a power transmission line shall be performed by a Park District of La Grange employee unless certified as a qualified Utility Arborist.
3. No cabling, bracing, or other such support systems shall be installed in PDLG-owned trees, either by the Park District of La Grange, its residents, or any contractors. Exception may be made by obtaining prior written approval of the park district or its Board of Commissioners.
4. No heading, pollarding or espalier pruning shall be conducted on park district-owned trees, and no wound dressings shall be used under any circumstances, without prior approval of the Park District of La Grange.
5. The need for pruning and maintenance of individual trees shall be at the discretion of the Park District of La Grange and/or the Forestry Consultant.
6. No more than 25% of a tree's crown shall be removed during pruning operations in order to preserve the health of the tree. Any more than 25% of the crown being removed put the tree in danger of severe dieback, and removal should be considered at that point.

Other General Maintenance

Maintenance Activities

Retaining a Consultant

The task of enhancing an Urban Forestry program can be difficult! There may be new challenges and learning curves, contracts to renegotiate, bid documents to create, resident or patron concerns to manage, and other experiences which may require the assistance of a professional. Currently, PDLG has one Certified Arborist on staff and they do have knowledgeable grounds staff. That said, at least during the initial years of navigating the goals outlined in this plan, retaining an Urban Forestry Consultant would be a wise decision.



The Forestry Consultant may be involved in sourcing and interviewing contractors and vendors for tree pruning, removal, and planting operations, assisting in maintaining the tree inventory, training park district staff on tree health and risk assessments, assisting in explaining policies to residents and patrons, and preparing contract and bid specifications. The importance of this early relationship cannot be overstated, no matter how large or small the organization.

Chemical Applications

Trees, like people, sometimes contract pests and pathogens. Often these pests and pathogens can be controlled with a simple chemical application just as illnesses in humans can be controlled with medication. This practice is called Plant Health Care. When financially practical, chemical control for common pests or pathogens may be utilized as a preventative or curative method and increase the aesthetics and benefits of the tree population.



At present, PDLG does not treat any trees for any common issues such as Emerald Ash Borer, Apple Scab, or the like. However, with the changing climate of pests and pathogens today, PDLG may at some point decide to engage in such treatments if they are programmatically and economically feasible and will help to maintain the benefits of mature trees while balancing costs.

Residents of La Grange may not perform chemical applications on any park district owned trees under any circumstances. Treatments performed by the park district on its own trees must be performed by a Certified Arborist who holds a valid Pesticide Applicators license.

Water Management

The importance of water in the establishment, growth, and survivorship of trees cannot be overstated. Most trees adapted to our climate zone (USDA Zone 5b) are also adapted to the amount of moisture we have in an average year. However, younger trees with less expansive root systems are susceptible to prolonged drought. Young trees need supplemental watering, which is an essential maintenance activity and can prevent newly planted tree mortality.

As we anticipate nearly 600 additional trees being planted over the course of the next 10 years, this concept becomes very important. A watering program historically has been and will continue to be run by in-house staff, trained in proper watering technique. Whichever way the park district chooses to perform this task now or in the future, it is vital.

Mulch

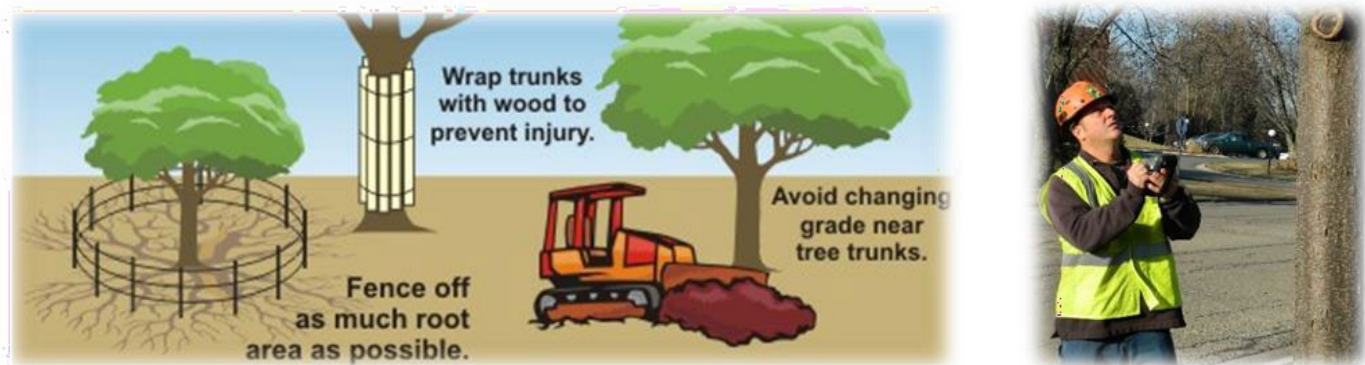
Proper application of mulch is a necessary and cost-effective maintenance activity. Mulch has many benefits, including reducing weed growth in the root zone, protecting the tree trunk and root flare from lawn maintenance equipment, allowing water to move into the soil, reducing evaporation and drought stress, and creating a naturally fertile soil environment. Turf grass typical of parkways competes for water and nutrients, and mulch reduces this competition. But not all mulching is beneficial. The practice known as “Volcano Mulching” is the practice of piling mulch against the trunk in excess of 3” deep. This causes moisture build up against the trunk, and can cause decay of the trunk tissue, and possibly death. Material such as crushed limestone, red volcanic rock, or rubber pellets can alter the soil chemistry in an undesirable way, and cause dieback or tree death.



Fortunately, mulch is a commodity most communities can get for free so long as they are pruning and removing trees each year. A marshalling yard for wood chips is established in Village limits. These chips are made available for free to residents as well as planting contractors. This arrangement works well for everyone: Removal contractors do not have to pay to dispose of chips, residents get free woodchips, and planting contractors don’t have to charge the park district for mulch when new trees are planted. All newly planted trees should have mulch applied appropriately. A goal for the Park District of La Grange should be to mulch all trees 12” DBH and smaller, but for now, mulch for all newly planted trees, and preventing volcano mulching should be a primary concern.

Tree Preservation and Management During Construction

Though park districts do not have the same ordinances as municipalities when it comes to tree protection on private property, they should still abide by Best Management Practices when performing development work on their own property. Therefore, tree and shrub protection and preservation during construction represents an investment in the community! Ensuring the protection and preservation of these trees while minimizing burdens to businesses, developers, and residents is essential to a healthy urban forest.



Tree protection and preservation during periods of construction involves protecting trees from damage caused by construction activities. This damage includes physical and chemical damage to the trunk, branches, and roots. Damage may be caused by equipment such as backhoes, skid steers, or other appendage-type equipment. Effects of damage to the visible above ground portions of the tree can be obvious, as when branches are broken. But hidden effects such as root compaction or improper grading may not become evident for years until the tree begins to die back. The standards set forth below and in Appendix L are industry standards with a proven record of success.

Park District of La Grange Internal Policies

1. A tree survey shall be performed by a qualified individual (certified arborist preferred) prior to the beginning of any development activities on park district property. The survey shall detail the size, species, and condition of each tree six inches DBH and greater OR managed landscape tree (intentionally planted, non-volunteer tree) of any size.
2. The Tree Survey and a Tree Protection Plan shall be submitted to the Village of La Grange and all relevant architects, engineers, and workers, detailing the following:
 - A. Trees to be removed
 - B. Trees to be preserved
 - C. Location and size of the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) for each tree
3. The Tree Protection Zones for each tree shall be visibly delineated by the site engineer, using orange snow fencing or other high visibility exclusion material. When such a delineation is not possible, all workers on site shall be made aware of the TPZ verbally.

Tree Risk Assessment Policy

Trees provide ecosystem and aesthetic benefits, but all trees also pose some degree of risk. Determining the acceptable level of risk, along with effectively managing that risk, is a key priority for urban forestry operations. As a tree manager, the Park District of La Grange must always assume some degree of risk. It is up to the park district to track that risk and ultimately decide how to mitigate risk from trees in a manner which is responsible both economically as well as in the interest of public safety.

Levels of Risk Assessment – An Overview

These Risk Assessment Levels are based on the International Society of Arboriculture’s (ISA) Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) protocols, as well as the ANSI A300 Part 9 (Tree Risk Assessment) Standards. The TRAQ forms can be found in Appendix H at the end of this report. All trees in PDLG parks were assessed for a basic level of risk during the inventory. These assessments were rapid assessments, and do not represent any formal level of TRAQ risk assessment and are not legally binding. They are solely intended to provide the district with data showing a need for a more detailed assessment of trees such as those listed below.



Level 1 Assessment

Also called a “limited visual assessment”, whereby a tree has a basic analysis of obvious physical defects and condition. The assessor walks or drives by the tree, assesses it quickly for defects, evaluates the risk posed by the subject tree, and reports the results of the assessment to the tree owner. Often, prior to a recommendation, a more detailed (Level 2 or Level 3) assessment will be required to gather additional data.

Level 2 Assessment

A Level 2 Assessment, also called a “basic assessment”, is a report detailing the information collected during a detailed visual inspection of the tree and the surrounding site. Such an inspection requires a 360 degree walk around, and may include the use of simple tools, such as binoculars, magnifying lenses, mallets, probes, and trowels or shovels. The goal is to get a more complete picture of the tree in its environment, as well as previous histories of failures, and a root to branch evaluation of not only the tree but also potential “targets” which falling tree limbs may impact. Targets are things such as structures, people, vehicles, or other things which may be damaged or injured by trees.



Level 3 Assessment

A Level 3 Assessment, also called an “advanced assessment”, provides detailed information about specific tree parts, targets, and risk associated with each potential interaction. By definition, it requires specialized equipment known as “advanced tools”, such as bucket trucks, resistance drills, sonic tomographs, and other such equipment.

This is the most detailed and time-intensive type of assessment and is typically only performed when a decision to retain or remove a tree is very difficult, as would be the case for a high-quality tree near a potential target that has significant defects, the extent of which are not known, but must become known before making a decision.

Considerations in Assessing Risk

The following are meant to gain additional insight into the TRAQ process. TRAQ inspections were not performed on park district trees, but this information will help to understand the terminology better and help inform staff and residents as to how and why these inspections are performed.

Likelihood of Tree Part Failure

Like it sounds, this is a process of determining how likely a tree part is to fail, and then how likely that failure is to impact a target. Likelihood of failure is an assessment of the tree’s defects, and the load on those defects, like weight, gravity, ice, or wind. The parts impacted are generally the roots, root plate, trunk, branches, or potentially whole tree failure at multiple points.

Likelihood of Impacting a Target

Determining the likelihood of impacting a target is figuring out the occupancy rate, or the amount of time that targets (people or high value property) are within the fall zone of a tree. A large tree in the middle of a field could fail with little impact, but that same tree in a playground might have serious consequences. In many roadways, motor traffic is present day and night. All of the park district’s inventoried 816 trees are on publicly owned land, where failure of a tree not only could impact motorists, but also park patrons and structures.



Consequences of a Tree Failure Impacting a Target

The potential consequences of the tree failure impacting a target is a cumulative function of both the “value” of the target (person vs car) and the consequences to that target if the tree fails. Whereas the previous step was concerned with occupancy rates, this step looks at the consequences of the impact, and assumes that the target is always present. To follow with the above example, it is assumed that if a park tree were to fail, that a car, utility line, and person are all underneath it at the time of failure, and the consequences to those targets is evaluated.

Consequences are generally considered to be “minor” for targets that can be easily replaced or repaired and step up through 4 levels with the highest level being “severe”, which would constitute severe injury to a person, or even a fatality.

Weather

Every tree, no matter how healthy, can fail from wind, lightning strikes, ice loading or soil saturation. “Normal” weather can cause tree or tree part failures for trees which have existing defects, like deadwood, cavities, or poor architecture. Extreme weather events, by contrast, can cause the failure of perfectly healthy trees. For all Tree Risk Assessments, Risk should be assessed assuming “normal” weather conditions. Though it should be noted that “normal” weather conditions for northeastern Illinois do include gusty winds, thunderstorms, snow, and even an occasional ice storm. It is the extremes of these events that should be considered abnormal.

Park District of La Grange SAMPLE Tree Risk Assessment Policy

The Park District of La Grange has created this SAMPLE policy as an example of a TBD policy to maintain an acceptable level of risk as it pertains to its park tree population. In order to maintain an acceptable level of public safety, while mitigating undue burden, the Park District of La Grange shall consider adopting the following risk assessment protocols, or something similar to them:

1. The Park District of La Grange maintains a tree inventory detailing the species, size, and condition of all trees on park district owned land, as well as a basic level of risk posed by each tree. This Urban Forestry Management Plan recommends that the trees listed as being in elevated risk categories during the initial inventory be audited on an ad hoc basis. During these audits, qualified park district staff and/or the Forestry Consultant should inspect these trees and identify trees potentially posing an unacceptable level of risk. Such trees identified shall either be scheduled for a more detailed risk assessment (Level 2 or 3), or shall be mitigated, either by pruning, bracing, or removal, as soon as practical following the assessment.
2. Park district staff or the Forestry Consultant shall perform limited visual assessments on an ad hoc basis by monitoring the trees during the normal course of daily operations. Trees which may appear to present an elevated risk level shall be scheduled for a more detailed risk assessment (Level 2 or 3), or shall be mitigated, either by pruning, bracing, or removal, as soon as practical following the assessment.
3. Upon notification from a resident or patron of a concern about a potentially high-risk tree, qualified park district staff and/or the Urban Forestry Consultant shall perform a Level 1 limited visual inspection within (14) business days of the notification by the resident. If a Level 2 or Level 3 Risk Assessment is required based on that inspection, it shall be performed within an additional (14) business days. A decision shall be made by park district staff, the Board of Commissioners, and/or the Forestry Consultant as to what the appropriate mitigation measures are, if any.

4. All trees determined to be in need of mitigating actions (removal, pruning, etc.) should be documented in writing by park district staff and/or the Urban Forestry Consultant. This documentation shall include the date the assessment was performed, the species, size, and condition of the tree, and a brief narrative detailing which parts of the tree are likely to fail, the likelihood of failure, the likelihood of impacting a target, the consequences of tree or tree part failure, and the overall tree risk rating, per the ISA’s TRAQ system of risk assessment.
5. A minimum branch diameter of three (3) inches, by ocular estimate, shall be the standard to which this risk assessment policy applies. Assessing all branches smaller than three inches represents an undue burden to the park district.

TRAQ Forms can be found in Appendix H at the end of this plan.

TRAQ Tree Risk Assessment Matrices

Likelihood of Tree Failure Impacting Target

<u>Likelihood of Tree Failure</u>	<u>Likelihood of Impacting Target</u>			
	Very Low	Low	Medium	High
Imminent	Unlikely	Somewhat Likely	Likely	Very Likely
Probable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat Likely	Likely
Possible	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat Likely
Improbable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely

Risk Rating Matrix

<u>Likelihood of Failure and Impact</u>	<u>Consequences</u>			
	Negligible	Minor	Significant	Severe
Very Likely	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Likely	Low	Moderate	High	High
Somewhat Likely	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Low

Projected Budget

The budget numbers below, as mentioned several times through this Urban Forestry Management Plan, are conservative figures based on current industry rates for the services listed. Based on input from park district staff, the budget begins this year with a dollar amount that is within their current annual budget for tree related expenses. From there, generally the budget increases slightly each year, and projects through 2032, at which time, including CPI, the budget will have increased from the current level of approximately \$17,000 in 2022 to approximately \$37,000 by 2032.

REMOVALS	Milestones	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027-2032
	Trees Removed	9	17	20	25	25	25/year avg
	Diameter Inches	154"	207"	225"	250"	250"	250"
	Notes	1 Priority Removal + Standard Removals Over 14"	Standard Removals 14" and less + all Low Priority Removals	Undesirable Species	Update Inventory for New Removals	Update Inventory for New Removals	Update Inventory for New Removals
	Removal Cost (2021)	\$3,850	\$5,175	\$5,625	\$6,250	\$6,250	\$6,250
Removal Cost (CPI)	\$3,850	\$5,175	\$5,625	\$6,250	\$6,250	\$7,188	

PLANTINGS	Milestones	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027-2032
	Trees Planted	20	25	30	35	40	45/year avg
	Planting Cost (2021)	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$9,000	\$10,500	\$12,000	\$13,500
	Planting Cost (CPI)	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$9,000	\$10,500	\$12,000	\$15,525

PRUNING	Milestones	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027-2032
	Trees Pruned	100	120	135	150	160	175/year avg
	Notes	68 Priority Prunes + 32 Additional Cycle Prunes	120 Cycle Prunes	135 Cycle Prunes	150 Cycle Prunes	160 Cycle Prunes	Up to 175 Cycle Prunes per Year by 2032
	Cost (2021)	\$5,525	\$6,650	\$7,500	\$8,325	\$8,900	\$9,725
	Cost (CPI)	\$5,525	\$6,650	\$7,500	\$8,325	\$8,900	\$11,184

FORESTRY CONSULTANT	Milestones	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026-2031
	Notes	Basic Assistance with contract prep, etc	Appraisals and Risk Management	Inventory Updates / Risk Management	Inventory Updates / Risk Management	Inventory Updates / Risk Management	Inventory Updates / Risk Management
	Cost (2019)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$3,000
	Cost (CPI)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$3,000

TOTALS	TOTALS - 2021 \$	\$16,875	\$20,825	\$24,625	\$27,575	\$29,650	\$32,475
	TOTALS - CPI 3%	\$16,875	\$20,825	\$24,625	\$27,575	\$29,650	\$36,896

Summary / Conclusion

The tree population in the Park District of La Grange is a small but mighty one, and one that is the hands of capable stewards who are managing these trees for their greatest value to the community, while minimizing risk to park patrons and residents as well. Overall, the state of the Urban Forest in the Park District of La Grange is sound, and only continuing to improve!

In fact, even since the inventory was completed in 2021 and this management plan had already been in progress, much of the work we had recommended for the first year in terms of removals, plantings, and pruning has been in progress. To that end, discussions are already afoot as of this writing about updating this Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP) in the next year or so in order to evaluate the progress which has already been made, and to continue to adaptively manage the tree population and set new goals.

As this first incarnation of the management plan comes to a close, we would like to remind the residents, staff, and other readers that this management plan is meant to be a starting point, and not an ending point. As goals are achieved, new information comes to light, new species become available, and budgets change over time, this plan is meant to be amended and adapted to accommodate and plan for these future circumstances. It is also meant to be community-focused, and we strongly encourage members of the community, upon reading this plan and generating ideas, to bring those ideas to the staff at PDOL and implement new and innovative strategies for managing the tree population in La Grange.

As we hope has been proven, growing the number of trees in La Grange will create greater benefits, both monetary and ecological, for all of the residents both in LaGrange and in the Midwest in general. And though there is limited space to work with in the parks, creating a multilayered canopy that mimics a natural forest with trees of many sizes and many species, will make the most of that space, and create a beautiful arboretum like setting for patrons and residents to enjoy. As the number, age, and quality of trees increases, these monetary and ecological benefits will increase as well, making the forest resource a net provider of benefits to the community.

We also encourage the community to get engaged! As has been said throughout, volunteering to water, prune, plant, and monitor trees not only helps achieve the goals of this plan, but also a great way to be outside, get some exercise, and learn some new skills. Who knows, some people may even find a new career path as a result!

Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management would like to thank the staff and residents of the Park District of La Grange for their effort and support during this process, dating back to seeing the importance of applying for this Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) grant, through being communicative during our field work for the inventory, and of course the many careful rounds of editing this Management Plan went through to get where it is today. And we look forward to seeing what it will become in the future as the staff and residents take the care of this urban forest under their wings, and make it the best it can possibly be.

Glossary of Terms

Aerial Device: Any piece of equipment expressly intended to elevate a human worker above the level at which they typically stand with their feet on the ground surface. Can include but is not limited to bucket trucks, scissor lifts, etc.

Aggressive: A floral or faunal organism which is native (endemic) to the United States or northern Indiana, but which is known to outcompete other more desirable organisms.

Arborist: An individual engaged in the profession of arboriculture who is educated, trained and licensed to provide for or supervise the management of trees and other woody plants.

Arborist Trainee: Any person working under the direct supervision of an Arborist or Certified Arborist.

Balled and Burlapped: A tree, shrub, or other plant prepared for transplanting by allowing the roots to remain covered by a ball of soil around which canvas or burlap is tied and secured with a basket.

Bare Root: Harvested plants from which the soil or growing medium has been removed.

Best Management Practices (BMP): Methods or techniques found to be the most effective and practical means in achieving an objective while making the optimum use of resources.

Caliper: Standard nurseryman's measure of tree diameter (size). Caliper measurement of the trunk shall be taken six inches above the ground up to and including four-inch caliper size. If the caliper at six inches above the ground exceeds four inches, the caliper should be measured at 12 inches above the ground.

Certified Arborist: An individual who has sufficient experience in the field of Arboriculture, and has been certified by the International Society of Arboriculture as being a Certified Arborist.

Border Trees: Trees whose trunks, when measured at DBH, are situated on both Public and private property.

Branch Collar: The branch collar is the point where a branch joins the trunk or another branch. This is the area the arborist chooses to make a proper cut.

Climbing Line: Any rope or other such material explicitly intended for bearing the weight of a human being.

Collected Plants: Trees or shrubs which have been sourced from private property for the intent of transplanting elsewhere.

Compacted Soil: A high-density soil lacking structure and porosity, characterized by restricted water infiltration and percolation (drainage), and limited root penetration.

Consumer Price Index: an index of the variation in prices paid by typical consumers for retail goods and other items.

Containerized: A tree, shrub, or other plant prepared for transplanting, or grown in, a solid-walled container such as a plastic pots or wooden boxes.

Contracted Staff: People working for the park district as part of an independently owned and operated private company which performs work for the park district, but who are not directly employed by the park district.

Controlling Authority: An agency, organization, or corporate entity with the legal authority and/or obligation to manage individual trees or tree populations.

Crew Leader: Any personal who has by direction or implication been chosen to lead a team of In-House or Contracted Staff.

Crown: Upper part of a tree, measured from the lowest branch, including all branches and foliage.

Critical Root Zone (CRZ): The minimum volume of roots necessary for a tree to have health and stability.

Cycle Pruning: The process of routine maintenance pruning of trees, not related to storm damage or other hazard or emergency related pruning, that occurs on a set and predictable time scale set forth by the park district.

Deadwood: Wood on a tree or shrub which is no longer biologically living and becomes brittle or prone to failure.

Decline/Declining: Trees or shrubs which are experiencing symptoms of a general decline on health due to age, pest, or pathogen related issues.

Desirable: A Tree or other plant whose characteristics are sought after due to ecology, aesthetics, or public safety.

Diameter or DBH: Diameter at Breast Height. A standard forestry measure of tree diameter (size), measured at 4.5' above ground level on the uphill side of a tree using a Diameter Tape or Biltmore Stick.

Digging Machine(s): Any piece of mechanical equipment whose express purpose is to remove soil and plants from their current locations.

Diseased: The status of a tree which has been negatively impacted by a pathogen, bacterial, fungal, viral, or similar lower life forms.

Drip Line: The soil surface delineated by the branch spread of a single plant or group of plants

Drought: A period of two weeks or greater, during which there is less than one inch of rainfall, when the average daytime temperature during that same period exceeds 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

Dutch Elm Disease: A fungal pathogen which causes the decline and death of specific species of Elm trees.

Dying: A tree which is in the process of biological death due to senescence, disease, infestation, or other such malady from which there is very little to no hope of long-term survival.

EAB: Emerald Ash Borer. An invasive beetle pest which affects all Ash trees.

Establishment Pruning: The pruning of a young tree in order to establish proper form and branching habit.

Established Trees: Those trees which have been permanently planted for a period of no less than 6 months, and which have permanent roots established in the soil.

Failure (tree failure): Breakage of stem or branches, or loss of mechanical support in the root system.

Feeder Root: Any portion of the below ground portions of the tree whose purpose is to absorb water and nutrients.

Floodplain: Land which has been determined to be periodically inundated with water from a nearby moving or static water body, such as a lake or river. Determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Flush Cut: Either a pruning cut or final cut to remove a stump, for which the maximum acceptable distance from the ground or the branch bark ridge shall be no greater than 2 inches.

Full-Time: An employee who has regular employment through the park district and whose work hours exceed 36 hours in a week, and who is employed year-round.

Fungal: Any of a group of spore-producing organisms feeding on organic matter, including molds, yeast, mushrooms, and toadstools.

Grade: Level or pitch of a certain piece of land, as defined by the trees or shrubs which inhabit it.

Hardscape: The nonliving or man-made fixtures of a planned outdoor area, such as sidewalks, retaining walls, streetlamps, etc.

Hazard: A known and documented state of imperiling public safety.

Healthy Tree: Any tree which is successfully adapting to its environment, and shows no signs of disease, pests, pathogens, or other such maladies, as determined by park district staff or the Forestry Consultant.

Host: An organism which is susceptible to a known pest or pathogen.

Indiana811: The Indiana underground utility locating service.

Infested: The status of a tree which has been negatively impacted by pests.

In-House Staff: Staff directly employed by the Park District of La Grange, on either a full-time or Part-Time Basis.

Invasive: A floral or faunal organism which is not native (endemic) to the United States or Illinois.

Job Site: Any geographic location where a person or persons will be performing activities related to the care and maintenance of Park District of La Grange property

Liner Nursery: A privately owned plant propagation facility which specializes in the growth of small trees which are intended to be planted for growth into a full form.

Managed: A tree or shrub which is in an area of the park district which is routinely mowed and managed. Not a wild forest grown tree or shrub, or area containing such trees and shrubs.

Manufacturer's Recommendations: Any expressly written instruction manual for a given piece of equipment that details how said equipment is supposed to be managed or maintained.

Mineral Soil: Any substrate which is composed of a variety of rocks and minerals in various states of decomposition, leading to the development of a substance on which living plants may live.

Mitigation: The process of diminishing risk.

Monoculture: A population of trees in close proximity to one another which is comprised of 3 species or less of trees and shrubs which is prone to pest or pathogen outbreak.

Natural Resources: Flora, fauna, and other such living and non-living parts of the environment which the Park District of La Grange maintains.

Nursery Stock: Woody Perennials which are of a "Tree Form" growth habit and are supplied by a nursery contractor for planting. Not established trees.

Park District Property: Land which, by deed or title, belongs to the Park District of La Grange.

Parkway Tree: Any woody plant within a Publicly Owned right-of-way, or any other property owned or managed by the Park District of La Grange.

Part-Time: An employee who has regular employment through the park district and whose work hours are less than 36 hours in a week, and who is employed year-round.

Pathogen: Fungus, virus, or other such microscopic organism which causes decline or death of trees.

Pest: An insect or other macrofaunal organism which causes decline or death of trees.

Private Property: Land which, by deed or title, does not belong to the Park District of La Grange.

Public Safety: The welfare and protection of the general public.

Reforestation: The process by which trees are planted to replace trees which have been removed.

Rigging Line: Any rope or other such material explicitly intended for bearing the weight of a tree limb. Not to be used for supporting a human being.

Right-of-Way (ROW): The publicly owned land on which a road, drainage ditch, trail, or other public access is built.

Risk: A situation involving potential exposure to danger or endangering public safety.

Root Protection Zone (RPZ): The area on the ground surrounding a tree in which excavation, compaction, and other construction-related activities should be avoided or mitigated.

Saddle: A piece of equipment expressly intended to hold a human being above ground level with the assistance of a rope or other such device.

Sanitation Pruning: The removal of tree limbs that have become diseased or infested, in order to prevent the spread of disease or infestation from spreading throughout the rest of the tree e.g., Dutch Elm Disease, Black Knot Fungus, etc.

Seasonal Employees: Those employees retained by the park district for less than 6 months out of the calendar or budget year.

Shrub: Any woody perennial which has a multi-stemmed growth habit not consistent with being considered a tree. Can be subject to interpretation by La Grange Staff.

Sound Wood: Structurally sound, non-decayed, non-compromised wood in the trunk or Scaffold Branches.

Staff: Those employees retained by the park district on a full-time basis with benefits provided.

Structural Root: Any portion of the below ground portions of the tree whose purpose is to stabilize the plant against the forces of wind and gravity.

TRAQ: Tree Risk Assessment Qualification. The International Society of Arboriculture's formal status of an individual who is qualified to assess the risk that trees may bring to the general public.

Tree Protection Zone (TPZ): The area surrounding a tree in which excavation and other construction-related activities should be avoided.

Tree Risk: The likelihood and consequences of failure of a tree or tree parts.

Tree Risk Assessment: A systematic process used to identify, analyze, and evaluate tree risk.

Underperforming: Trees which have systematic health and vigor issues resulting in poor health, architecture, or other such maladies as determined by park district staff.

Undesirable: A tree which is not desired in the landscape due to ecological, aesthetic, or public safety reasons, as determined by La Grange Staff.



Unmanaged: A tree or shrub which is in an area of the Park District of La Grange which is not routinely mowed and managed. A wild forest grown tree or shrub, or area containing such trees and shrubs.

Urban Wood: Any tree or other woody perennial material which has been harvested for the sole purpose of long-term storage in the form of furniture, recreational material, etc. Differentiated from “Reclaimed Wood”.

Utility Arborist: A person explicitly trained in the management of trees and other plants in relation to energized power lines. Someone who is licensed to work with conflicts between trees and such energized power lines.

Appendix A: Acceptable and Unacceptable Species

Species not appearing on this list can be approved or disallowed by consensus of the Tree Commission and the PD Parks Foreman, and/or the Forestry Consultant. This list may be updated or circumvented, if, for example a new disease or pest tolerant cultivar of an unapproved species is developed, new information about invasive qualities is published, etc.

NOT APPROVED	APPROVED SPECIES			
Any Size	Large Trees	Medium Trees	Small Trees	Evergreens
AILANTHUS	BALDCYPRESS	ALDER	AMERICAN REDBUD	ARBOR VITAE
AMUR CORKTREE	BEECH-AMERICAN	AMUR MAACKIA	APPLE-CRAB	DOUGLAS FIR
ASH-EUROPEAN	BEECH-EUROPEAN	BIRCH-RIVER	APPLE-EDIBLE	EASTERN REDCEDAR
ASH-GREEN	BUCKEYE-OHIO	BIRCH-WHITE	BUCKEYE-RED	FIR-CONCOLOR
ASH-WHITE	BUCKEYE-YELLOW	BLACKGUM	CHERRY-ORNAMENTAL	HEMLOCK-SPP
BOXELDER	CATALPA	ELM-CHINESE	DOGWOOD-SPP	JUNIPER-COMMON
BUCKTHORN	CHESTNUT-CHINESE	HARDY RUBBER TREE	HAWTHORN-COCKSPUR	PINE-AUSTRIAN
BURNING BUSH	DAWN REDWOOD	HAZELNUT-TURKISH	HAWTHORN-SPP	PINE-MUGO
CHERRY-BLACK/PIN	ELM-HYBRID	HORNBEAM-AMERICAN	HYDRANGEA-PEEGEE	PINE-WHITE
COTTONWOOD	GINKGO*	HORNBEAM-EUROPEAN	LILAC-SHRUB	SPRUCE-BLUE
ELM-AMERICAN	HACKBERRY	IRONWOOD	LILAC-TREE	SPRUCE-NORWAY
ELM-SIBERIAN	HICKORY-SPP	KATSURA	MAGNOLIA-SAUCCER	SPRUCE-SPP
HONEYSUCKLE	HONEYLOCUST	MAPLE-HEDGE	MAPLE-AMUR	YEW
MAPLE-NORWAY	HORSECHESTNUT	MAPLE-MIYABEI	MAPLE-JAPANESE	
MAPLE-SILVER	KENTUCKY COFFEETREE*	MAPLE-PAPERBARK	PEACH/NECTARINE	
MULBERRY-SPP	LARCH	MAPLE-SHANTUNG	PLUM-SPP	
PEAR-CALLERY	LINDEN-AMERICAN	MAPLE-TRIFLORUM	ROSE OF SHARON	
POPLAR-SPP	LINDEN-LITTLELEAF	OAK-CHINKQUAPIN	SERVICEBERRY-SPP	
POPLAR-WHITE	LONDON PLANETREE	OAK-ENGLISH	SMOKETREE	
PRINCESS TREF	MAGNOLIA-CUCUMBER	OAK-SHINGLE	WITCH HAZEL	
RUSSIAN OLIVE	MAPLE-SUGAR	PERSIAN IRONWOOD		
WALNUT-ANY	OAK-BLACK	YELLOWWOOD		
	OAK-BURR	GOLDEN RAIN TREE		
	OAK-PIN	MOUNTAIN ASH		
	OAK-RED	PEAR-EDIBLE		
	OAK-SWAMP WHITE	SASSAFRASS		
	OAK-WHITE	SEVENTH SON FLOWER		
	PAGODATREE			
	PERSIMMON			
	SWEETGUM			
	SYCAMORE			
	TULIPTREE			
	ZELKOVA			

* - Male Only

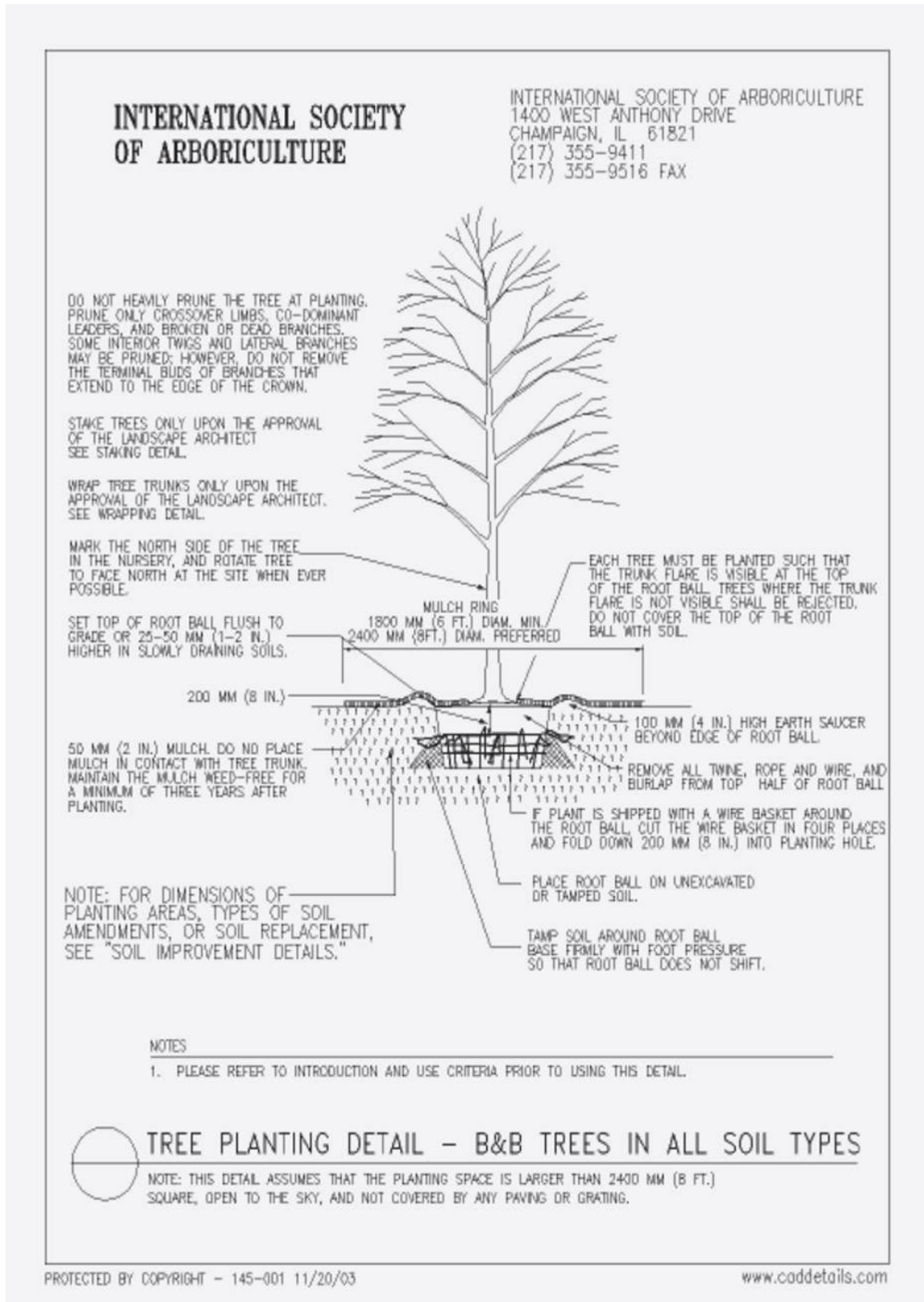
Appendix B: Additional Comments on Species

SPECIES	COMMENTS	SPECIES	COMMENTS
AILANTHUS	NOT APPROVED	LILAC-SHRUB	Parks Only
ALDER-SPP		LILAC-TREE	Improved varieties, tree form only
AMERICAN HORNBEAM		LINDEN-AMERICAN	
AMERICAN REDBUD		LINDEN-LITTLELEAF	
AMUR MAACKIA		LINDEN-SILVER	
APPLE-CRAB SPP	Apple Scab resistant varieties only	LINDEN-SPP	
APPLE-EDIBLE	Parks Only	LONDON PLANETREE	Prefer 'Exclamation!', 'Bloodgood' not allowed
APRICOT	NOT APPROVED	MAGNOLIA-CUCUMBER	
ARBOR VITAE	Parks only	MAGNOLIA-SAUCCER	Scale resistant varieties only
ASH-BLUE	NOT APPROVED	MAGNOLIA-SHRUB	Star Magnolia or similar Magnolia pruned to tree form
ASH-GREEN	NOT APPROVED	MAPLE-AMUR	Parks only unless pruned to tree form
ASH-WHITE	NOT APPROVED	MAPLE-AUTUMN BLAZE	Or other similar Acer x freemannii
ASPEN	Improved varieties only	MAPLE-BLACK	
BALDCYPRESS	Prefer 'Shawnee Brave'	MAPLE-HEDGE	
BEECH-AMERICAN		MAPLE-JAPANESE	Small growing space only
BEECH-SPP	Prefer 'Tricolor' or 'Riversii'	MAPLE-MIYABEI	Prefer 'State Street'
BIRCH-RIVER	Prefer Single stem only	MAPLE-NORWAY	NOT APPROVED
BIRCH-SPP	Sweet Birch, Yellow Birch, or other newintroductions	MAPLE-PAPERBARK	
BIRCH-WHITE	Bronze Birch Borer resistant only, prefer 'Whitespire'	MAPLE-RED	Improved varieties only
BLACK LOCUST	Improved varieties only, prefer 'Purple Robe'	MAPLE-SILVER	NOT APPROVED
BLACKGUM		MAPLE-SUGAR	Prefer 'Green Mountain'
BOXELDER	NOT APPROVED	MOUNTAIN ASH	Improved varieties only
BUCKEYE-OHIO		MOUNTAIN ASH-EUROPEAN	Improved varieties only
BUCKEYE-RED	Prefer 'Ft. McNair' or Bottlebush	MULBERRY-SPP	NOT APPROVED
BUCKEYE-YELLOW		OAK-BURR	
BUCKTHORN	NOT APPROVED	OAK-CHESTNUT	
BURNING BUSH	NOT APPROVED	OAK-CHINKQUAPIN	
CAROLINA SILVERBELL	Protected sites only	OAK-ENGLISH	
CATALPA		OAK-PIN	
CHERRY-BLACK	NOT APPROVED	OAK-RED	
CHERRY-PURPLE LEAF		OAK-SWAMP WHITE	
CHERRY-SPP	Ornamental, Black Knot resistant varieties only	OAK-WHITE	
COTTONWOOD	NOT APPROVED	OTHER	Open for new introductions
DAWN REDWOOD		PAGODATREE	
DOGWOOD-SPP	Hardy varieties only	PEACH	Parks only
DOUGLAS FIR	Parks only	PEAR-CALLERY	NOT APPROVED
EASTERN REDCEDAR	Parks only	PEAR-EDIBLE	Parks Only
ELM-AMERICAN	NOT APPROVED	PERSIAN IRONWOOD	Medium growing space only
ELM-HYBRID	Hardy varieties only	PERSIMMON	American variety preferred (Diospyros virginiana)
ELM-RED	NOT APPROVED	PINE-AUSTRIAN	Parks Only
ELM-SIBERIAN	NOT APPROVED	PINE-SCOTCH	Parks only
ELM-SPP	New cultivar introductions	PINE-WHITE	Parks only
EUONYMUS	Eastern Wahoo ONLY no non-native varieties	PLUM-SPP	Parks Only
FIR-SPP	Parks only	PUSSYWILLOW	Parks only
FRINGETREE		ROSE OF SHARON	
GINKGO	Male only	SASSAFRAS	
GOLDEN RAINTREE		SERVICEBERRY-SPP	Prefer 'Autumn Brilliance'
HACKBERRY		SEVENTH SON FLOWER	
HARDY RUBBER TREE		SHRUB-SPP	Parks only, open for new introductions
HAWTHORN-SPP	Thornless varieties only	SMOKETREE	American variety preferred, small growing space only
HICKORY-BITTERNUT		SPRUCE-BLUE	Parks only
HICKORY-SHAGBARK		SPRUCE-NORWAY	Parks only
HONEYLOCUST	Prefer 'shademaster' or 'inermis'	SPRUCE-SPP	Parks only
HONEYSUCKLE	NOT APPROVED	SUMAC	Parks only
HORNBEAM-EUROPEAN		SWEETGUM	Prefer 'Happidaze'
HORSECHESTNUT		SYCAMORE	In natural areas only, London Planetree preferred
HYDRANGEA-PEEGEE		TULIPTREE	
IRONWOOD		VIBURNUM	Tree form only
JUNIPER-COMMON	Parks Only	WALNUT-BLACK	NOT APPROVED
KATSURA		WILLOW-SPP	NOT APPROVED
KENTUCKY COFFEETREE	Fruitless varieties only	YELLOWWOOD	
LARCH		YEW	Parks Only
		ZELKOVA	Prefer 'Green Vase'

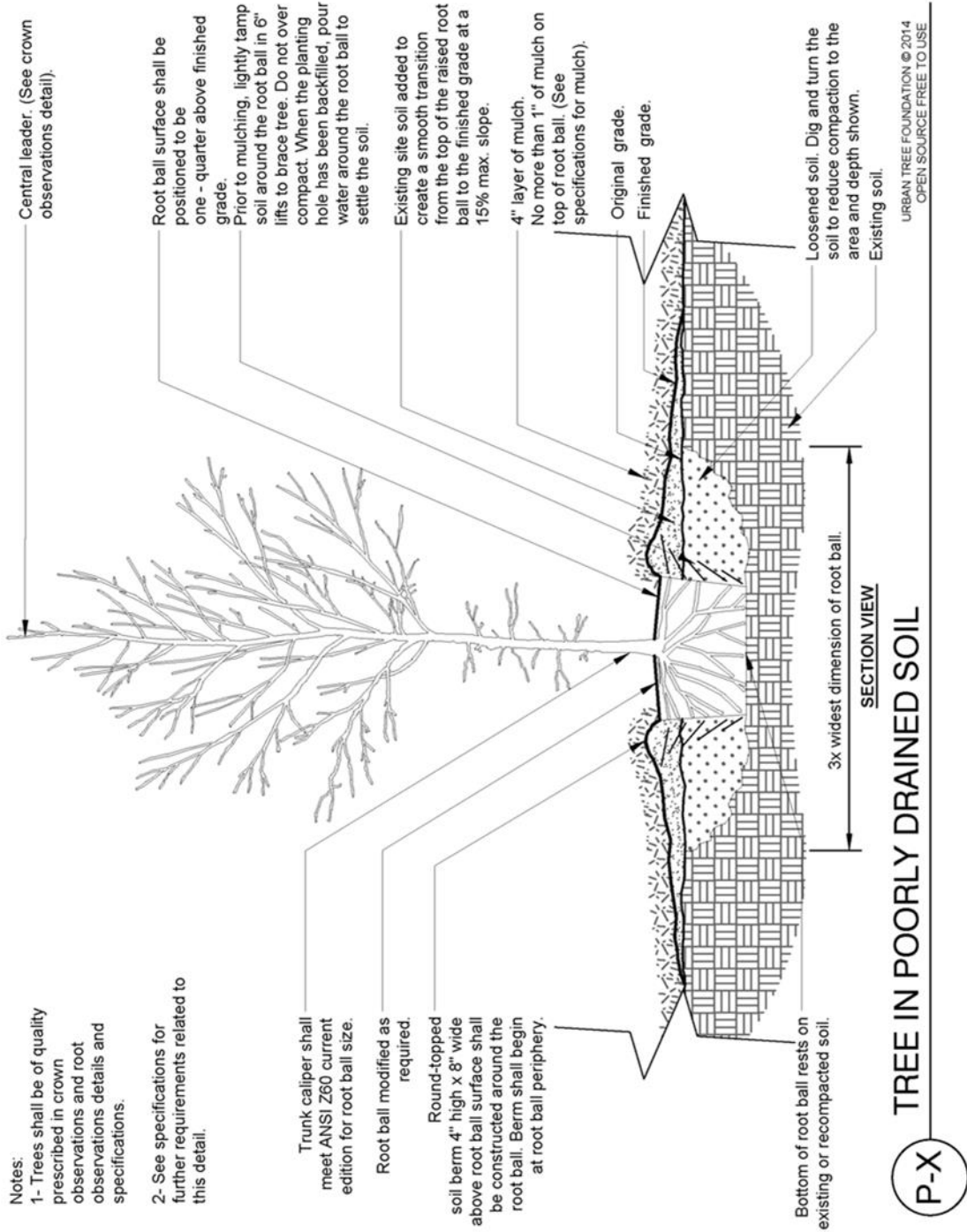
Appendix C: Species Substitutions

Species	Planting Time	Acceptable Substitutes
Alder, Black/Speckled	Spring	River Birch, Planetree
Amur Maackia	Spring	Yellowwood, Shingle Oak
Baldcypress	Spring	Larch, Dawn Redwood
Beech, European	Spring	Red Oak, Buckeye
Birch, River (Multi Stem)	Spring	Alder, Swamp White Oak
Birch, White	Spring	River Birch, Alder
Black Locust (Purple Robe)	Any	Honeylocust, Kentucky Coffeetree
Blackgum	Spring	Sweetgum, Dogwood
Buckeye, Ohio (Autumn Splendor)	Any	Horsechestnut, Catalpa
Buckeye, Red	Spring	Dogwood, Hawthorn
Buckeye, Yellow	Spring	Planetree, Sweetgum
Catalpa	Any	Kentucky Coffeetree, Tuliptree
Cherry, Sargent	Spring	Red Buckeye, Tree Lilac
Chestnut, Chinese	Spring	Turkish Hazelnut, Persimmon
Crabapple (Larger)	Any	Tree Lilac, Hawthorn
Dawn Redwood	Spring	Baldcypress, Larch
Dogwood, Cornelian	Spring	Tree Lilac, Hawthorn
Dogwood, Pagoda	Spring	Sargent Cherry, Smoketree
Douglas Fir	Spring	Concolor Fir, Spruce
Elm, Hybrid (Larger)	Any	Hackberry, Hardy Rubbertree
Fir, Concolor	Spring	Douglas Fir, Spruce
Ginkgo (Standard)	Any	Tuliptree, Catalpa
Golden Raintree	Spring	Katsura, Magnolia
Hackberry, Common	Any	Hybrid Elm, Hardy Rubbertree
Hardy Rubber Tree	Any	Tuliptree, Zelkova
Hawthorn, 'Inermis'	Any	Crab Apple, Dogwood
Hawthorn, Winterking	Any	Tree Lilac, Smoketree
Hazelnut, Turkish	Spring	Persimmon, Catalpa
Hickory, Bitternut	Spring	Oak spp, Beech spp
Hickory, Shagbark	Spring	Oak spp, Beech spp
Hornbeam, American	Spring	Ironwood, Hawthorn
Hornbeam, European (Columnar)	Spring	English Oak (columnar)
Horsechestnut (Baumanii)	Any	Buckeye, Catalpa
Ironwood	Spring	American Hornbeam, Hawthorn
Katsura	Spring	Magnolia, Seventh Son Flower
Kentucky Coffeetree	Any	Honeylocust, Black Locust
Larch	Spring	Baldcypress, Dawn Redwood
Lilac, Japanese Ivory Silk	Any	Hawthorn, Sargent Cherry
Linden, Greenspire	Any	Kentucky Coffeetree, Hybrid Elm
Linden, Redmond	Any	Catalpa, Hackberry
Locust, Skyline	Any	Kentucky Coffeetree, Black Locust
London Planetree	Spring	Sweetgum, Blackgum
Magnolia, Cucumber	Spring	Yellow Buckeye, Catalpa
Magnolia, Saucer	Spring	Persian Ironwood, Katsura
Magnolia, Star	Spring	Sargent Cherry, Smoketree
Maple, Autumn Blaze	Any	Black Maple, Shantung Maple
Maple, Black	Any	Shantung Maple, Autumn Blaze
Maple, Paperbark	Spring	Triflorum Maple, Tree Lilac
Maple, Shantung	Any	Sugar Maple, Miyabei Maple
Maple, Sugar	Any	Autumn Blaze, Shantung Maple
Maple, Triflorum	Spring	Paperbark Maple, Tree Lilac
Mountain Ash	Spring	Black Locust, Hawthorn
Oak, Burr	Spring	Shingle Oak, Swamp White Oak
Oak, English (Columnar)	Any	European Hornbeam
Oak, English (Standard)	Any	White Oak, Burr Oak
Oak, Red	Spring	Black Oak, Chinquapin Oak
Oak, Shingle	Spring	Chinquapin Oak, English Oak
Oak, Swamp White	Spring	London Planetree, Burr Oak
Oak, White	Spring	Burr Oak, English Oak
Oak, Chinquapin	Spring	Shingle Oak, Red Oak
Persian Ironwood	Spring	Seventh Son Flower, Katsura
Persimmon	Spring	Turkish Hazelnut, Zelkova
Pine, Limber	Spring	Spruce, Concolor Fir
Pine, Red	Spring	Douglas Fir, Eastern Redcedar
Poplar, Hybrid	Any	London Planetree, Baldcypress
Redbud	Any	Serviceberry, Hawthorn
Redcedar, Eastern	Spring	Spruce, Douglas Fir
Serviceberry	Any	Redbud, Tree Lilac
Seventh Son Flower	Spring	Persian Ironwood, Katsura
Smoketree	Spring	Magnolia, Seventh Son Flower
Sourwood	Spring	Blackgum, Sweetgum
Spruce, Black Hills	Spring	Eastern Redcedar, Concolor Fir
Spruce, Blue	Spring	Eastern Redcedar, Douglas Fir
Spruce, Norway	Spring	Eastern Redcedar, Concolor Fir
Spruce, Serbian	Spring	Eastern Redcedar, Douglas Fir
Sweetgum	Spring	Yellow Buckeye, Larch
Tuliptree	Any	Zelkova, Ginkgo
Yellowwood	Spring	Amur Maackia, Shingle Oak
Zelkova	Spring	Tuliptree, Ginkgo

Appendix D: Balled and Burlapped Planting Detail



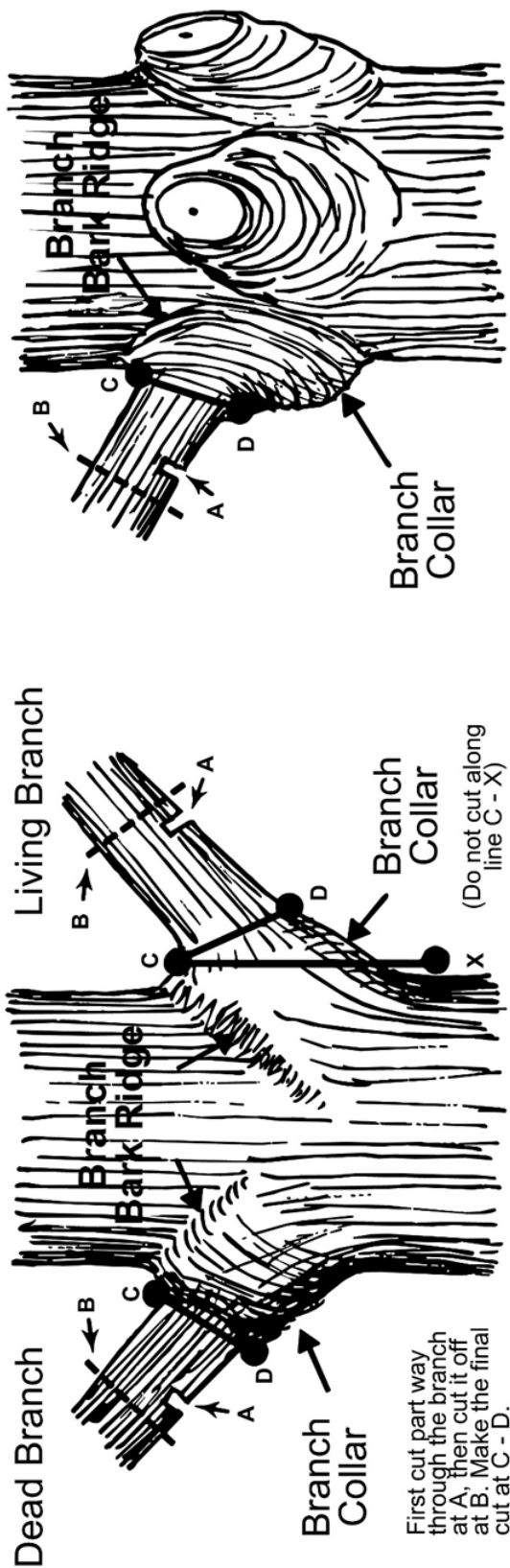
Appendix E: Containerized Planting Detail



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Appendix F: Tree Pruning Detail

Proper Pruning Principles

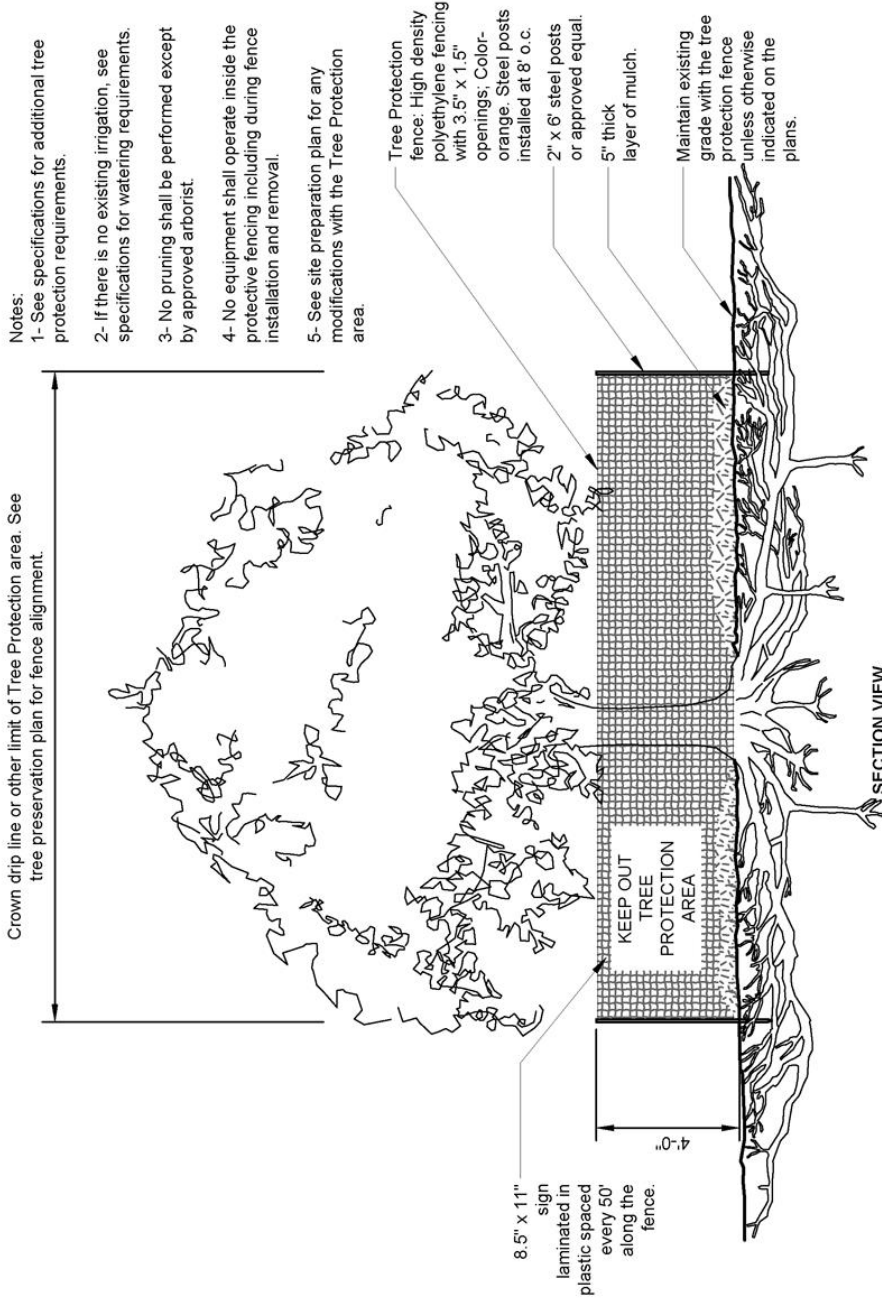


Hardwoods

Conifers



Appendix G: Tree Protection Detail



- Notes:
- 1- See specifications for additional tree protection requirements.
 - 2- If there is no existing irrigation, see specifications for watering requirements.
 - 3- No pruning shall be performed except by approved arborist.
 - 4- No equipment shall operate inside the protective fencing including during fence installation and removal.
 - 5- See site preparation plan for any modifications with the Tree Protection area.

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S-X TREE PROTECTION

Appendix H: ISA Tree Risk Assessment Form (TRAQ Level 2-Basic)

ISA Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form

Client _____ Date _____ Time _____
 Address/Tree location _____ Tree no. _____ Sheet _____ of _____
 Tree species _____ dbh _____ Height _____ Crown spread dia. _____
 Assessor(s) _____ Time frame _____ Tools used _____

Target Assessment

Target number	Target description	Target zone			Occupancy rate 1 – rare 2 – occasional 3 – frequent 4 – constant	Practical to move target?	Restriction practical?
		Target within drip line	Target within 1 x HT	Target within 1.5 x HT			
1							
2							
3							
4							

Site Factors

History of failures _____ **Topography** Flat Slope _____ % **Aspect** _____
Site changes None Grade change Site clearing Changed soil hydrology Root cuts Describe _____
Soil conditions Limited volume Saturated Shallow Compacted Pavement over roots _____ % Describe _____
Prevailing wind direction _____ **Common weather** Strong winds Ice Snow Heavy rain Describe _____

Tree Health and Species Profile

Vigor Low Normal High **Foliage** None (seasonal) None (dead) Normal _____ % Chlorotic _____ % Necrotic _____ %
Pests _____ **Abiotic** _____
Species failure profile Branches Trunk Roots Describe _____

Load Factors

Wind exposure Protected Partial Full Wind funneling _____ **Relative crown size** Small Medium Large
Crown density Sparse Normal Dense **Interior branches** Few Normal Dense **Vines/Mistletoe/Moss** _____
Recent or planned change in load factors _____

Tree Defects and Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Failure

— Crown and Branches —

Unbalanced crown LCR _____ % Cracks _____ Lightning damage
 Dead twigs/branches _____ % overall Max. dia. _____ Codominant _____ Included bark
 Broken/Hangers Number _____ Max. dia. _____ Weak attachments _____ Cavity/Nest hole _____ % circ.
 Over-extended branches Previous branch failures _____ Similar branches present
Pruning history Dead/Missing bark Cankers/Galls/Burls Sapwood damage/decay
 Crown cleaned Thinned Raised Conks Heartwood decay _____
 Reduced Topped Lion-tailed Response growth _____
 Flush cuts Other _____
 Main concern(s) _____

Load on defect N/A Minor Moderate Significant _____
Likelihood of failure Improbable Possible Probable Imminent _____

— Trunk —

Dead/Missing bark Abnormal bark texture/color
 Codominant stems Included bark Cracks
 Sapwood damage/decay Cankers/Galls/Burls Sap ooze
 Lightning damage Heartwood decay Conks/Mushrooms
 Cavity/Nest hole _____ % circ. Depth _____ Poor taper
 Lean _____ ° Corrected? _____

Response growth _____
 Main concern(s) _____

Load on defect N/A Minor Moderate Significant
Likelihood of failure Improbable Possible Probable Imminent

— Roots and Root Collar —

Collar buried/Not visible Depth _____ Stem girdling
 Dead Decay Conks/Mushrooms
 Ooze Cavity _____ % circ.
 Cracks Cut/Damaged roots Distance from trunk _____
 Root plate lifting Soil weakness

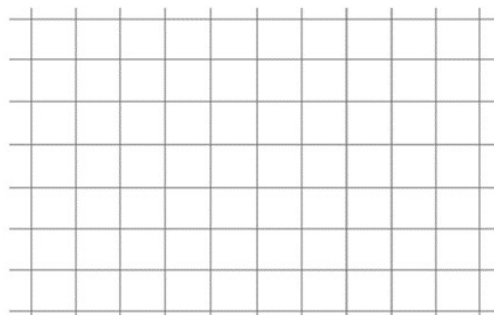
Response growth _____
 Main concern(s) _____

Load on defect N/A Minor Moderate Significant
Likelihood of failure Improbable Possible Probable Imminent

Risk Categorization																			
Condition number	Tree part	Conditions of concern	Part size	Fall distance	Target number	Target protection	Likelihood								Consequences				Risk rating of part (from Matrix 2)
							Failure				Impact				Failure & Impact (from Matrix 1)				
							Improbable	Possible	Probable	Imminent	Very low	Low	Medium	High	Unlikely	Somewhat	Likely	Very likely	
1																			
2																			
3																			
4																			

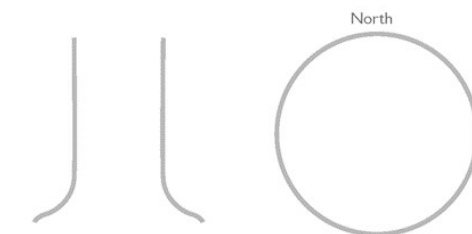
Matrix 1. Likelihood matrix.

Likelihood of Failure	Likelihood of Impacting Target			
	Very low	Low	Medium	High
Imminent	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely	Very likely
Probable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely	Likely
Possible	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Somewhat likely
Improbable	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely	Unlikely



Matrix 2. Risk rating matrix.

Likelihood of Failure & Impact	Consequences of Failure			
	Negligible	Minor	Significant	Severe
Very likely	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Likely	Low	Moderate	High	High
Somewhat likely	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Low



Notes, explanations, descriptions _____

Mitigation options _____ Residual risk _____
 _____ Residual risk _____
 _____ Residual risk _____
 _____ Residual risk _____

Overall tree risk rating Low Moderate High Extreme Work priority 1 2 3 4
 Overall residual risk Low Moderate High Extreme Recommended inspection interval _____
 Data Final Preliminary Advanced assessment needed No Yes-Type/Reason _____
 Inspection limitations None Visibility Access Vines Root collar buried Describe _____

This datasheet was produced by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and is intended for use by Tree Risk Assessment Qualified (TRAQ) arborists – 2013

Appendix I: ANSI Z133.1 Standards – Applies to All Sections

All the ANSI Z133.1 safety standards shall apply to all tree care operations outlined in the Urban Forestry Management Plan. Listed below is a basic overview of the standard, and it is not verbatim. A full text of this manual will be made available to all Park District of La Grange employees and contractors involved with tree care operations.

1. All tools and equipment utilized during tree care operations, including those not specifically mentioned below, shall be inspected and maintained by qualified personnel in accordance with the manufacturer's care instructions.
2. All staff shall be trained in the proper use, inspection, and maintenance of said equipment.
3. Certified arborists or arborist trainees shall conduct job briefings daily prior to tree care operations of any kind and the information shall be communicated to all workers.
4. All activities performed on any job site for any activity outlined in this Urban Forestry Management Plan shall comply with all applicable OSHA guidelines and standards.
5. Traffic and pedestrian control shall be established around the job site prior to the beginning of tree care operations.
6. Emergency contact information and a safety kit conforming to the ANSI Z308.1 standards shall be made available to all workers. All employees shall have basic instruction on the use of CPR and First Aid.
7. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shall be required when there is a reasonable probability of injury or illness on the job site. Such a determination will be made by the Certified Arborist or Arborist Trainee prior to the beginning of tree care operations each day, and PPE shall be made available. PPE shall be well-maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements.
8. Head protection shall conform to ANSI Z89.1, face and eye protection shall conform to ANSI Z87.1, respiratory protection shall comply with ANSI Z88.2, and leg protection shall always be worn when using a chainsaw.
9. Flammable liquids shall be kept a minimum of ten feet from open sources of flame or high heat and shall be stored in approved containers.
10. All park district staff and contractors working near electrical hazards shall be qualified to do so and shall be educated in the full ANSI standards for Electrical Hazards and Line Clearance.
11. Vehicles and mobile equipment shall be inspected and maintained by qualified personnel in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements and shall be equipped with all standard safety devices, decals, and instructions, and shall be operated within all federal, state, and local motor vehicle codes and ordinances.

12. Aerial devices shall be inspected and maintained by qualified personnel in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements, and shall be equipped with all standard safety devices, decals, and instructions.
13. Aerial devices shall be stabilized by wheel chocks, outriggers, or stabilizers as necessary for the device, and shall never be used to lift, hoist, or lower logs or equipment unless specifically designed to do so.
14. Aerial devices shall be equipped with fall protection devices and permanent load ratings, both in accordance with ANSI/SIA 92.2 or 92.5, as applicable to the specific aerial device.
15. No aerial device shall be allowed to make contact with electrical conductors, and minimum safe approach distances shall be maintained in accordance with the ANSIZ133.1 Standard.
16. All brush chippers shall be inspected and maintained by qualified personnel in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements, and shall be equipped with all standard safety devices, decals, and instructions.
17. Sprayers and related plant health care equipment shall be inspected and maintained by qualified personnel in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements, and shall be equipped with all standard safety devices, decals, and instructions.
18. Sprayer tanks or other similar enclosed spaces shall not be entered unless performed through a confined-space entry plan in accordance with OSHA 1910.46 Requirements, including air-quality testing, training, and PPE.
19. Chain saws and other similar portable power tools shall not be operated unless the manufacturer's safety devices are in proper working order. Such safety devices shall not be removed or modified.
20. Forestry staff shall have a minimum of two points of attachment to the tree or aerial device while operating a chainsaw at all times, unless the hazard posed by the second point of attachment poses a greater hazard than utilizing one point of attachment.
21. A visual hazard assessment, including a root collar inspection, shall be performed by a certified arborist or arborist trainee prior to climbing, entering, or performing work in or on any tree, and a second crew member shall be within visual or voice communication at all times during arboricultural operations that are in excess of 12 feet from the ground surface.
22. All ropes, saddles, carabiners, and other similar climbing equipment shall be: a) approved for use in the tree care industry by the manufacturer, b) have a minimum breaking strength or load capacity of 5,000 lbs., c) be inspected before each use, d) Equipment shall be removed from service when it shows signs of excessive wear or deterioration.

23. All pruning, removal, and rigging operations shall have a designated drop zone where limbs, trunks, and tools can be dropped from aloft without impacting pedestrians or passersby. A visual or verbal communication system between the employee aloft and the employee(s) on the ground shall be established to determine when the employee aloft will safely drop tree parts or tools.
24. Any tree parts which cannot be safely dropped or controlled from aloft shall have a separate rigging line tied to them to help control their fall. The tree shall be inspected for structural stability prior to the establishment of a rigging system in the tree. When trees appear to have defects that could jeopardize the ability to safely use a rigging system to drop or control a limb, an alternate plan shall be implemented.
25. All equipment utilized in rigging shall meet the load ratings for the limb being rigged, and a qualified employee, trained in proper rigging procedure shall determine the rigging procedure and equipment to be utilized. Any equipment which has been damaged or overloaded shall be removed from service.
26. When felling (removing) a tree, a crew leader shall make the determination of what equipment is necessary, and how many crew members are to be directly involved in drop zone operations. A well-established escape route shall be planned for involved workers prior to the beginning of felling operations. Any non-involved workers shall be beyond twice the height of the trunk or tree being removed during felling operations.
27. Notches shall be used on all trees and trunks greater than five inches in diameter during felling operations, and should conform to the standards set forth in the ANSIZ133.1 Standard.
28. Loose clothing, ropes, lanyards, and saddles shall not be worn during any tree care activity where the risk of entanglement with tools or machinery is possible, particularly with brush chippers.

Appendix J: Tree Planting Standards (ANSI/ISA BMP)

ANSI Z60.1

1. All root ball and container sizes for all balled and burlapped stock shall conform to the Z60.1 standards for width and depth, such that they encompass enough of the fibrous root system as necessary for the full recovery of the plant upon installation.
2. All bare root stock shall conform to ANSI Z60.1 standards for minimum root spread.
3. All containerized stock shall conform to ANSI Z60.1 standards for plant and container size, as specified by the park district, and shall be healthy, vigorous, well-rooted and established in the container in which it is growing. The root system shall reach the sides of the container, but shall not have excessive growth encircling the inside of the container.
4. All collected plants (those grown on unmanaged land) shall be so designated, and shall be considered to be nursery-grown stock when they have been successfully reestablished in a nursery row and grown under regular nursery cultural practices for a minimum of two growing seasons.
5. The trunk or stem of the plant shall be in the center of the ball or container, with a 10% overall variance in location.
6. The use of digging machines in both the packaging and installation of trees is considered an acceptable nursery practice.

ANSI A300 – Part 6

1. Planting sites and work sites shall be inspected for hazards by the park district prior to the beginning of work each day. If portions of the work site are outside of the original scope of work, the controlling authority shall be notified immediately.
2. Location of utilities, obstructions, and other such hazards above and below ground shall be taken into account prior to planting and transplanting operations. These include, but are not limited to, gas, electric, sewer, communication, drainage, and signage.
3. The following shall be taken into consideration prior to transport and planting: Requirements of individual trees, compass orientation of field-grown trees, site feasibility assessments, soil assessment, and drainage assessment.
4. Tools for planting and transplanting shall be properly labelled or purchased for their intended use, and be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations
5. The system used to move and store the plant shall minimize desiccation and other damage to the crown, trunk or rootball, and the health and vigor of the plant shall be maintained during these periods.

6. The hole to be dug for all new plantings shall be a minimum of 150% larger than the rootball or container diameter, as deep as the root flare of the tree to be planted, and shall have sides from which soil has been loosened in order to aid in root penetration.
7. For balled and burlapped trees, all rootball supporting materials shall be removed from the upper third of the rootball and removed from the planting hole prior to final backfilling.
8. Prior to planting, container root balls shall be managed by approved methods such as, shaving the root ball, slicing the root ball, and redirecting or removing encircling roots.
9. Backfill shall comprise of either the same soil created when the hole was excavated, or a similarly amended mixture to meet a specific objective and shall be applied in a layered fashion to reduce future settling and prevent air pockets.
10. Mulch shall be applied at a depth of two to four inches, near - but not touching - the trunk of the tree, and extending to the perimeter of the planting.
11. Support systems such as guy-wires or stakes shall not be installed except where needed.

ISA BMP Manual – Tree Planting

1. Timing of planting shall be determined based on the species, and the best professional opinion of the employees of or contractors working for the Park District of La Grange.
2. All employees and contractors employed by or working for the Park District of La Grange shall be familiar with the following types of planting types, and when it is appropriate to use each:
 - A. **Bare-Root:** Field-grown, and dug without soil during the dormant season
 - B. **Ball and Burlap:** Field grown and packaged with a soil ball, using burlap, twine, and a retaining basket of some kind
 - C. **Tree Spade:** Transplanted using a mechanical tree spade to hold the soil ball during transport
 - D. **In-Ground Fabric Bag:** Field grown with the root mass contained in a semi-permeable fabric bag
 - E. **Container Grown:** Grown above ground in containers of various shapes, sizes, and materials
3. Trees packaged with root balls must have their first structural root within two inches of the soil surface. Trees with deeper structural roots will not perform well when transplanted, and should be avoided when selecting nursery stock.

4. Trees with root balls shall be handled by the ball, not the stem, to ensure no damage occurs to the root-soil interface or to the stem itself.
5. Trees with leaves shall be transported with a fabric tarp to minimize desiccation and have had their root balls wetted prior to transport.
6. Sites shall be tested for drainage, nutrient levels, and pH prior to planting (or prior to species selection, if possible).
7. Container stock shall be removed from its container, and any encircling roots pruned off prior to planting, and the root ball shaved as necessary.
8. For balled and burlapped trees, encircling roots shall be mitigated prior to planting, wrappings shall be left on until the tree is in the hole; wrapping shall then be removed from the third to fourth of the wire basket and burlap from the top of the ball.
9. As soil is added, wet and tamp each layer down to ensure good moisture and reduction of air bubbles.
10. Do not prune trees at time of planting, unless to remove dead, dying, diseased, or cracked branches, as it may take away from root development to have the tree attempt to heal these above-ground wounds.
11. The use of trunk wrap may be considered in areas with harsh winters, specifically on trees with thin bark, such as London Planetree and certain Maple species.

Appendix K: Tree Pruning Standards (ANSI/ISA BMP)

ANSI A300 - Part 1

1. A designated Arborist or Arborist Trainee shall visually inspect each tree before beginning work. If any condition is observed above and beyond the original scope of work, said condition shall be reported to the controlling authority before any work begins.
2. Pruning cuts which remove a branch at its point of origin shall be made close to the trunk or parent branch without cutting into the branch-bark collar or leaving a stub.
3. Pruning cuts made to reduce the length of a limb or parent stem shall be made at a slight angle relative to the remaining stem, and not damage the remaining stem. If pruning to a lateral branch, the lateral should be large enough to assume the terminal role.
4. Final cuts shall be made such that the result is a flat surface, with the adjacent bark firmly attached.
5. Not more than 25% of the foliage shall be removed during an annual growing season, depending on the tree species, size, age, and condition. If more frequent pruning due to utilities, vistas, or health considerations is necessary, removal of the tree should be considered as an alternative to pruning.

ISA BMP Manual

1. All employees or contractors directly involved with the pruning of trees shall be familiar with the following pruning types and how they are to be used in conjunction with one another:
 1. **Pruning to Clean:** Selective removal of dead, diseased, detached, cracked, and broken branches
 2. **Pruning to Thin:** Selective removal of small live branches to reduce crown density
 3. **Pruning to Raise:** Selective removal of branches to provide vertical clearance
 4. **Pruning to Reduce:** Selective removal of branches and stems to decrease the height or spread of a tree or shrub
 5. **Structural Pruning:** Selective removal of live branches and stems to influence the orientation, spacing, growth rate, strength of attachment, and ultimate size of branches and stems
 6. **Pruning to Restore:** Selective removal of branches, sprouts, and stubs from trees and shrubs which have been topped, severely headed, vandalized, lion-tailed, storm damaged, or otherwise damaged
2. Every effort shall be made to time pruning of individual tree species to be done in accordance with best management practices for the tree species in question. All pruning work shall be done so at the discretion of the Park District of La Grange and its approved contractors.

Appendix L: Tree Protection (ANSI/ISA BMP)

ANSI A300 – Part 5

1. Tree management plans and specifications for tree management shall be written and administered by a certified arborist qualified in the management of trees and shrubs during site planning, development, and construction. Such activities may include, but are not limited to: demolition, grading, building construction, walkway or roadway construction, excavation, trenching and boring, or other such activity which has the potential to negatively impact trees.
2. The management of trees and shrubs shall be incorporated into the following phases of the site development process:
 - A. Planning
 - B. Design
 - C. Pre-Construction
 - D. Construction
 - E. Landscape
 - F. Post-Construction
3. During the Planning phase, an assessment of tree and shrub resources on the site shall be performed by a certified arborist. The assessment shall identify the species, condition, and size of each tree and shall be incorporated into the site design. Trees to be retained or protected shall appear on site design maps. Trees on neighboring property which could also be impacted should also be considered.
4. During the design phase, a tree management report shall be developed for trees to be conserved on the site, and shall be included in the construction plans and specifications, which may include, but are not limited to:
 - A. Trees to be retained
 - B. Tree and Root Protection Zones (TPZ/RPZ)
 - C. Tree Protection Zone barriers
 - D. Tree Protection plans
 - E. Soil erosion control
 - F. Soil compaction controls
 - G. Staging and storage areas
 - H. Other relevant on-site activities

5. Grading and demolition plans shall include all trees to be retained and removed, as well as the tree protection plans for working around trees to be retained. Plans shall also include equipment routes for avoiding the TPZ. Consequences for non-compliance shall be specified.
6. During the pre-construction phase, all tree protection plans shall be effectively communicated to all parties involved with the site development, and tree protection zone barriers shall be in place prior to the beginning of any construction activities.
7. The TPZ shall be delineated around all trees to be protected during construction, and shall be based on the size, species, and condition of the tree and its root system. Six to 18 times the diameter of the tree is generally considered to be acceptable. Deviations from this diameter may be made at the discretion of a certified arborist. Activities which could damage tree roots or compact soil should be avoided in the TPZ
8. Fencing or other visible barriers to the TPZ shall be installed prior to site clearing, grading, and demolition, and maintained throughout the construction and landscaping phase. When this is not feasible, alternate methods may be considered.
9. During the construction phase, compliance with tree protection plans shall be monitored by a certified arborist, and any damage to tree barriers or trees, or non-compliance shall be reported to the project manager or owner, or other controlling authority.
10. When removing vegetation or pavement during demolition, equipment used adjacent to the TPZ shall be specified to avoid damage to the tree and the surrounding soil, and soil protection measures shall be in place prior to vehicle or heavy traffic in or near the TPZ.
11. Storage or disposal of construction materials or hazardous materials shall not occur in the TPZ.
12. Fill within the TPZ shall not be permitted without mitigation to allow for proper air and water availability to existing roots. If fill cannot be avoided in the TPZ, compaction of fill shall be avoided, and consideration shall be given to a permanent well installation to protect the tree and its roots.
13. During the landscape, irrigation, and lighting phase, levels of compliance shall be documented and reported by a certified arborist. Non-compliance shall be reported to the project manager.
14. During the post-construction phase, a remedial and long-term maintenance plan shall be specified for existing and new landscaping, to ensure success of preservation efforts and newly planted landscaping.
15. Pruning shall be considered to reduce wind sail when necessary. It should not be considered to compensate for root loss.
16. Mulch shall be applied to as much of the tree protection zone as possible, in order to create a favorable soil environment for root recovery after construction activities.

ISA BMP Manual

1. A cost-benefit analysis shall be conducted during the planning phase. In some cases, money may be better invested in tree planting post-construction.
2. The species and age of tree shall be evaluated by a certified arborist, so that trees in good condition with desirable characteristics are preserved, but those in poor condition or with undesirable characteristics are not.
3. A tree inventory and tree management report shall be conducted during the planning phase, and a certified arborist shall work closely with developers to ensure best management practices are being met for both parties.
4. Effort shall be made to retain groups of trees, such that there is a wind and solar buffer around the highest quality trees if possible.
5. The Critical Root Zone (CRZ) is the area around the tree trunk where roots essential for tree health and stability are located. A Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) is an arborist-defined area around the tree which should include the CRZ, as well as additional area to ensure future stability and growth. The TPZ is subject to the professional opinion of the certified arborist.
6. An attempt shall also be made to preserve native soil for landscape planting as native soil with horizons and development is preferred over fill or black dirt.
7. If a sufficient TPZ cannot be established, a 6-12" layer of hardwood mulch, 3/4-inch plywood mat over a four-inch layer of hardwood mulch, or other such measures shall be temporarily installed over the CRZ in order to prevent root and soil compaction.
8. Trunk protection shall be installed on trees very close to construction activities, and should consist of 2x4 or 2x6 planks, strapped snugly to the tree trunk with wire or other strapping, preferably with a closed-cell foam between the trunk and the planks.
9. When roots over one inch cannot be avoided, they shall be pruned, not left torn or crushed. Acceptable methods of pruning are:
 - A. Excavation using supersonic air tools, pressurized water, or hand tools, followed by selective root cutting
 - B. Cutting through the soil along a predetermined line with a tool that is designed to cut roots
 - C. Mechanically excavating the soil and selectively pruning remaining roots
10. Wells, tree islands, retaining walls, and other such structures or strategies shall be considered as alternatives to any cut/fill work in the CRZ or TPZ.
11. Monitoring shall take place during construction and post-construction phases, and any non-compliance should be reported to the proper controlling authority right away, so that timely remediation or mitigation efforts may be undertaken.