

## Tree City USA Standards

To qualify as a Tree City USA, a community must meet four standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.

**Standard 1: Establishment of a Tree board or Department.** Someone must be legally responsible for the care of all trees on city-owned property. By delegating tree care decisions to a professional forester, arborist, city department, citizen-lead tree board or some combination, city leaders determine who will perform necessary tree work. Often, both professional staff and an advisory board are established.

**Standard 2: Establishment of a Tree Care Ordinance.** A basic public tree care ordinance forms the foundation of a city's tree care program. The ordinance provides clear guidance for planting, maintaining and removing trees from streets, parks and other public spaces as well as activities that are required or prohibited.

**Standard 3: Establishment of a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita.** Funds go toward planting, care and removal of city trees-and the planning efforts to make those things happen.

**Standard 4: Arbor Day observance and proclamation.** As effective program for community trees would not be complete without an annual Arbor Day ceremony. Citizens join together to celebrate the benefits of community trees and the work accomplished to plant and maintain them.

## City of Grosse Pointe Urban Forestry Commission Mission Statement

The Commission shall be responsible for making recommendations regarding City policies related to urban forestry and arboriculture. It shall be the responsibility of the Commission to study, investigate, counsel, and develop and/or update a written urban forestry master plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas. The Commission, when requested by the City Council, shall consider, investigate, make findings, report and make recommendations upon any matter coming within its scope of work.



2017-06



## Tree City USA



**The City of Grosse Pointe Urban Forestry Commission, established in January 2017, has made increased tree planting its highest priority. More trees will restore our tree canopy, enhance our quality of life through biodiversity, and increase property values.**

# Keys to Successful Tree Planting

## Location, Location, Location

When choosing a new tree, it is extremely important to match the conditions of the planting site to the needs of the tree species.

Tree factors to be considered are: size at maturity; growth rate; cold hardiness; water and sunlight needs; soil preferences; development of thorns, flowers or fruit; and pest resistance.

Location factors to be considered include: soil conditions; light patterns; water availability; overhead wires; proximity to sidewalks, streets and buildings; and space available for the tree canopy.

One of the most important goals for planting success is to provide an environment that encourages root growth. Soil factors to consider are: moisture – moist but not too wet or dry; texture – clay etc.; compaction – from construction equipment etc.; temperature – soil needs to be above 40 degrees F at planting time; interfaces – rocks or construction debris can inhibit root growth.

## Ready, Set, Plant

Never lift or drag a tree by its trunk. Pick it up by the bottom of its container or root ball.

The planting hole should be at least twice the width of the root ball. The hole should be deep enough for the root ball to sit comfortably, making sure that the tree's root flare is above the soil level.

Wrappings such as burlap, wire cages and twine or rope should be removed from the root ball after placement into the planting hole.

Any dead, diseased, or damaged roots should be removed. Cut girdling roots, (circling) back to where the root begins to grow away from the root ball. If matted roots exist, make two to three vertical slices into the root ball and carefully loosen the roots with your hands.

Backfill halfway with existing soil, add water to eliminate air pockets, add remaining soil and then water again. Do not pack the soil around the trunk.

Finally, always remove all plant tags and labels.

## Tree Maintenance

Most trees - as well as shrubs and lawns - need a minimum of 1 inch of water per week to survive. Newly planted trees should receive supplemental water throughout their first full year.

Three to four inches of mulch should be spread over the entire planting area. Mulch should be in a doughnut or tire shape around the trunk of the tree, keeping the mulch 6 inches away from the trunk. Mulch conserves moisture, reduces weeds and protects the trunk from lawnmowers and string trimmers.

If staking is needed, allow the tree to have some sway. Remove after 1 year.

Do not fertilize newly planted trees in their first year.

Prune only branches that are dead or broken during the first growing season.

