

Agenda, City of Bloomington Tree Commission
Monday 17 October 2022, 10-11 am at ROSE HILL CEMETERY OFFICE
1100 West Fourth Street, Bloomington, IN 47404

Homework: Make a list of 8-10 trees to add to Permitted Interior Tree Species

Introductions

1. Introductions

Consent agenda

2. Approval of Minutes of 19 September 2022, meeting (in your email)
3. Next meeting will be Monday, November 21, 10am, Rose Hill Cemetery office

Discussions and Presentations

4. Public comment, if any
5. Engineering presentations, if any

Reports

6. Urban Forester's Report and Tree Commission Education (Haskell Smith)
7. Tree Issues at IU, if any (Mia Williams)
8. Report from Environmental Commission

Old business

9. Proposal of a memorial tree in honor of Tom Coleman (George Hegeman)

New business

10. Trees to add to the Permitted Interior Tree Species (*Everyone!!!*)
11. How to revise the Tree Care Manual?
 - a. Should we make recommendations to City residents about what trees to plant
Or just omit tree recommendations from the Tree Care Manual?
 - b. Potential organization for a new section: Recommended Street Trees and Recommended Private Trees.

Adjourn

HANDOUTS

- a. Urban Forester's Report: Haskell Smith
- b. Bill Fountain species failure profiles
- c. Trees Can Be Misleading
- d. Proposal for a Memorial Tree for Tom Coleman (George Hegeman)
- e. Recommendations: Permitted Interior Tree Species (Haskell Smith)
- f. Recommendations: Permitted Interior Tree Species (Stephanie Freeman-Day)
- g. Tree Commission photo (separate email)
- h. Tree Care Manual suggested revisions

VI. The current version of the Tree Care Manual is dated 2017, prior to the completion of the tree species lists in the UDO.

Lists of tree species appear under the section “Bloomington Approved Street Tree Species.” There are nine tables: (copy attached)

Table 1: Small tree

Table 2a: Crabapple recommended

Table 2b: Crabapple not recommended

Table 3: Medium tree

Table 4: Large tree

Table 5: Undesirable species for street trees

Table 6: Tolerant of urban conditions

Table 7: Slow to recover from transplanting

Table 8: Planting season by species

VII. Crabapples

Crabapples are on the UDO list of prohibited plants with poor characteristics.

Recommendation: omit the crabapple tables.

VII. Miscellaneous tree species lists

Table 5: Undesirable species for street trees

Recommendation: replace with the UDO Prohibited Invasive Trees and Prohibited Plants with Poor Characteristics

Table 6: Tolerant of urban conditions

Recommendation: omit this table.

Table 7: Slow to recover from transplanting

Recommendation: omit this table.

Table 8: Planting season by species

Recommendation: omit this table.

IX. Revise the Tree Care Manual to better serve as an educational resource for City residents

The Tree Care Manual currently contains conflicting recommendations: some of the recommendations are about street trees, and some of the recommendations are about private trees. At the minimum we should separate these two sets of recommendations, especially because street trees already are covered in the UDO.

We can do more. We can include the information about street trees from the UDO. However, we can also do a better job of educating residents about what kinds of trees are good to plant by establishing some principles for selecting trees and by making suggestions of good trees to plant. This is important for two reasons. First, most people who are reading the Tree Care Manual are reading it to learn more about the private trees they plan to plant, not about street trees. Secondly, we can influence what private trees are planted by including specific desirable trees in our lists. For example, very few people are going to plant our native fruit trees --- persimmon and pawpaw --- in their yards unless someone suggests that these are desirable trees to plant.

Recommendation: replace the section “Bloomington Approved Street Tree Species” with a section entitled “Recommended Street Trees and Recommended Private Trees.”

X. Proposed organization for new section “Recommended Street Trees and Recommended Private Trees”

Part 1: Street trees

1. Special needs of street trees
2. Permitted street trees
Table: UDO list of permitted street tree species
3. Invasive trees: Why are they a problem?
Table: UDO list of prohibited invasive trees
4. Trees with undesirable characteristics: What characteristics make a tree bad for a street tree?
Table: UDO list of prohibited trees with poor characteristics

Part 2: Private trees and recommendations for residents

1. Plant more trees. In the past one tree in the front lawn was OK; in an era of climate change we need more tree canopy cover and more trees.
2. Plant native trees. Why are native trees especially valuable?
Table: Native trees: large, medium, small
3. Plant a variety of trees. Diversity is as important among trees as it is among people
Table: Here are some trees you may not have thought of: large, medium, small
4. Plant fruit trees. Fruit trees have innumerable benefits, and you get fruit, too.
Table: Recommended fruit trees. Persimmon, pawpaw go here. Fig? Serviceberry?
Table: Fruit trees to avoid, and why. Apple.
5. Plant nut trees.
Table: Recommended nut trees. Which ones?
Table: Nut trees to avoid and why. Black walnut