

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

Urban Forester Report

October 2022

Last month accomplishments:

Removals: 19, TLRC, Butler, Building Trades, LSNP, S Ashwood dr, Rosehill scatter garden, Lions den

Pruning: 78 4th street between Rosehill and Rodgers st, S Ashwood dr

Planting: 33 Matlock heights replacements, Skate park, W Howe, W 13th, Bryan park, 7th and Graham Greenway project trees.

Bob Grubb was promoted to Working Foreperson

New 3x5 index info cards are being made. With the large white oak at White oak cemetery being the pictured tree this time. (Special thanks to Julie Ramey)

Ongoing:

RFQ for B-line Callery pear removal and replacement goes to park board Oct. 18th

E Winston pruning also goes to park board on Oct. 18th

Bicentennial tree planting, Trees delivered on the 11th, DRG resumed planting, approximately 30 alternates already, underground power line shifted about 25 of them, a couple from future solar panel conflicts, and three from citizens who just didn't want trees.

Planting season is in full swing, I think the goal number is approximately 130ish with mostly parks the target this year. Rosehill, Winslow sports, TLRC, Ferguson Dog park, SYP, City hall, Miller-Showers, Griffy, Waldron Hill Buskirk (3rd street) Approx. 53

UDO buffer update talks are set to begin soon

Quest to hire Fulltime Laborer is in progress

I've been working on a new Bicentennial project I've been referring to as Downtown Tree-development. Aimed at 50 to 100 tree sites in the downtown area, and arterial streets that lead in and out of downtown. Tree pits being the biggest focus. Also a small focus on Callery pear replacements and very poor health tree replacements. I've located about 50 sites so far. When the sites get a little more concrete, I will be adding a 'project' to Treekeeper, similar to the last round of the bicentennial where you can search for and see all the locations.

As soon as I get the downtown tree-development finished, I'm looking at a third round bicentennial planting. Looking a lot more like the first one, the focus here will be expanding the urban forest in neighborhoods again.

Working with canopy Bloomington to hopefully squeeze in a Nov. Volunteer planting. Also working with some middle school students in RBBSC that are doing a tree planting project.

I've also been working on a scientific study permit process, mainly for tracking purposes but also to be able to find the study's done on public trees in case the city, myself or whoever else wants to use some of that information for whatever reason, we have a way to find it instead of just looking through old emails.

Emergency Storm response plan stakeholder meeting set for Oct 24th

Ongoing educational campaign, and outreach.

Trees Can Be Misleading



While this sugar maple, located at Building Trades Park playground, may look great from one side, a look from all angles reveals that it's time to bid this one farewell.

We have been monitoring this tree for nearly two years, due to the large cavity you can see in the top right photo. Surprisingly, this cavity is not what warrants the tree's removal. When limbs grow off the main trunk, they occasionally grow at an angle that does not grow as strong as we would like; in arboriculture it is referred to as "included bark." In the upper left side of the top right picture, you can see very light, tan-colored wood that is the remnants of an included connection. The picture below shows another weak union that is already cracked and waiting for the right time to fail. This is why the Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry staff will remove this tree on October 13-14. The playground and parking lot will be closed while we remove this hazardous tree.



Questions about this tree, or about any trees in city parks, may be directed to:

Haskell Smith, Urban Forester
smithh@bloomington.in.gov

Report a hazard tree online 24-7
bloomington.in.gov/ureport



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Parks and Recreation

Urban Forestry

A Tree for Tom?

Tom Coleman was a founding member of the TC. He served continuously since its founding. He was a Tree Steward and devoted member of the TC. Tom and former Urban Forester Lee Huss worked together to get Bloomington designated the first "Tree City USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation. Tom's service to the City and to the TC was unique in its duration and fidelity.

As an example, until shortly before his death on March 30 Tom worked to protect the Batchelor Forest, an extensive grove of trees that he helped plant on the Batchelor School grounds, from encroachment by the footprint of the new MCPL extension.

I propose designating or dedicating a tree in memory of Tom.

Tom and his wife, Pat Williams, lived in the Stands and often enjoyed walks in nearby Olcott Park, a location named after a friend of Tom and Pat's. I suggest designating to Tom's memory a long-lived tree in that Park, either a new planting, a replacement or an existing specimen.

Tree Suggestions for UDO tables:

Willow oak – Large Street and interior

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus_phellos

Pecan – Large interior

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pecan>

American Holly – Medium to Large Street and interior

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ilex_opaca

Sour wood – Medium (large in ideal conditions) street or interior

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxydendrum>

Common Witch-hazel Interior small, If a single stem tree cultivar exists then small street tree

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamamelis_virginiana

Gum Bumelia – Medium to large (least confident on this one)

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=sila20

In addition to those listed in the tables from August (?) meeting-

Sources <https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/tree-seedling-nurseries/tree-species-information/>
<https://sites.pfw.edu/native-trees/NativeTreeListByCommonName-Page1-Test.htm>

- Small trees
 - *Prunus americana* (American Plum)
- Large trees
 - *Liquidambar styraciflua* (Sweetgum)
 - *Diospyros virginiana* (Persimmon)
 - *Carya illinoensis* (Pecan)
 - *Populus grandidentata* (Big-toothed Aspen)
 - *Populus deltoides* (Eastern Cottonwood)
 - *Salix nigra* (Black Willow)
 - *Cladras tris kentukea* (Yellowwood)
 - *Malus pulima* (apple)