

The 50/50 Parkway Tree Planting Program is one of the many valuable components in the City's overall Urban Forestry Management Plan. The Plan and the associated components strive to provide the City of Oak Forest with a high quality of life.

Planting shade trees produces many valuable benefits such as: shade, beauty, softens the hard appearance of concrete structures, helps stabilize soil by controlling wind and water erosion, filters and reduces stormwater run-off, helps reduce noise levels, cleanses pollutants from the air, and provides oxygen and absorbs carbon dioxide. Trees also provide significant increased economic value to all real estate properties located within the City of Oak Forest.

50/50 Cost Sharing Program

The City of Oak Forest, in a joint effort with homeowners, has created a 50/50 Parkway Tree Planting Program. This program is based on a cooperative agreement whereby the City will contribute up to half the cost to the purchase and plant a new tree(s) (up to \$150/tree) with the homeowner paying the remaining costs.

The goal of this program is to assist in the replacement of nearly 1,800 ash trees removed from public rights of way. The program allows the home owner to select the species and plant the parkway tree(s) in front of their home, helping to diversify and restore the urban forest in the wake of EAB and plant a community tree with all of its ecological and beautification benefits.

Residents who wish to be included in the 50/50 Tree Planting Program must fill out an application. Annual funding for the program is limited and participation is *on a first come first served basis*. After the application is received, the proposed tree(s) location will be inspected by the City arborist to determine if it meets the criteria for participation. If funds are available and the tree chosen eligible to be planted, the City will issue a permit (no cost) for the tree(s) to be planted by the Homeowner.

For reimbursement, after the tree has been planted, the homeowner is eligible to submit the 50/50 Parkway Tree re-imbusement form along with a copy of the bill (paid in full) in-person at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall or by mail to the City of Oak Forest Public Works: 15440 S. Central Avenue, Oak Forest, IL 60452

Regulations Applying to Planting of Parkway Trees

A. LOCATION:

1. Parkway shade trees must be located within the public right-of-way on an alignment parallel to the back of the curb and centered between the right-of-way and the back of curb.
2. Parkway shade trees must have a minimum standard spacing between trees of forty feet (40') to fifty feet (50'). Trees must be planted a minimum of seventy-five (33') feet from a street intersection, measured from curb. Please contact the Public Works Streets Superintendent at (708) 535-4090 with any questions.
3. Parkway shade trees must have a minimum spacing of twenty feet (20') from street light poles, street signs, fire hydrants and any other such items that may, in the opinion of the Streets Superintendent of Public Works, require similar intervals.
4. All proposed locations must be field inspected and authorized by a representative from the Public Works Department prior to planting.
5. All proposed trees to be planted under aerial utility lines must be of an ornamental, lower growing variety.

B. SIZE/CONDITION REQUIREMENTS:

1. All parkway shade trees must have a trunk diameter not less than one-and-a-half inches (1-1/2") and not greater than three inches (3") as

measured six inches (6") above the ground surface level.

2. All trees must conform to the American Standard Nursery Stock as approved by the American National Standards Institute, Inc., and issued as ANSI Z 60 1-2004 or as amended.
3. All trees must be straight, healthy, and typical representatives of their normal species or varieties. Each tree must have a recognizable central leader.
4. All trees **must be a single stem** with no limbs on the trunk lower than four (4) feet above the ground.
5. All trees must be freshly dug, free of insect pests, plant diseases, sunscald, fresh abrasions and other injuries, and with healthy, well developed root systems.

C. PERMITTED VARIETIES:

Conifers, shrubs, bushes and selected low growing ornamental trees/plants are not permitted on the City's rights-of-way. Ash tree varieties are NOT permitted in the City's rights-of-way or on privately owned property. See back panel of brochure for a list of permitted tree varieties.

D. PLANTING:

1. Before digging, call JULIE at 811 or go to the website www.illinois1call.com to file an "e-request". Locating underground utilities is required before any digging begins.
2. All trees must be planted to the depth of the root collar. Any need for adjustment within the ball will be performed at the time of planting.
3. All planting holes must be at least twenty inches (20") larger in diameter than the tree ball to a depth such that the tree when planted will be situated with the root collar at the ground line. If holes are pre-dug, they must be barricaded until planting is complete.
4. All wire baskets must be removed from the ball prior to planting or the top half of the basket must

be cut off prior to backfilling. All twine or rope must be cut and the burlap folded away from the root collar prior to backfilling.

Permitted Planting Species

- All backfill material will consist of pulverized black dirt.
- All trees that are to be planted within the City's right-of-way must be planted between April 1st and June 1st or September 15th and November 30th. Oak varieties may only be planted from April 1st to May 15th.
- Trees must receive watering within 24 hours of planting. To promote proper growth and the health of the tree, periodic watering should be performed once every 10-14 days using slow running water for approximately 20-30 minutes.
- Mulch must be applied within 24 hours of planting at a depth no less than 3 inches for the entire excavated area. No volcanoing of mulch around the trunk of the tree is permitted.

E. PERMIT REQUIRED:

- No parkway tree shall be planted until written permission is secured from the Public Works Department. A Parkway Tree Planting permit (no cost) must be secured from the Department of Public Works prior to any/all planting.
- No permits will be issued to plant trees on private property. No 50/50 funds will be dispensed for plantings on private property.

F. VIOLATION:

Any person or persons who have violated any portion of these planting specifications will be responsible for removing any trees that have been planted, at the cost of the offender.

NO MAPLE TREES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THIS PROGRAM DUE OVER POPULATION IN THE URBAN FOREST

Acceptable (Not Under Utility Lines)

Elm- Accolade - *Ulmus parviflora*

Elm-Triumph

Hackberry - *Celtis occidentalis*

Hickory, Shagbark *Carya ovata*

Honey Locust (thornless)

- Skyline Honeylocust, *Gleditsia triacantho*

Hornbeam- American - *Carpinus caroliniana*

Ironwood *Carpinus caroliniana*

Linden

- American, *Tilia Americana*

- Littleleaf, *Tilia cordata*,

- Redmond, *Tilia Americana*

- Silver, *Tilia tomentosa*

Oak (Spring only)

- Chinquapin, *Quercus muehlenbergii*,

- White, *Quercus alba*,

Serviceberry

- Allegheny Amelanchier laevis

- Downy Amelanchier arborea

- Shadblow Amelanchier canadensis

Pear, Callery *Pyrus calleryana*

Acceptable (Allowed Under Utility Lines)

Chokecherry *Prunus virginiana* 'Canada Red'

Crabapple, variety *Malus*

Viburnum, Blackhaw *Viburnum prunifolium*

Dogwood, Cornelian-cherry *Cornus mas*

Hawthorn, Thornless Cockspur *Crataegus crugalli* (thornless)

Lilac, Pekin *Syringa pekinensis*

Lilac, Japanese Tree *Syringa reticulata*

Redbud, (Northern selection) *Cercis canadensis*

Smoketree, Common *Cotinus coggygia*

Viburnum, Siebold *Viburnum sieboldii*

Zelkova, Japanese *Zelkova serrata*



Ash Tree Reforestation

The 50/50

Parkway Tree

Planting Program

STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS
FOR PARKWAY SHADE
TREE PLANTING

Sponsored by the Oak Forest
Social Services Corporation

Oak Forest Tree Board

Forestry Division
Oak Forest Public Works
15440 S. Central Ave.
Oak Forest, IL 60452
(708) 535-4090