The right tree will

• be alive and healthy in 25-50 years
• will grow to the appropriate size for the space available on your property
• provide the benefits you want when it reaches maturity
• be native to this area, and support the feeding and nesting habits of native or migratory birds in the right sequence of flower and fruit production

The right tree will not

• require spraying that is damaging to the environment
• split or deteriorate after 10-15 years
• invasively reproduce in nearby properties
• discharge a toxin through its roots that kills surrounding trees, shrubs, flowers, and groundcover
• be sensitive to ice storms, harmful insects, or common diseases

10 Good Reasons to Plant a Tree

1. Trees cool your yard and help lower summer air conditioning costs.
2. Trees help slow down traffic.
3. Trees offer privacy.
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9. Trees increase property values.
10. Neighborhood trees build a sense of community.

The goals of the Neighborhood Tree Program are to increase the number and quality of street trees in the City of Falls Church and to educate our citizenry on the value of trees. The program was initiated in spring 2000 by the Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society (www.vpis.org) and is operated under the guidance of the City Manager and the City’s Recreation and Parks Division. Call 703-248-5077 for information.

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### Criteria for Tree Selection

**Native Species:** Whenever possible, species of trees native to the region are preferable to non-native species. Native species are better suited to the local climate, require less maintenance, and provide habitat and food in a natural sequence for birds, butterflies, and other animals native to the area.

**Location:** Different tree species are suitable for moist or dry soil and for sunny or shady areas. A tree in the wrong location will not thrive.

**Space Availability:** The planting area should be wide enough to accommodate the width and height of the tree at maturity.

**Overhead Wires:** Where overhead utility wires exist, plant smaller recommended tree species.

**Ease of Maintenance:** Trees that require less pruning and watering are preferred. Avoid trees with short life-spans (e.g., ornamental pear or crepe myrtle) or those with weak wood (e.g., silver maple).

**Consistency with Street Names:** If your street is named after a tree species, consider planting that same species of tree in your yard (e.g., Maple Avenue, Poplar Drive, Birch Street, Oak Street, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choose These Trees Instead</th>
<th>Avoid These Trees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Small Deciduous Trees</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Tree — <em>Chionanthus virginicus</em></td>
<td>Bradford Pear — Starts to split after 8 years, highly invasive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragrant white flowers (May)</td>
<td>Flowering Dogwood — Prone to deadly, contagious fungal disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redbud — <em>Cercis canadensis</em></td>
<td>All Japanese Cherries — Hybridizes native trees on public land and is short-lived in the urbanized environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delicate pink/purple flowers (April), heart-shaped leaves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serviceberry — <em>Amelanchier</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White flowers (April), edible berries (June)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Medium Deciduous Trees</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sourwood — <em>Oxydendrum arboreum</em></td>
<td>White Mulberry — Highly invasive, branches split</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aromatic white clumps of flowers (July)—very slow growing</td>
<td>Mimosa — Highly invasive, wood splits easily, and prone to fungal disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paw Paw — <em>Asimina triloba</em></td>
<td>White Birch — Prone to borers and short-lived in Northern Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edible fruit (October), large tropical leaves</td>
<td>Golden Rain Tree — Highly invasive onto other properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellowwood — <em>Cladrastis</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aromatic white clumps of flowers (May)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweetbay Magnolia — <em>Magnolia virginiana</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fragrant white flowers, sculptured shape</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Large Deciduous Trees</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tupelo — <em>Nyssa sylvatica</em></td>
<td>Norway Maple — Toxic to other plants nearby, highly invasive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Called the Sugar Maple of the South for its brilliant red autumn colors</td>
<td>Silver Maple — Shallow roots, requires expensive maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Birch — <em>Betula nigra</em></td>
<td>Hybrid Poplar — Highly invasive, weak-wooded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper-like bark, beautiful form</td>
<td>Paulownia/Empress Tree — Highly invasive, weak-wooded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarlet/Willow/Red/White/Black Oaks — <em>Quercus</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native to this region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Evergreens</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Red Cedar — <em>Juniperus virginiana</em></td>
<td>Leyland Cypress — Short-lived, develops canker disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Holly — <em>Ilex opaca</em></td>
<td>Hemlock — Deadly aphids require spraying 2-3 times per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classic Christmas holly — grows to large size</td>
<td>Austrian and White Pines — Prone to diseases and insect pests, easily breaks in ice storms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lobolly Pine — <em>Pinus taeda</em></td>
<td>All Spruces — Attracts mites, requires spraying in city environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Similar to white pine, better adapted here</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Pine — <em>Pinus virginiana</em></td>
<td>The native pine</td>
</tr>
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