### 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.).

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### Choose These Trees Instead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small Deciduous Trees</th>
<th>Medium Deciduous Trees</th>
<th>Large Deciduous Trees</th>
<th>Evergreens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Fringe Tree — *Chionanthus virginicus*  
Fragrant white flowers (May) | Sourwood — *Oxydendrum arboreum*  
Aromatic white clumps of flowers (July)—very slow growing | Tupelo — *Nyssa sylvatica*  
Called the Sugar Maple of the South for its brilliant red autumn colors | Eastern Red Cedar — *Juniperus virginiana*  
American Holly — *Ilex opaca*  
Classic Christmas holly—grows to large size |
| Redbud — *Cercis canadensis*  
Delicate pink/purple flowers (April), heart-shaped leaves | Paw Paw — *Asimina triloba*  
Edible fruit (October), large tropical leaves | River Birch — *Betula nigra*  
Paper-like bark, beautiful form | Loblolly Pine — *Pinus taeda*  
Similar to white pine, better adapted here |
| Serviceberry — *Amelanchier*  
White flowers (April), edible berries (June) | Yellowwood — *Cladrastis*  
Aromatic white clumps of flowers (May) | Scarlet/Willow/Red/White/Black Oaks — *Quercus*  
Native to this region | Virginia Pine — *Pinus virginiana*  
The native pine |

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### Avoid These Trees

| Bradford Pear — Starts to split after 8 years, highly invasive | White Mulberry — Highly invasive, branches split |
| Flowering Dogwood — Prone to deadly, contagious fungal disease | Mimosa — Highly invasive, wood splits easily, and prone to fungal disease |
| All Japanese Cherries — Hybridizes native trees on public land and is short-lived in the urbanized environment | White Birch — Prone to borers and short-lived in Northern Virginia |
| Golden Rain Tree — Highly invasive onto other properties | Norway Maple — Toxic to other plants nearby, highly invasive |
| Silver Maple — Shallow roots, requires expensive maintenance | Hybrid Poplar — Highly invasive, weak-wooded |
| Paulownia/Empress Tree — Highly invasive, weak-wooded | Leyland Cypress — Short-lived, develops canker disease |
| Hemlock — Deadly aphids require spraying 2-3 times per year | Austrian and White Pines — Prone to diseases and insect pests, easily breaks in ice storms |
| All Spruces — Attracts mites, requires spraying in city environment | |