



Trees of Riverside Garden



The value of trees

Trees are critical pieces of infrastructure in our communities. Communities with large trees benefit by having a healthier, safer, and more vibrant environment. Trees help clean the air we breathe, filter stormwater that falls on our communities, provide shade during the heat of the summer, buffer winds during cool winter months, and provide habitat for wildlife. Community trees create spaces where neighbors can connect and build relationships. Access to green space and trees has demonstrated the ability to reduce stress, improve focus, aid recovery after illness, and encourage increased physical activity.

Species Diversity

Best management practices for urban forests recommend having a large variety of tree species within the community. Planting and managing a diverse urban forest helps build resiliency within the system. Trees growing in communities face a variety of stressors such as air pollution, road salt, high winds, and dry soils. In addition to environmental challenges, pests and diseases threaten tree health. In recent decades, ash trees within the urban forest have been threatened and lost due to emerald ash borer. The American Elm tree fell victim to Dutch Elm disease in the 1960s. In each of these instances, a large portion of the urban forest was lost due to a lack of species diversity. By planting a diverse urban forest, future loss can be minimized, and the benefits of a robust urban forest can be maintained.

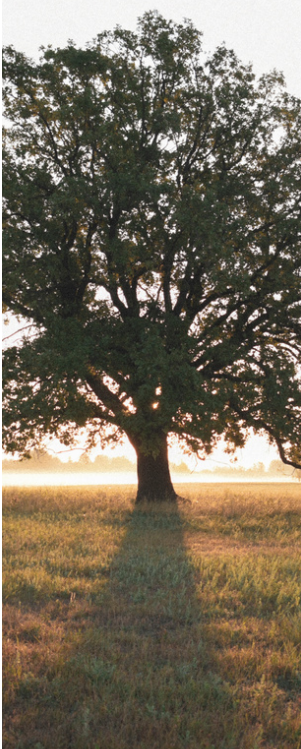
Community parks such as Riverside offer residents a place to observe, learn about, and appreciate a wide variety of tree species.



Riverside Species



Common Name	Scientific Name
Elizabeth Magnolia	<i>Magnolia x Elizabeth</i>
Honeylocust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>
Bottlebrush Buckeye	<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>
Japanese Tree Lilac	<i>Syringa reticulata</i> subsp. <i>reticulata</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
Japanese Maple	<i>Acer palmatum</i>
Flower Crabapple	<i>Malus floribunda</i>
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
Weeping Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
Dawn Redwood	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>
Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>
Black Locust*	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
Siberian Elm*	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
Downy Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>
White Fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>
Cucumbertree Magnolia	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>



*not recommended

Species of Concern

Plants that display a specific set of criteria can land on regulated federal and state invasive plant lists – but not all that meet those criteria are deemed invasive. Some of those plants are readily available at garden centers and commonly found in Illinois yards, despite a constant battle by landowners and conservation workers to keep them out of natural areas such as:

Black Locust

Robinia pseudoacacia

Callery Pear

Pyrus calleryana

Slippery Elm

Ulmus rubra

Ash species

Fraxinus sp.

Norway Maple

Acer platanoides



Robinia pseudoacacia



Fraxinus sp.



Acer platanoides



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