



MEMORANDUM

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY



TREE PLANTING POLICY

SUBJECT: TREE PLANTING POLICY

1. PURPOSE

To provide direction and a formalized process anytime staff, sponsors, partners or user-groups are requesting trees to be planted on County of Erie Park, Recreation & Forestry Department Property.

2. SCOPE

This process will be the standard that will be used and referred to any time trees are being planted on Erie County Park Property.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 **Caliper** – Measurement taken six inches above ground level for field grown stock and from the soil line for container grown stock, which should be at or near the top of the root flare, and six inches above the root flare for bare root plants (ANSI Z60.1 American Standard for Nursery Stock)
- 3.2 **International Society of Arboriculture (I.S.A)** – Group that promotes the professional practice of arboriculture and fosters a greater worldwide awareness of the benefits of trees

4. REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 The following list of requirements will be utilized as the preferred parameters so as to provide the highest survival rate for trees being planted
- 4.1.2 **Irrigation** – Tree watering bags are recommended for the first two growing seasons.
- 4.1.3 **Season** – Typically the County of Erie Park, Recreation & Forestry Department only approves tree plantings to take place during the optimal planting window from October 15th – May 1st. All requests for tree plantings outside the established window are subject to approval from the County Forester and would have to be of B&B or Container grown stock and transported using tarps or other appropriate fashion that prevents desiccation of the tree crown.

- 4.1.4 **Tree Selection** – The County of Erie acceptable tree species list is contained herein (Addendum #1) and all trees must have a minimum caliper of 1.5” to be planted in a maintained lawn area. Conservation type plantings of smaller caliper will be allowed in Natural Regeneration Areas.
- 4.1.5 **Site Selection** – Must be approved by the Park Superintendent responsible for that specific park location. The Park Superintendent must consult with the County Forester so the site selection matches the “Right Tree, Right Place” Philosophy.
- 4.1.6 **Tree Protection**- A 1-foot diameter welded wire fence cage will be wrapped around the tree to prevent herbivory and damage from Deer rubs.
- 4.1.7 **Tree Planting**- Trees shall be planted in accordance with ANSI A300 (Part 6) Tree Planting and Transplanting Standards.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 **County Forester** – The County Forester will be available to consult and assist the Park Superintendent for their Tree Planting Event, including approving final tree species and layout. As a certified arborist he/she is recommended to be on-site at the time of the tree planting to ensure all planting practices are following the International Society of Arboriculture (I.S.A) and Erie County Parks, Recreation & Forestry Standards.
- 5.2 **Park Superintendent** – The Park Superintendent is responsible for recommending the location and layout of the tree planting locations, approving the site preparation plan for the actual tree planting and coordinating that the County Forester is on-site at time of the actual tree planting.
- 5.3 **Deputy Commissioner of Recreation** – The Deputy Commissioner of Recreation will work with Sponsor(s) or Partner(s) to develop a formal Maintenance Agreement, Volunteer Form / Special Event approval, event day planning, programming, social media and volunteer round-up.

Effective Date: June 16, 2026

Approved: _____


Troy P. Schinzel, Erie County Commissioner of Parks, Recreation & Forestry

Erie County Parks Recommended Tree List**Top 50 Species**

Species	Common Name
<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Balsam Fir
<i>Acer nigrum</i>	Black Maple
<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>	Striped Maple
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple
<i>Acer spicatum</i>	Mountain Maple
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Downy Serviceberry
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Smooth Serviceberry
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Pawpaw
<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	Yellow Birch
<i>Betula lenta</i>	Black Birch, Sweet Birch
<i>Betula populifolia</i>	Gray Birch
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Ironwood, American Hornbeam
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut Hickory
<i>Carya glabra</i>	Pignut Hickory
<i>Carya laciniosa</i>	American Elm
<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark Hickory
<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Mockernut Hickory
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda dogwood
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American Basswood
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern Red Cedar
<i>Larix laricina</i>	Tamarack, Eastern Larch
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree
<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	Cucumber Magnolia
<i>Morus rubra</i>	Red Mulberry
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Tupelo
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Hop Hornbeam, Ironwood
<i>Picea glauca</i>	White Spruce
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	White Pine
<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	Arborvitae, Northern White Cedar
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Eastern Sycamore
<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	Pin Cherry
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp White Oak
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak

Quercus montana	Chestnut Oak
Quercus muehlenbergii	Chinquapin Oak
Quercus palustris	Pin Oak
Quercus rubra	Northern Red Oak
Quercus shumardii	Shumard's Oak
Salix nigra	Ulmus americana
Sassafras albidum	Sassafras
Thuja occidentalis	Tsuga canadensis
Tilia americana	