

Village of Round Lake

Urban Forest Management Program



Revised: August, 2017

Department of Public Works
Adam Wedoff, Director

PURPOSE:

To define the responsibilities and necessary actions required to effectively manage the Village's Urban Forest.

I. MAGNITUDE OF THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

Technically, the Village's Urban Forest consists of all trees within the Village of Round Lake boundaries. The only inventory, condition assessment and species identification that has been completed has been for Village owned parkway trees.

Based on a parkway tree inventory there are 5,946 parkway trees that the Village is responsible for. Public Works maintains an inventory of tree species, sizes and conditions.

II. ACTIONS TO BE ADDRESSD BY THIS PROGRAM:

A. SHORT TERM (Two-Five Years):

1. Remove the remainder of the approximately 1,700 dead or dying parkway trees originally identified in the tree survey. Of the 1,700 trees, approximately 1,500 are Ash and 200 are non-Ash species.
2. Continually assess, prioritize and remove large trees and/or branches that constitute a public safety hazard.
3. Trim all parkway trees as needed to eliminate site distance obstructions and maintain clearance from vehicles as well as to shape the tree and improve the long term health, character and appearance of each tree.
4. Enhance the character and value of the Village by planting parkway trees in locations were dead trees were removed.

B. LONG TERM:

1. Create an on-going assessment, maintenance, and replacement program for the Village's parkway trees.
2. Continue to expand the tree species diversity as dead trees are replaced to reduce the adverse impacts of any future species-specific infestation as well as to enhance the visual appearance of the parkways.
3. Educate property owners and residents on how to properly maintain and care for parkway trees through the Arbor Day event and various volunteer programs.

III. FUNDING:

Annually, it is the intent of the management with guidance from the Village Board to make an estimated \$135,000 available for:

- A. Removal of dead and dying trees
- B. Hazard tree removals
- C. Tree replacements
- D. Tree pruning

These expenditures will be contingent upon available resources annually.

IV. COST SHARING:

Cost sharing will no longer be offered by the Village. The Village intends to replant all parkway trees that were removed according to the outline provided in Appendix 2. Residents are allowed to replant a tree in the parkway as long as they file a permit with the Building Department and chose a tree from the list of approved species provided in Appendix 1. No permit fee shall be assessed for parkway tree planting.

V. LEAD DEPARTMENT:

The Public Works Department will be the lead entity within the Village to oversee tree programs.

VI. COMMUNICATION:

It is in the best interests of the Village to maintain effective and on-going communication and awareness with residents and businesses. This program should be made available through the following methods:

- A. Post on Village web site
- B. Discuss at HOA Summits
- C. Arbor Day

VII. INFORMATION/DATA TRACKING:

Proper maintenance of the Village's Urban Forest requires obtaining and maintaining relevant information. Staff intends to use the Village GIS system to keep track of removed and replaced trees. Additionally, staff has a computer based spread sheet that is continuously updated to keep track of actions taken and expenditures.

VIII. PURCHASING/CONTRACTING:

- A. All Village owned parkway tree removal, disposal and pruning will be accomplished by hired contractors. Requests for bids will be sent to qualified contractors on an as-needed basis.
- B. Tree purchasing will be researched. There are several options including traditional tree nurseries, seedlings and native plant nurseries. A combination of sources may be required based on tree availability and available resources.
- C. Tree planting may be a combination of contractors and volunteers. Staff has reached out to local volunteer organizations in an attempt to establish a volunteer base of Village residents. Efforts will continue to involve residents on a volunteer basis.

IX. TREE CITY USA:

Given the proposed budgeting, investment and renewed interest in managing the Village's Urban Forest, the Village may pursue the Tree CITY USA program. More information can be found at:

<http://www.arboday.org/programs/TreeCityUSA/about.cfm>

X. PROGRESS TO DATE:

This program was first established in July of 2013 with an emphasis on removing dead trees and replacing them at the same time. The Village created and implemented a resident cost sharing program with different tiers of sharing corresponding to the priority of each request. The plan was largely successful.

- A. 340 dead trees were removed and replaced.
- B. \$50,000 was contributed by residents and home owners associations through the cost sharing program.

While the program was successful, there were some factors that necessitated it be revised.

- A. Ash trees died at an alarming rate creating a large number of dead parkway trees.
- B. The dead trees were unsightly and may have become a hazard with possible falling branches and trees.
- C. Even with resident participation, the available funds were not keeping up with the removal of the dead trees.

Therefore, the Village opted to focus solely on removing dead/dying parkway trees and parkway trees that showed signs of Emerald Ash Borer infestation. The Village removed over 1,000 parkway trees in 2016. With those trees now removed, the concentration has shifted to replanting trees in the parkways.

Village of Round Lake Tree Replacement Species

1. Swamp White Oak
2. Red Oak
3. American Linden
4. Redmond Linden
5. Kentucky Coffee
6. Hackberry
7. Triumph Elm
8. Ginkgo Biloba “Princeton Sentry”
9. Chanticleer Pear

Much of the following information and several of the pictures are courtesy of the Arbor Day Foundation



Swamp White Oak

Height: 50'- 60'

Spread: 30'-35'

Growth Rate: Slow to moderate growth rate.

Exposure: Needs full to partial sunlight.

A majestic tree all year long. In the spring, the new leaves and flowers combine for a pastel tint on the limbs. In the summer, it is a superior shade tree. In the fall, the leaves are rich with color, and the acorns attract an array of wildlife. In the winter, it presents a stately silhouette with light gray platey bark and a wide open crown. The white oak is a tree for large spaces, parks and other recreational areas, golf courses, campuses, cemeteries and other pastoral landscapes. The white oak can live for centuries becoming more picturesque with age.



Red Oak

Height: 60' - 75'

Spread: 45' at full maturity.

Growth Rate: This tree grows at a fast growth rate

Exposure: Sun, Part Sun

Bristle-tipped leaves turn red in the fall. The leaves have 7 to 11 waxy lobes. A good street tree, tolerates pollution and compacted soil. Grows as much as two feet a year for 10 years.



American Linden

Height: 40'-50'

Spread: 25'

Growth Rate: This tree grows at a medium to fast growth rate

Exposure: Needs full to partial sunlight.

American Linden trees feature simple, heart-shaped leaves that are green on the top and paler green on the underside. In the fall, the green leaves turn bright yellow before falling to the ground. In the spring, the tree produces pendulous cyme of three to seven creamy white or light yellow flowers



Redmond Linden

Height: 65'-75'

Spread: 30'-35'

Growth Rate: This tree grows at a medium to fast growth rate

Exposure: Needs full to partial sunlight.

The leaves of the tree are dark green and heart or teardrop shape. In June or July, the tree bursts into small yellow flowers that have a fragrant smell. The flowers are very small and look like large baby's breath.



Kentucky Coffeetree

Height: 70'

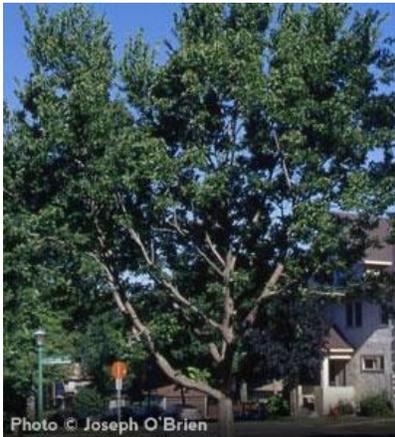
Spread: 40' – 50'

Growth Rate: This tree grows at a medium to fast growth rate

Exposure: Sun, Part Sun

Narrow young growth broadens with age. New foliage is pink-tinged turning dark blue in summer. One of the latest in spring to leaf out. Fragrant white flowers panicles. 10" reddish-pink leathery seed pods served as early Kentucky settler's coffee beans. Adapts to alkaline soils, city conditions and is drought tolerant.





Hackberry

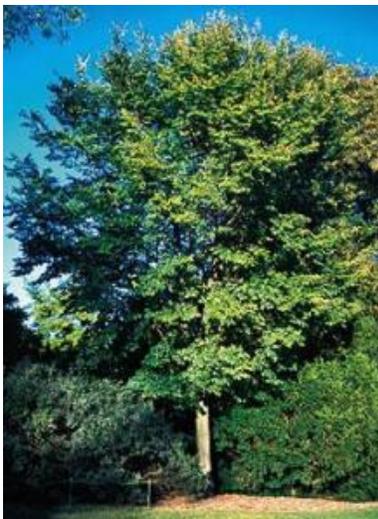
Height: 40'-60'

Spread: 50'

Growth Rate: This tree grows at a medium to fast growth rate

Exposure: This Hackberry does well in full sun.

Tolerant of a wide range of conditions, the Hackberry is a good landscape choice. Grows to a broad crown with arching branches, not unlike the American Elm. Well-suited to urban areas, it withstands wind and city conditions.



Elm, Triumph

Height: 55'

Spread: 45' at full maturity.

Growth Rate: This tree grows at a fast growth rate

Exposure: Needs full to partial sunlight.

Triumph has remarkably dark green and glossy foliage and a sturdy, symmetrical growth habit. Disease tolerant to Dutch Elm disease and Phloem Necrosis.





Ginkgo Biloba



Height: 25-50'

Spread: 25-35' at full maturity.

Growth Rate: This tree grows at a medium growth rate

Exposure: Needs full to partial sunlight.

Hailed as “undoubtedly one of the most distinct and beautiful of all deciduous trees,” the ginkgo certainly stands out. Unique, fan-shaped leaves turn a stunning yellow color in the fall. It can tolerate many urban conditions including heat, air pollution, salt and confined spaces. And it establishes easily.



Chanticleer Pear



Height: 25-35'

Spread: 16-25' at full maturity.

Growth Rate: This tree grows at a medium to fast growth rate

Exposure: Needs full sunlight.

One of many cultivars under *P. calleryana*, the Chanticleer pear stands out as one of the most profuse flowerers. It has a narrow, tailored appearance and tolerates many urban conditions, which is why it is a popular street tree choice where spread may be a bit limited.

Village of Round Lake Tree Replacement Plan

Percent of dead or dying trees based on an inventory from May 2014

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Parkview | 17.7 % |
| Valley Lakes | 15.4 % |
| Silver Leaf Glen | 9.7 % |
| Bright Meadows | 8.8 % |
| Lakewood Orchard | 7.0 % |
| Lakewood | 5.5 % |
| Bradford Place | 4.4 % |
| Prairie Walk | 3.1 % |
| Madrona | 2.8 % |
| Old town | 1.6 % |

Staff recommends replanting trees in each subdivision based on the percent of dead or dying trees as shown in the table above. The Village has been awarded grant funding for tree replacements and will begin in the Parkview subdivisions and Valley Lakes (south) subdivision. Reforestation will then continue down the list of subdivisions as funds allow each year.