Recommended Tree Species for the 2021 Maynard Downtown Planting Drafted Summer & Fall 2020

Background and Philosophy:

Background

Many trees in Downtown Maynard were lost over the past few years. The reasons for the death of so many trees are varied and likely compound each other. Salt applications during the winter can stress trees and the hot drought of 2016 certainly did not help trees.

We, The Maynard Tree Corps (aka, friends of the Maynard trees), have been organizing to make short- and long-term plans for Maynard's tree canopy. Starting in Summer 2020, we started drafting a list of candidate trees for Maynard and, towards the end of the summer, the list you can download and read here, Recommended Trees for Downtown Maynard. Special funds from the town of Maynard are being used for retreeing our downtown. Smith and Finley Realty Group plans to donate funds for a tree. If you are interested in contributing to this planting, please contact the Maynard Tree Corps at: maynardtreecorps@gmail.com

We anticipate tree planting could start in Spring 2021. We are unsure how many trees will be planted in the first planting. Fifteen total trees can be planted in the empty tree wells along Main and along Nason.

Philosophy

The basic tenets in the development of candidate trees for Maynard is diversity, diversity, and trees that have evolved in the eastern US. The arguments behind favoring trees that evolved in eastern North America are this:

- 1) For Diversity's Sake: different animals prefer different host/habitat species, but a particular species likely gains additional places to live and thrive when there are more than a few species over the course of a year.
- **2) Aesthetics**: each species brings a different, shape, color, and texture to the landscape. And, those characteristics not only change with the seasons, they change at different times within each of our seasons. Diversity, then, ups the variation in our landscape through time and over space.
- 3) Climate Change: we do not know who will be better adapted to the coming change in climate. Leaning heavily on one species could prove to be prophetic, or a disaster, depending. Enhancing diversity would put fewer eggs in one basket, potentially reducing the potential negative impacts of climatic change.
- 4) Pests & Pathogens: more immediate and perhaps more threatening to our trees is the importation of many pests and pathogens each and every day through the limited inspections of materials used for trade with other nations. There are likely some already here that will erupt in the coming decade. Hemlock woolly adelgid, for example, was in the eastern US by the 1950s before it erupted in the 1990s. We'd argue the diversity argument is key here. (You can learn more and be proactive on invasive pests & pathogens here: https://www.caryinstitute.org/science/tree-smart-trade)

We encourage you to browse the entire list, seek what species are common in your neighborhood, and find something new for your neck of Maynard's woods from this list. You can learn about the most common street trees in Maynard here: https://www.townofmaynard-ma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/dpw-forestry-management-plan-20200722.pdf?v=2 - this survey was completed in 2020.

For more information, go here: https://maynardtrees.com/trees-for-maynard/

Being a built environment, it is hard to completely adhere to our philosophy for planting trees in Maynard. For pedestrian considerations, we limited the number of trees that produce large or a lot of fruits, pods, acorns, or nuts. But perhaps the biggest challenge is the amount of salt applied to the sidewalks each winter, so we generally chose tree species for salt-tolerance. The following trees are our best attempt to balance diversity and survivability in Downtown Maynard.

In no particular order:

Blackgum (aka, Black tupelo, Pepperidge, Nyssa sylvatica), Evolved in eastern North America (aka native to the region); blackgum can be seen in Maynard in the wetlands in School Woods – bright, shiny green leaves that turn _spectacular_ red shiny leaves in late summer->early fall; small dark fruit good for birds; unique architecture – branches at 90 degree angles from the stem, secondary twigs, too, such that it reminds people of old fashion TV antennas; oldest documented broadleaf tree in North America, slow growing, but can live 500-700 years; becoming a more common street tree in the northeast

More on this species here:



Artistic Silhouette



Shiny red autumn leaves are a highlight



90-degree branching allows the broad spring canopy to capture the Sun to color the landscape. Photo by Corey Keeffe



When old, this species can live 700 years, an alligator skin pattern can develop in its bark.

American hornbeam/Musclewood/Blue Beech (Carpinus caroliniana) -

Evolved in eastern North America; musclewood can be seen in many of Maynard's green spaces near wet areas – fine leaves, red-orange fall color; smooth, grey bark with a bluish hue; stems look like flexing human muscles; can turn a light, firey red-orange in fall;

More on this species here:



The name musclewood is obvious



In autumn, it can turn a light, firey red



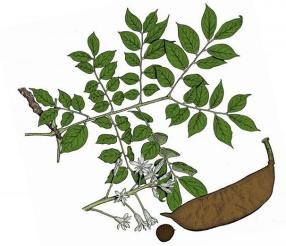
Profile of musclewood during autumn, Oct 2020.



Open-grown profile during the growing season.

Kentucky coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) - Evolved in eastern North America – curvy, winged bark (really cool bark!); large, compound leaves giving great crown texture; greenish-white flowers in pyramidal spikes in mid-summer; pods on female trees [messy - worth it! Female trees do not produce pollen, a benefit to people with allergies]; southern species; a truly beautiful tree that is becoming a more common tree to plant on streets;

More on this species:



Artistic Interpretation of leaves, pods, & seed



Its curvy, wavy bark is a highlight. Photo by Jesse Wolf



Foliage turns a lovely yellow->bronze in autumn.



Leaves are a solid forest green during the growing season.

Tuliptree/Tulip-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) - Evolved in eastern North America; the Maynard Tree Corps planted a tuliptree in front of the Fowler School in May 2020– wonderful tulip-like flowers, white and orange on the inside; the flowers give off a spicy, almost hickory scent; leaves that look like a tulip that turns yellow in the fall; tall, fast growing tree; drops it leaves early in the fall during drought; host for spicebush swallowtail;

More on this species:



Tuliptree flowers & leaves



In autumn, Tuliptree can turn gold.
These trees live in Acton



An emergent Tuliptree leaf



Close-up of a Tuliptree flower

White oak, Pohkuhtimis in Nipmuck; pakcumus in Unkechaug (Quercus

alba) - Evolved in eastern North America; there are some fine white oak in Maynard at Summer Hill - Large tree; some individuals can turn burgundy red in the fall, depending on the weather; the oak species many people think about as most stately oak.

More on this species:



Peering into the canopy of a white oak



A white oak in fall color along the Assabet River in Maynard 10/20



White oak leaves



A white oak in Portage, NY 10/20

"Rotundiloba" or fruitless sweetgum - Horticulturally derived from the native Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), aka, an "improved" native, this variety does not produce the spiky fruit balls in the autumn



Rotundiloba sweetgum in its summer green



In autumn, it can turn this burgundy color



Its foliage can range from yellow to red to orange to deep purple on the same tree.



Profile in green during the growing season.

Ginkgo "Autumn Gold" (*Gingko biloba*) - Exotic species, that is, it evolved outside of North America – a living fossil from China, it has long been used as a landscaping tree. Fun: it drops its leaves all at once



The bark & leaves of Ginkgo



Leaves can drop at what seems at once



A single Ginkgo



Ginkgo is a common street tree

London Planetree, "Exclamation" (*Platanus x acerfolia*) – A horticulturally developed exotic species; the two large trees in front of Serendipity Café are related to this species – a large tree with peeling, camouflage bark developed to resist the disease Anthracnose.



A peek into the upper crown of a London Planetree



London Planetree leaves and fruit in autumn



Bark of a London Planetree



A large London Planetree

Swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) - Evolved in eastern North America; a lovely specimen can be found on the south side of Concord St just after Concord Cir; – looks very much like a white oak, but shaggier in the sense of having more dead twigs in the crown; grows fast, whitish bark;

More on this species:



Leaves & acorns of swamp white oak



Swamp white oak in fall color



Bark of swamp white oak



The swamp white oak on Concord St, on the right hand side of the street going NE, just past Concord St. Circle

Eastern hophornbeam, American hop-hornbeam (Ostrya virginiana) –

Evolved in eastern North America; musclewood can be seen in most of Maynard's green spaces – flowers like oak & birch that turn into slightly bloated small pods that can look like hops; dark green, small, fine leaves like birch that can turn yellow in fall; fine strippy sandy colored bark; slow growing

More on this species here:



The early season fruits of eastern hophornbeam look like hops



Its bark ranges from strippy to shaggy



Leaves of eastern hophornbeam



Autumn leaves of eastern hophornbeam