**Wakefield Estates**

Dead Tree removal and replacement/Neighborhood Tree Resiliency Plan

8/30/2019

Definitions:

Urban (suburban) forest – the trees within a city, town or other similar urban area.

Native species – plant known to normally live and thrive in a particular ecosystem, developing with the surrounding habitat and can be assisted by or affected by a new species.

Non-native species – an introduced species (alien, exotic, foreign, etc.) that is living outside its native range, arriving by human activity either deliberate or accidental.

Invasive Species – non-native species that propagates itself in such a way to overpopulate an area, to the exclusion of native plants, causing substantial detrimental impact to the landscape and local ecology. This species will eventually take over an area, blocking natives out and works to create a monoculture.

Monoculture – where there is very little plant type diversity within a specific area.

Resiliency – In terms of trees, bushes, etc. this means an area that has vegetation that resists diseases, bugs and storm damage. Generally, this means a diverse population that has limited invasive species and a conscious effort is made to maintain the health of the area.

Tree Lawn – the area between the sidewalk and the street that is generally the right-of-way. In most cases in Wakefield Estates, this area is 6 feet wide.

Early succession species – trees that appear first when an area begins to reforest and tend to have shorter life spans. Willow, Tulip poplar, sycamore are examples of such early succession species.

Recommended Guidelines

The neighborhood has reached an age where many trees planted by the developer as part of home or neighborhood construction will soon or already have failed due to disease, storms or other reason. This is due to the tree types mandated to be purchased with the building of the homes which were callery pear varieties/cultivars, silver maple, ash, and river (also called paper) birch. While what has been done already has been good, there is more that can be done with guidance from the [State Urban Forester](https://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/2854.htm), through IDNR’s Division of Forestry, [Johnson County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Association (JoCo CISMA)](http://www.sicim.info/cismas) and [Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS)](https://indiananativeplants.org/). We all are interested in maintaining our property values and trees contribute a great deal to the overall property values but also the overall health of the neighborhood. Indeed, the [National Tree Benefit calculator](http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/) can tell each homeowner what each tree on their lot does to increase the property value and [Vibrant Cities lab](https://www.vibrantcitieslab.com/) tells you about the many benefits of healthy trees to our community. Therefore, the Wakefield Estates HOA has this list of recommended guidelines when replacing, planting, and investing in trees for our yards. While many trees do contribute many factors for our neighborhood, others, such as the callery pear varieties or too many of only certain types can, in fact, be detrimental to property values. Due to our high density of homes and the lack of overhead lines, Wakefield has a unique opportunity to create a resilient and healthy tree population so that in the event of pests, diseases or storms, Wakefield and its homeowners will maintain tree and bush populations which are diverse, healthy and resilient and which, in turn, maintain and increase property values.

Tree removal: There are several signs or conditions which warrant tree removal. A tree should be removed when more than a 1/3 of the tree is damaged, when the main crown shows signs of death/decay, when fungi appear around any portion of the trunk, or when there is obvious insect or disease infestation. The Wakefield Board has many members who know trees or they can reach out to neighbors who are tree stewards or have contacts to determine tree health. Trees and bushes which are invasive should be part of a homeowner’s plan for tree replacement. Trees are an early succession species such as willow, red maple and others should be monitored closely for signs of poor health.

Tree and bush planting: Putting the right tree in the right space is critical for the safety of our neighborhood residents and structures and for the overall resiliency of our tree population. The following chart provides a list of trees and bushes recommended for planting because they are known to be healthy, native, non-native/non-invasive and/or provide color. For height, crown width, characteristics, recommended areas and the trees and bushes that this tree is a particularly good replacement for, please refer to the Morton Arboretum’s website or the Missouri Botanical Garden’s Plant Finder. On both sites, you may enter your parameters such as height, sun, water, spread, etc.

Morton Arboretum: <https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-and-plant-advice/tree-species-list/filters> While this is designed for Northern Illinois, this is the best resource out there for central Indiana’s conditions, which are very similar.

Missouri Botanical Gardens Plant Finder: <https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-and-plant-advice/tree-species-list/filters>

It is desired by the Wakefield Estates HOA that trees and bushes that are invasive NOT be planted at all and that trees and bushes which are overpopulated be kept to a minimum when replanting. Those trees and bushes are listed under the heading “Not recommended” and the specific concerns with those species are listed.

Finally, the neighborhood is pursuing establishing a consortium which will purchase trees and bushes for distribution (which will vary by year depending on budget) and will pick a day (Arbor or Earth days are likely candidates) where part of the HOA dues are used to purchase a number of trees for planting in the neighborhood. The date and place for pick up will be advertised on the Wakefield HOA website and social media outlets. Ideally, this would be several different appropriate types and sizes of trees as well as bushes.

We understand there are many nurseries, etc. that may have differing recommendations. Because we, as an HOA, are a form of local government, these guidelines are derived from and reviewed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, which provides technical guidance in urban forest management for the State of Indiana.

RECOMMENDED TREES AND BUSHES:

<https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-and-plant-advice/tree-species-list/filters>

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>

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| Common Name | Other info |
| Oaks | White – purple in fall with right soil pH  Scarlet – smallest acorn, red in fall  Burr – can appear fuzzy when young, also purple in fall with right soil pH  Schumard  Swamp White – good for wet areas  Chincapin  Shingle  Red – largest acorns |
| Ironwood |  |
| Hophorn Beam |  |
| Hackberry |  |
| Elm Hybrids |  |
| Catalpa | Blooms early summer. Fragrant with very large leaves. Great for shade |
| Tulip Poplar | AKA Yellow Poplar |
| Yellowwood |  |
| Red Bud | Early Spring deep pink tiny flowers |
| Serviceberry | Red in fall |
| Dogwood | Mid Spring white or pink flowers |
| Disease Resistant Crapapple | Fruiting. Beautiful spring flower, very fragrant |
| False Indigo |  |
| White Cedar |  |
| White Pine |  |
| Norway Spruce |  |
| Blue Spruce |  |
| Hickory | Like Oak, good growth for strong trees.  Shagbark has a shaggy looking bark. |
| Spicebush |  |
| Hydrangea | Gorgeous bush – color of cluster flowers depends on soil pH |
| Viburnum | White/pinkish clusters of flowers in spring with lilacs, highly fragrant |
| Lilac | Several color options from white to deep purple, highly fragrant when flowers in spring |
| Witch Hazel |  |
| Buttonbush | Good for very wet conditions |
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NOT Recommended:

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| Common Name | Scientific name | UNDESIRABLE BECAUSE: |
| Callery Pear and any/all cultivars | Pyrus calleryana | Invasive, non-native |
| Golden Rain Tree | Koelreuteria paniculata | Invasive, non-native |
| Tree of Heaven | Ailanthus altissima | Invasive, non-native |
| Princess Tree | Paulownia tomentosa | Invasive, non-native |
| Sawtooth Oak | Quercus acutissima | Invasive, non-native |
| Norway Maple | Acer platanoides | Invasive, non-native |
| Autumn Olive | Elaeagnus umbellate | Invasive, non-native |
| Boxwood | Buxus | Invasive, non-native |
| Barberry | Berberis sp. | Invasive, non-native |
| Burning Bush | Euonymus alatus | Invasive, non-native |
| River Birch | Betula | Overpopulated |
| Maples | Acer sp. | Overpopulated |
| Any tree with thorns – Hawthorne, black locust, etc. |  | Dangerous |
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A much more comprehensive list of invasive plants can be found on the Indiana Native Plant Society’s website:

<https://www.entm.purdue.edu/iisc/pdf/IISC_Plant_List_by_group2.pdf>