

City of Elkhorn Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department

GUIDE TO TREE PLANTING IN THE URBAN SETTING

The Terrace

What Constitutes the Terrace? The terrace is the portion of the public right of way located between the back edge of the curb and street sideline of the sidewalk. Where there is no curb and gutter, the area 10' from the pavement shall be deemed to be a terrace. Where there are no sidewalks, the area 8' from the curb shall be deemed terrace areas.

TREES NOT SUITABLE FOR TERRACE PLANTING

Evergreens, including pines, spruce, firs, arbor vitiate
Crabapples
Yellow Poplar
Silver Maples
Willow
Catalpa
Mulberry
Tree of Heaven
Kentucky Coffeetree
Hawthorn (w/ thorns)
Cottonwood (not suitable for any planting)
Box Elder (not suitable for any planting)



*It is unlawful to plant or maintain shrubbery, ground cover or other plants not considered to be a deciduous leaf tree within the terrace areas.

Steps Before Planting

1. For plantings on the terrace, a permit is required. Forms may be attained from the Park & Recreation Department at 200 Devendorf Street. There is no charge for the permit.
2. After the permit has been acquired, make sure that you contact Diggers Hotline at 1-800-242-8511 or www.diggershotline.com before you start digging.

Planting Standards

1. Spacing between trees - Trees shall be spaced 30-40 feet between each tree.
2. Trees should be centered in the terrace.
3. Corner lots—no tree shall be planted closer than 45 feet from the corner at intersections of two streets and must be at least 20 feet back of the property corner.
4. Driveways—no trees should be planted closer than 10 feet from residential driveways.
5. Utility Poles—no tree shall be planted under utility wires or near utility poles.
6. Trees should be trimmed to a minimum height of 14 feet above the traveled portion of any street or alley.

Planting

Site Preparation

- Do not plant where overhead lines will interfere with the tree.
- Dig shallow planting holes two to three times as wide as the root ball. Wide, shallow holes encourage horizontal root growth that trees and shrubs naturally produce.
- In well-drained soil, dig holes as deep as the root ball. In poorly-drained heavy clay soil, dig holes one to two inches shallower than the root ball. Cover the exposed root ball top with mulch.
- Don't dig holes deeper than the root ball or put loose soil beneath roots because loose soil will compact over time, leaving trees planted too deep. Widen holes near the soil surface where most root growth occurs. Score walls of machine dug (auger, backhoe) holes to prevent glazing.
- Backfill holes with existing unamended soil. Do not incorporate organic matter such as peat moss into backfill for individual planting holes. Differences in soil pore sizes will be created causing problems with water movement and root growth between the root ball, planting hole, and surrounding soil.
- Backfill half the soil, then water thoroughly to settle out air pockets. Finish backfilling, then water again. Cover any exposed root ball tops with mulch.
- Incorporate slow-release granular fertilizers into backfill soil to provide nitrogen, or if a soil test indicated a need for phosphorus or potassium. Avoid using fast-release fertilizers that can dehydrate tree roots. Use no more than 1# actual nitrogen per 1,000 ft. of planting hole surface.

Problems With Terrace Trees

- If your terrace tree is dead or dying and/or in need of trimming, please contact the Park & Recreation Office at 741-5114.
- Tree trimming is usually done November through February.
- Tree removal is usually done September through November.
- The City of Elkhorn will be on a maintenance plan with the City being divided into four (4) sections, each section having maintenance performed in a four (4) year cycle. The exception to this will be when a problem or hazardous situation arises. When maintenance is done in a section, this area will be the priority section for trimming and planting for the year.

The section will be as follows:

Section #1 (2006) – South to Walworth St, North to City limits, West to City limits and East to Wisconsin St.

Section #2 (2007) – South to City limits, North to Walworth St, West to City limits and East to Wisconsin.

Section #3 (2008) – South to Walworth St., Walworth to City limits, West to Wisconsin St., and East to City limits.

Section #4 (2005) – South to City limits, North to Walworth St., West to Wisconsin St., and East to City limits.

City Trees Available

The City of Elkhorn has a limited amount of trees that homeowners can request to have planted in their terrace. The following is a list trees that the City has in it's tree nursery.

- Crimson King Norway Maple
- Green Ash
- Honey Locust
- Linden
- Norway Maple
- Sugar Maple
- Red Maple
- Gingko

If you are interested in having a tree planted in your terrace, please call 741-5114.

