

Tree Selection Guide

For Street Tree Planting

City of Moscow
Parks and Recreation
Community Forestry Program



THINK BIG!

When planning what tree to plant, please consider using large-maturing species when space allows. There is an unfortunate trend toward planting only small trees in Moscow and other cities, leading to what some call “the dwarfing of the urban forest.” This is a good thing to do near overhead lines because it reduces the need for line clearance and the disfigurement of street trees, increases safety, and prevents power outages. However, where we have large spaces, we need large trees to perpetuate benefits for the future, especially the cooling effects of summer shade and providing homes and cover for wildlife.

Moscow’s goal is to maintain large trees to maximize benefits to our citizens.

Not only do large growing trees provide more benefits such as energy savings, rain runoff retention, and air pollution control than small growing trees, their assessed values at maturity are much higher than small growing trees. Below are values for two of Moscow’s street trees:

Small ornamental tree	\$ 2,500
Large shade tree	\$ 15,000

WHERE TO PLANT LARGE-MATURING TREES

Here is a guide to appropriate spaces for large trees, when at least 50 feet from overhead power lines.



On the lawn side of curb-attached sidewalks



Centered in planting strips 6-8' in width



Yards



Parking Lots