

Forestry Plan

August 2018



CITY OF LONE TREE



“Trees: The only infrastructure that increases in value over its lifetime.”

City Council Approval

The Forestry Plan is hereby approved by the City Council of the City of Lone Tree, Colorado, on this day 21 of August, 2018.

Jaqueline A. Millet
Mayor

[Signature]
City Clerk





Forestry Plan

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Introduction

Community Vision

Lone Tree is a premier community connected by great neighborhoods, vibrant public spaces, a beautiful natural environment, and thriving businesses. The development and implementation of a comprehensive urban forestry program is an extension of that vision and a specific objective of the 2016 City of Lone Tree Strategic Plan.

Plan Purpose

The purpose of this first-ever forestry plan for the City of Lone Tree is to assess and guide the health of the urban forest which consists of all trees located in the City of Lone Tree on both public and private property. The plan will assist residents, business owners and public officials in establishing and maintaining a healthy urban forest.

This plan is intended to guide activities for decades, providing continuity through successive generations of residents, commercial property owners and managers, and public officials.

The City of Lone Tree is a naturally non-forested environment. This environmental context requires the identification and adoption of best practices in tree locating, selection, planting and maintenance.





Lone Tree

City Council

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Importance of Trees to Lone Tree

The positive social, environmental and economic impact of trees is enormous. Trees do far more than provide shade, beauty and comfort. Trees are a critical element of our community infrastructure by contributing to flood prevention and storm water management.

The collective influence of a well-maintained landscape makes a direct economic impact by increasing property values. An additional economic impact of trees results from the energy cost savings trees provide by shading our homes and businesses in the summer and serving as a windbreak in the winter.

Trees enhance the quality of life by muffling noise from freeways and other sources. Trees filter air pollution and create habitat for birds, animals and insects.

Acknowledgements

The City of Lone Tree gratefully acknowledges our many partners who have contributed time, expertise and enthusiasm to this important undertaking. The Colorado State University Extension in Douglas County recruited the fifteen Master Gardener volunteers to assist us in performing the first-ever city-wide tree survey.

Colorado State Forest Service Forestry Manager Keith Wood contributed support and guidance in the development of the tree survey methodology. The Front Range Urban Forestry Council reviewed the plan draft and offered advice. Colorado State University contributed content to the message library contained in this plan.

City of Lone Tree conducted a review and update of the Landscape Design Guidelines For Public Right-Of-Way in support of this Plan.

Julius Zsako

Zoning Coordinator & City Forester

Need For Data

A first-ever tree survey was conducted in June 2017 to establish a baseline estimate of the total number of trees located within the City of Lone Tree. A sample of public and private property consisting of 175 acres was surveyed. The sample areas represent 5.3% of the developed city, excluding Schweiger Ranch. A team of Master Gardeners recruited by the Colorado State University Extension in Douglas County performed the field survey.

The survey yielded an estimate of the percentage of trees that appeared to be healthy, as well as a percentage of trees in decline. Estimates of the total number of Ash trees within the City of Lone Tree was sought in consideration of the threat posed by the Emerald Ash Borer. The survey was intended to identify any tree varieties that may be overplanted in order to inform tree selection decisions for future public and private tree planting.

By interviewing the survey team about the conditions associated with trees that appeared to be healthy in contrast to the conditions surrounding trees that exhibited signs of stress, the City Forester confirmed many elements of the threat analysis.



What percentage of trees appear to be healthy?

Are certain varieties of trees being overplanted?

How many ash trees live in our city?





Tree Survey

Survey

Estimates:

76% of trees appear to be healthy.

19% of trees appear to be stressed.

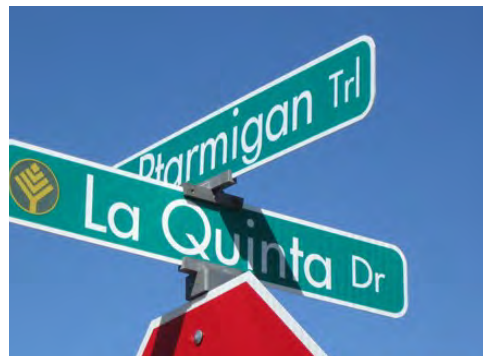
5% of trees are dead or dying.

Goal

- Inform the direction and content of the City’s first-ever Forestry Plan.
- Provide a credible platform for continuing education and outreach opportunities in the community.
- Raise awareness about trees and what they need to thrive.
- Strengthen our relationships and partnership opportunities with groups like the Master Gardeners, special districts, HOAs and the State Forest Service.

Approach

- Survey privately owned trees located at new and mature commercial and residential property, as well as publicly owned trees located in landscape medians, parks and public facilities.



Findings

Number

Approximately 45,000 trees are estimated to be in developed Lone Tree.

Health

- 76% of our trees appear to be healthy.
- 19% of our trees appear stressed.
- 5% of our trees are dead or dying.

Variety

- 18% of our trees are evergreens consisting primarily of Austrian pine, blue spruce and ponderosa pine.
- 12% are ash.
- 11 % of our trees are honey locust.
- 7% of our trees are a variety of maple.
- 6% of our trees are a variety of oak.
- 4.5% of our trees are a variety of cottonwood.



7% of our trees consist of a variety of maple.

6% of our trees consist of a variety of oak.

4.5% of our trees consist of a variety of cottonwood.





Existing Conditions



There are many natural and man-made threats to the well-being of trees located within the City of Lone Tree. By comparing historical Google Earth imagery of Lone Tree to current conditions, it becomes abundantly clear that Mother Nature does not allow substantial forestry growth here in the absence of significant human intervention.

Our beloved local climate is awesome for people, yet it is harsh on trees. Extreme weather changes are common. Much of Colorado is very dry averaging only 17 inches of precipitation per year statewide. It is very rare when some portion of the state is not in some degree of drought.

Below: Treeless site of the current Lone Tree Civic Center in 1955 (Source - Google Earth)



Natural Threats to Trees



Trees located within the City of Lone Tree are subjected to a wide range of conditions that can and do cause tree damage. They include:

- Heavy wet snowfall occurring when many trees may be foliated.
- Severe and sudden temperature changes.
- Long periods with little moisture and extreme heat.
- Severe wind events.
- Insects, rodents and diseases.

Right: Spiral path of insect bores beneath the bark of an ash tree. (Boulder)



Below: Broken branches following an April 2016 snow storm. (Lone Tree)





Threats to Trees Caused by People



Human activity results in many harmful impacts on trees. Harmful human activity includes but is not limited to:

- Vehicle, lawnmower and weed trimmer strikes.

Proper site design can reduce the conflicts between trees and vehicles. However, vehicle damage cannot be entirely eliminated.

- Inappropriate tree selection.

Lack of consideration to eventual size in relation to the available space for trees is a common example of inappropriate tree selection.

- Improper planting.

Planting too deep or piercing the root ball with tree stakes are examples.

- Insufficient maintenance.

Not removing tree stakes after six months, lack of winter watering, not performing an adequate refresh of mulch and piling mulch up against the tree trunk are common examples.

- Snow removal efforts that deposit snow and or chemicals onto trees.

Snow storage should be addressed in the site plan phase of development. However, even the best design can fall victim to poor maintenance practices such as shoveling snow up to and against tree trunks or applying ice melt products near trees vaults.



Avoidable Tree Damage





Weaknesses

Maintenance

Commercial and residential property owners often do not provide recommended maintenance that can reduce tree stress, and as a consequence, enable trees to better resist insects, diseases and weather events. Examples are watering in winter, structural pruning, adequate depth of mulch or pest prevention and treatment.

Forest Composition

About 12% or an estimated 5,400 trees consist of ash which are no longer permitted for planting on public property and in proposed site improvement plans. Ash trees will likely be destroyed when the emerald ash borer reaches the City of Lone Tree. About 18% or an estimated 8,100 trees are evergreen which are threatened by the fatal pine wilt disease.

Landscaping Practitioners

The skill level of contractors who plant trees on private property varies. Some new tree plantings result in the decline of the trees by planting trees too deep, piercing root balls with tree stakes, installing tree stakes such that they are too close to a curb which results in vehicle strikes.

Left: Removal of the twine used to make branch growth more compact during transport is done by experienced tree planters prior to placing the tree upright.

Bottom: Damage to root ball by installation of tree stakes too close to the tree



Strengths

Assigned Responsibility for Public Trees

The responsibility for tree care and replacement is well defined for all public property and rights-of-way.

Partnerships

The City of Lone Tree is very fortunate to have several valued partnerships that contribute technical support toward the community forestry initiatives.

National Arbor Day Foundation

The City of Lone Tree is proud to have achieved recognition as a Tree City USA for the past 15 years. Tree City USA was created by the Arbor Day Foundation to encourage better care of the nation's community forests by recognizing cities that take steps to develop and protect their urban tree canopies.

South Suburban Parks and Recreation District

The district performs exceptional tree care and stewardship at several public facilities such as the Lone Tree Recreation Center. Their talented team shares information with the city staff related to the presence of pests and diseases as well as prevention and treatment strategies.

Colorado State Forestry Service

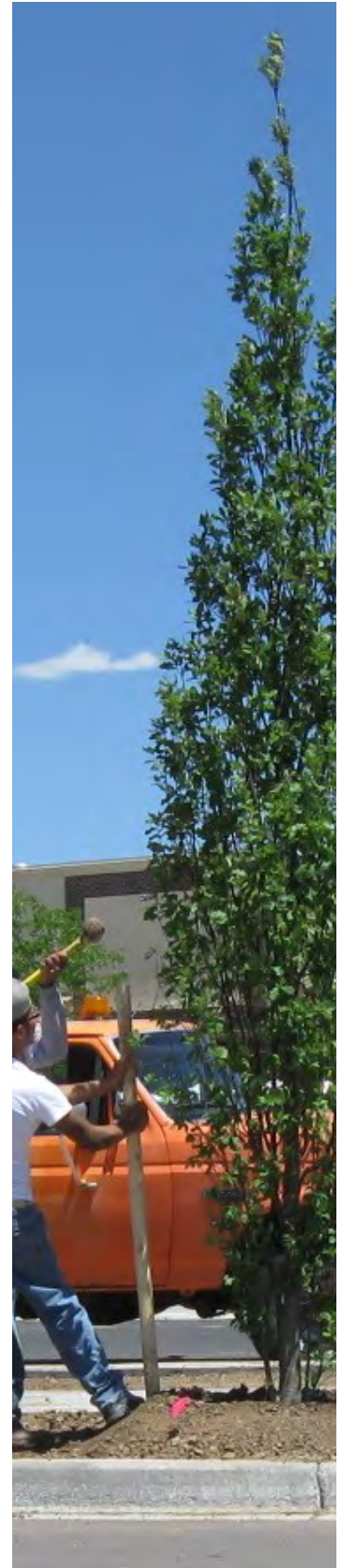
The service shares a wealth of tree management information which is especially helpful related to recognizing and addressing the challenges of droughts, wind damage and heavy snowfall damage.

Douglas County Extension, CSU

The Douglas County Extension partnered with the City of Lone Tree in addressing the pine needle kill that resulted from sudden temperature changes in 2015. Their Master Gardeners assisted with our tree survey in 2017.

Metropolitan Districts

Eleven metropolitan districts have been established. Districts such as the Park Meadows, OmniPark and Rampart Range Metro Districts provide important design and maintenance services for the vast majority of trees in the public right-of-way.





Strengths

Proven Strategies

By collaborating with neighborhood homeowner associations and through the City’s Site Improvement Plan process, much work is done to ensure planted vegetation is suitable for this climate, is attractive, and well maintained.

Existing Ordinances

The Lone Tree Municipal Code requires commercial property maintenance, defines when a tree must be replaced and specifies the minimum tree replacement time period, tree size and tree variety.

The Zoning Chapter of the Lone Tree Municipal Code contains landscaping standards that are intended to create inviting and functional landscapes that provide year-round visual interest; enhance the pedestrian environment; complement architectural features; support visual continuity along streets; create gateways and focal points; complement indigenous landscapes; mitigate negative visual impacts; and provide screening and buffering, where appropriate.

The ordinance is intended to enhance community health and the environment by creating landscapes suited to local soil, climatic and on-site conditions for improved plant growth and survivability; minimize water and natural resource consumption and maintenance costs; protect existing trees, important natural areas and features such as bluffs or wetlands; moderate temperature and mitigate the impacts of wind; reduce runoff, enhance water quality and abate site erosion; and stabilize steep slopes.

The City of Lone Tree updated the Landscape Guidelines For Public Right-of-Way in 2017. The update included an expansion of soil volume requirements for trees when located in sidewalk pockets, a revised list of salt tolerant trees, a list of prohibited trees, designs to enhance roundabouts and designs to enhance water quality.

On average, 55 dead or dying trees are replaced by commercial property owners each year.

Strengths



Proactive Inspection of Commercial Property

The Zoning Compliance/Forestry division of the Community Development Department conducts ongoing inspection of all commercial property. In order to maintain the landscaping associated with the approved site improvement plan for each property, when trees are dead or have been removed, staff contacts all commercial property owners and requires replacement tree planting.

Public Investments

The City of Lone Tree continues to make landscaping investments that provide a significant public impact. The new landscape median located on Yosemite Street immediately south of 470 was undertaken in 2018. The new landscaping located on the east side of the Arts Center, including a feature evergreen tree, was implemented in 2017.

Social Media & Public Outreach Tools

The City of Lone Tree has established a communication network that can effectively and efficiently serve as the platform from which community messaging about proper tree selection, location, planting and maintenance can be disseminated.





Recommendations

**In 2018,
Lone Tree
had 4313
followers on
Twitter.**

**1604 follow
us on
Facebook.**

Goal

Leverage the efforts of stakeholders by engaging residents, homeowner associations, commercial property owners, and metro districts in caring for our urban forest:

2019 Action Plan

Promote urban forest education and encourage participation in tree planting with a community outreach plan that focuses on:

- Promotion of proper tree selection, location, planting and maintenance with a month long social media effort during the month of April.
- Responding to weather events (droughts, wind storms, heavy snow falls) with social media messaging intended to assist residents and businesses in taking appropriate steps to mitigate threats and problems. The message content is readily available from our partner, the Colorado State Forest Service.

Goal

Manage the urban forest through coordinated planning, design and maintenance to ensure long-term tree health.

2019 Action Plan

- Require maintenance of approved site plans by conducting annual inspection of trees located on commercial property and require replacement trees per the current ordinance.
- Utilize new development to create appropriate opportunities for the planting of new trees by the review of proposed site improvement plans.

Goal

Protect the urban forest from threats and loss caused by pests and diseases.

2019 Action Plan

- Develop strategies to combat diseases and pests.
- Convene a study group from the Front Range Urban Forestry Council to establish a plan to mitigate the adverse impact of Pine Wilt Disease on evergreen trees.



Injection system used to administer treatments to prevent pine wilt disease.

Outreach Plan Message Library

The scientists at the Colorado State University and Colorado State Forest Service are continually circulating tree care advisories addressing specific tree threats and offering recommendations for action. These advisories will serve as the basis for accurate and timely messaging by the City of Lone Tree. The following are examples:

Source: Colorado State Forest Service

Be Careful Dealing with Storm-Damaged Trees

BROOMFIELD, Colo. – April 18, 2018 – Many residents of the Front Range corridor will be dealing with storm-damaged trees after yesterday's windstorm, and may soon be considering actions to protect and repair them. Keith Wood, urban and community forestry manager for the Colorado State Forest Service, said that although the first impulse may be to start sawing when a tree is damaged, homeowners should first assess the situation to avoid hurting themselves or further damaging the tree.

Wood and the CSFS offer the following tips for dealing with storm-damaged trees; the tips were adapted from International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) recommendations:

Check for hazards. Before approaching a tree, examine your surroundings to avoid making contact with downed utility lines or standing under broken, hanging branches.

Contact city officials if necessary. Trees between the street and a city sidewalk may be the responsibility of city crews.

Assess the damage. If a tree is healthy overall and still possesses its leader (the main upward branch), most of its major limbs and 50 percent or more of its crown, the chance is good for a complete recovery.

Remove broken branches. This minimizes the risk of decay and insects or diseases entering the wound. Prune at the branch collar – the point where a branch joins a larger one – and be mindful of potential pent-up energy if the branch is twisted or bent.

Don't over-prune. With the loss of some branches, a tree may look unbalanced, but most trees quickly grow new foliage that hides bare areas.

Don't try to do it all yourself. If the job requires running a chainsaw overhead, sawing from a ladder or removing large branches or entire trees, contact an insured, certified arborist. Professionals often are listed in the phone book under "tree services."

For more information about caring for storm-damaged trees, visit the CSFS website or go to http://static.colostate.edu/client-files/csfs/pdfs/Storm_Damage_Quick_Guide.pdf. To find an ISA-certified arborist, visit www.isa-arbor.com.

Source: Colorado State Forest Service

Plant Trees to Prepare for Emerald Ash Borer, Increase Diversity

BROOMFIELD, Colo. – April 17, 2018 – Many Coloradans plant trees in the spring because it's the best time of year to get new trees established, and communities around the state will be hosting plantings this week to recognize Colorado's Arbor Day – which this year falls on April 20. With the exotic, tree-killing emerald ash borer (EAB) establishing its presence in the state, there's one more reason for planting in Colorado communities this year.

"Now is a great time to consider planting trees for any reason," said Keith Wood, urban and community forestry manager for the Colorado State Forest Service. "One good reason is to ultimately replace ash trees that may later succumb to emerald ash borer."

EAB, a non-native pest responsible for the death of millions of ash trees and billions of dollars in costs in more than 30 states, was confirmed in the City of Boulder in 2013. EAB has since spread and been detected in Longmont, Lafayette, Gunbarrel and Lyons. Wood says further spread is imminent in Colorado.

Although EAB has not yet been confirmed in Colorado outside Boulder County, one of the reasons the exotic pest is a concern for communities all over Colorado is that an estimated 15 percent or more of all urban and community trees in the state are ash.

Wood says that with EAB expected to kill thousands of Colorado ash trees in the coming years – and because it takes decades for most planted trees to reach maturity – it makes sense for homeowners to not only assess the health of their ash trees this year, but to also plan for the possible loss of those trees down the road. He and other experts with the interagency Colorado EAB Response Team also want to make sure that Coloradans avoid planting any true ash species (genus *Fraxinus*), and that they remember to always plant for tree diversity on their properties and in their neighborhoods.

"No one species should comprise more than 10 percent of the planted trees growing in any urban or community setting," said Wood. "Whenever too many of the same type of tree are planted together, we are setting ourselves up for potential problems with insects and diseases."

The Colorado Tree Coalition offers online descriptions of trees suitable to plant throughout Colorado, and also a list of recommended trees to plant along the Front Range. For more information, go to www.coloradotrees.org.

More EAB information for homeowners is available at csfs.colostate.edu/emerald-ash-borer.

Source: Colorado State Forest Service

Late Winter the Best Time to Prune Trees

BROOMFIELD, Colo. – Feb. 20, 2018 – Late winter, from mid-February through early March, is the best time to prune most trees. Trees are still dormant at this time of year and, unlike in early winter, wound closure will be rapid if pruning occurs just prior to the time new growth emerges.

“Pruning trees during the late dormant season reduces impacts on tree health, and builds a strong structure for our community trees in the long term,” said Keith Wood, urban and community forestry manager for the Colorado State Forest Service. Wood says that although some elms, maples, birch and walnut trees may visibly exude sap if pruned in the late winter or early spring, this should not harm the tree.

The CSFS offers the following tree pruning tips:

- Know what you want to accomplish before you start pruning. Don't remove any living branches without a good reason or specific objectives in mind.

- Remove any torn, dead or broken branches.

- Try to develop or maintain one dominant vertical top stem, or leader, and don't cut off the tops of trees.

- Space the main branches along the trunk, and prevent branches below the permanent canopy from growing upright or too large.

- Always prune just outside the branch collar – the point where one branch leaves a larger one (or the trunk), often discerned by raised or wrinkled bark.

- Limit pruning of newly planted trees to the removal of dead, damaged or crossing limbs, or those interfering with the main stem.

- Avoid removing too many of a tree's branches in any one year, as this will put undue stress on the tree.

- Consider recycling pruned limbs by having them ground into mulch.

If a job requires running a chainsaw overhead or removing large branches or entire trees, Wood says it is best to contact an insured, ISA Certified Arborist. A list of these professionals can be found at <http://www.isa-arbor.com>. For more information about urban tree care, go to www.csfs.colostate.edu.

Source: Colorado State Forest Service

Winter Tree Watering Necessary During Drought Conditions

BROOMFIELD, Colo. – January 16, 2018 – Despite a relatively small amount of precipitation falling recently, the most recent U.S. Drought Monitor map indicates that nearly all of Colorado is currently experiencing some level of drought. Trees in urban and community settings throughout this region are dormant now, but still require occasional watering during dry winters to remain in top health.

Keith Wood, urban and community forestry manager for the Colorado State Forest Service, says planted trees in Colorado, especially at lower elevations, often require additional watering in the winter months during extended dry periods (e.g., more than two weeks without lasting snow cover).

“Adequately watering your trees is the best way to ensure optimum health and vigor that will carry through to the growing season,” said Wood. “Overly dry trees become susceptible to root and branch die-back, and subsequent insect and disease problems.”

The CSFS offers the following winter watering tips:

Water when it’s warm. The best time for winter watering is on days when snow has melted off and the temperature is above 40 degrees.

Water a wide area. Tree root systems may spread much wider than the height of the tree, with most absorbing roots in the top foot of soil. Apply water to soak the entire area underneath the full span of a tree’s branches.

Water slowly. To ensure deep penetration, use a drip or soaker hose on low setting, or soft spray wand, to apply water slowly to the full area at the rate of 10 gallons per inch of tree diameter.

Retain mulch. To retain soil moisture and save water, apply 4 inches of organic mulch onto bare soil within 2 to 3 feet from the base of the trunk, but not directly against the trunk.

Repeat as necessary. Until abundant spring precipitation arrives, be sure to continue watering every few weeks in the absence of snow and colder temperatures.

For more information about urban tree care, visit the Colorado State Forest Service website at www.csfs.colostate.edu.

Source: Colorado State Forest Service

Tips to Prepare Landscape Trees for Winter

BROOMFIELD, Colo. – October 31, 2017 – Landscape trees in urban and community settings throughout Colorado are going dormant now, and they require care before and during the winter to remain in top health. Homeowners can take measures this fall and through the spring to help their trees through the oncoming harsh conditions, says Keith Wood, community forestry program manager for the Colorado State Forest Service.

The CSFS offers the following tips to prepare Colorado's community trees for winter:

Wrap the trunk. Thin-barked trees like honeylocust, maple and linden are susceptible to sunscald and frost cracks because of drastic winter temperature fluctuations. To prevent bark damage, wrap the trunks of younger trees up to the first branches using commercial tree wrap. Leave the wrap on until early April.

Mulch the base. Apply 2 to 4 inches of wood chips, bark or other organic mulch near the base of the tree, but not against it, to reduce soil evaporation, improve water absorption and insulate against temperature extremes. Some community recycling programs provide wood chips free of charge.

Recycle leaves. Instead of disposing of autumn leaves, consider layering them around the base of each tree as mulch, or blend them into the yard with a mulching mower to retain nutrients.

Give them a good drink. Before storing the garden hose, water trees in the area extending from the trunk to the extent of the longest branches. Water slowly, with a sprinkler or soaker hose, at the rate of 10 gallons per inch of tree diameter.

Focus on younger trees. With less-extensive root systems, they require the most care.

Wait to prune, unless there's recent tree damage. Late winter is the best time for pruning most tree species, but it can be done whenever trees are dormant. Common reasons for pruning are to remove dead branches and improve tree form – and to quickly address recent tree damage, such as seen in the Metro Denver area during the snowstorm earlier this month. Always prune just outside the branch collar – the point where a branch joins a larger one – and don't remove any branches without good reason. Hire a professional if the job is too big.

Wood says landscape trees in Colorado often also require additional, regular watering over the winter. During extended dry periods (e.g., more than two weeks without snow cover), provide supplemental water per the guidelines above. The best time for winter watering is on warmer days, when snow has melted off and the temperature is above 40 degrees.

Source: Colorado State Forest Service

Study Identifies Fastest-Growing Trees for Front Range

BROOMFIELD, Colo. – September 12, 2017 – Homeowners considering planting a tree this fall, take heed: According to a report just released by the Colorado State Forest Service, the fastest-growing planted trees for Colorado’s Front Range communities appear to be cottonwood, catalpa, silver maple, blue spruce and white oak varieties. Hawthorn, piñon pine and hackberry are some of the slowest growers.

White ash varieties, including the highly popular “Autumn Purple” ash trees common to Front Range neighborhoods, also are fast-growing, but are no longer recommended for planting in Colorado due to the threat of being killed by the non-native pest emerald ash borer (EAB).

The report characterized the long-term growth of 19 common urban tree species grown on publicly maintained land in Westminster over a 24-year period, as tracked by the CSFS and City of Westminster. The average trunk-diameter growth rates of nearly 1,500 trees, which represents all those that survived the study period in fair to good condition, can be used by homeowners, landscape architects, designers/installers and tree care professionals to select trees for planting that will most quickly provide shade, aesthetics and other benefits after planting.

Keith Wood, CSFS community forestry program manager and lead study author, cautions that tree growth rates should not be the only factor consumers look for when buying trees at a local nursery.

“Factors like insect and disease susceptibility, hardiness in our harsh climate and soils, and shorter lifespan in some faster-growing species should also be considered when selecting the right tree,” he said. He warns that some fast-growing shade trees, including cottonwoods and silver maples, are prone to branch breakage in the state’s all-too-common late spring and early fall snows, while slower growers like hackberry and honeylocust can be excellent choices as they thrive in this area.

Wood says that another key consideration when selecting trees should always be the goal of seeking high tree diversity within a community, to make the urban forest more resilient to future insect and disease threats that target specific hosts. He recommends that potential tree buyers review the “Front Range Tree Recommendation List” offered by the Colorado Tree Coalition, which includes descriptions of trees suitable for the area and drawbacks to consider. The list, along with an ash tree replacement selection tool and species diversity calculator, is available at www.coloradotrees.org.

To view the full growth-rate study results for all 19 tree species, go to <http://csfs.colostate.edu/csfs/media/sites/22/2017/08/FINAL-Growth-Rate-Study-2016-02Aug2017.pdf>

Source: 2018 City of Lone Tree Messaging

Tweet:

Don't let your cherished tree become a safety hazard. Keep overhanging tree branches a minimum distance of six feet above sidewalks. Watch out for tree limbs that obstruct stop signs. Avoid damaging your tree by...

More Detailed Article For www.CityOfLoneTree.com

The greenery is finally here! Homeowners, businesses and property managers are noticing new tree growth is causing some tree branches to obstruct street signs and sidewalks. To eliminate safety hazards while preserving your valued trees:

Saw, don't snap and pull tree limbs. This minimizes the risk of decay, as well as the opportunity for insects or diseases to enter the tree wound.

While you are there, check for broken tree branches. Remove broken branches by pruning the limb at the branch collar – the point where a branch joins a larger one – and be mindful of potential pent-up energy if the branch is twisted or bent.

Don't over-prune. With the loss of some branches, a tree may look unbalanced, but most trees quickly grow new foliage that hides bare areas.

For large projects, Think long and hard about doing the clean-up work yourself, or hiring a contractor. Many of us are afraid of chain saws and ladders. Google "Denver tree care companies" to identify potential contractors.



Source: 2018 City of Lone Tree Messaging

Tweet:

April 27th is Arbor Day! The City of Lone Tree is proud to have achieved recognition as a Tree City USA for the past 15 years. Trees are assets to a community when properly planted and maintained. Tree City USA was designed by the Arbor Day Foundation to encourage better care of the nation's community forests. (Link to Learn More)

More Detailed Article For www.CityOfLoneTree.com

Trees help improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

Tree City USA is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. Tree City USA's national impact comes through a tree stewardship program and educational efforts.

The City of Lone Tree is one of 93 communities in Colorado that have earned Tree City USA recognition.

Tree City USA Standards

TO QUALIFY AS A TREE CITY USA COMMUNITY, a town or city must meet four standards established by The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.

1. A Tree Board or Department
2. A Tree Care Ordinance
3. A Community Forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita
4. An Arbor Day observation and proclamation

About the Arbor Day Foundation: The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. More information is available at www.arborday.org.

Source: 2018 City of Lone Tree Messaging

Tweet:

Why mulch? How much is needed? By placing a three inch deep layer of mulch starting three inches away from tree trunk, you will help create the ideal environment for your tree roots to thrive and produce a healthier looking and longer lasting tree. Wind and water may have washed last year's mulch away. Organic mulch decays, so the depth of mulch declines as well and needs to be replenished.

More Detailed Article For www.CityOfLoneTree.com

Mulch is great for your trees, as well as your shrubs!

Mulch insulates the soil helping to provide a buffer from heat and cold temperatures.

Mulch retains water helping to keep the roots moist.

Mulch keeps weeds out to help prevent root competition.

Mulch prevents soil compaction.

Mulch reduces lawn mower damage.

Too much of a good thing can be harmful. Placing mulch at depths greater than three inches may start to inhibit the flow of air to the soil. When mulch is placed directly against the tree trunk, it creates a harmful environment in which harmful molds can thrive. You also want to keep that three inch distance from the tree trunk when mulching to avoid root growth that can encircle your tree trunk and lead to stress and decline of your tree.

Don't forget to water. Learn more at Visit "9 Tree Care Tips & techniques" at arborday.org



Lone Tree Ordinances Related to Trees

Chapter 7

ARTICLE III—Trees

The purpose of this Article is to establish policies for planting, maintenance and removal of trees, and to establish the position of City Forester.

Sec. 7-3-40.-Street tree species, spacing and location.

Sec. 7-3-50.-Public tree care, removal and planting.

Sec. 7-3-60.-Tree topping

Sec. 7-3-70.-Pruning;corner clearance.

Sec. 7-3-80-Dead or diseased tree removal on private property.

Sec. 7-3-90-Removal of Stumps.



Chapter 16

ARTICLE XXXII - Landscaping Standards

These *standards* are intended to:

Create inviting and functional *landscapes* that provide year-round visual interest; enhance the pedestrian environment; complement architectural features; support visual continuity along streets; create gateways and focal points; complement indigenous *landscapes*; mitigate negative visual impacts; and provide screening and buffering, where appropriate.

Enhance community health and the environment by creating *landscapes* suited to local soil, climatic and on-site conditions for improved plant growth and survivability; minimize water and natural resource consumption and maintenance costs; protect existing trees, important natural areas and features such as bluffs or wetlands; moderate temperature and mitigate the impacts of wind; reduce runoff, enhance water quality and abate site erosion; and stabilize steep slopes.

Sec. 16-32-30. - Water-efficient landscaping principles.

Sec. 16-32-40. - Landscape design.

Sec. 16-32-50. - Minimum area to be landscaped.

Sec. 16-32-60. - Parking lot landscaping.

Sec. 16-32-70. - Minimum plant size.

Sec. 16-32-80. - Minimum plant quantity.

Sec. 16-32-90. - Plant selection.

Sec. 16-32-100. - Soil amendment.

Sec. 16-32-110. - Irrigation.

Sec. 16-32-120. - Mulching/groundcover.

Sec. 16-32-130. - Plant replacement.

ARTICLE II—General Requirements and Exceptions

Sec. 16-2-210—Property Maintenance

Landscape Design Guidelines For Public Rights-Of-Way

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide direction to landscape architects, metropolitan districts, and City staff with a clear understanding of the City’s expectations for the planning, design, review, and maintenance of landscaping within and along public rights-of-way in the City of Lone Tree. These Guidelines set the stage for flexibility and dialogue during project review and are not meant to limit creativity and innovation, but to meet the overall intent as provided below.

The intent of these guidelines is to:

- 1. Enhance the unique natural identity and environment of Lone Tree and promote attractive treescapes according to recognized horticultural and landscape design practices;
- 2. Design, install and maintain sustainable landscapes in keeping with Xeriscape principles for improved plant growth and survivability, which also serves to minimize plant replacement costs; and
- 3. Enhance public safety by separating vehicular traffic and pedestrian areas with tree lawns, through sight guidelines at intersections, and other means.

View the [Landscape Design Guidelines For Public Rights-of-Way](#).

