Redesign of *Approved Tree Species List*

Proposal by

Friends of Native Trees in Takoma (FONTT)

Prepared by

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Current *Approved Tree Species List* document

Link to document on city website

Table: 2 pages listing approved species

Takoma Park Approved Tree Species List

Scientific Name	Common Name	Nearest Historically Native State	Size Category	Mature Canopy Height (feet)	Mature Canopy Spread (feet)	Soil Moisture Preference			Sun Preference			
						Dry	Moist	Wet	Full-Sun	Part-Sun	Shade	
Acer rubrum	Red Maple	Maryland	Large	40-75	35-60		x	x	x	x		Surface roots can in pavement. To
Acer saccharinum	Silver Maple	Maryland	Large	50-85	55-80		x	x	x	x		Surface roots can in
Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple	Maryland	Large	55-85	45-70		x		x	x	x	Less tolera
Aesculus flava	Yellow Buckeye	West Virginia	Large	55-75	45-65		x		x	x		S
Carya cordiformis	Bitternut Hickory	Maryland	Large	55-85	45-75		x	x	x	x		
Carya glabra	Pignut Hickory	Maryland	Large	55-80	35-50	x	x	x	x	x		
Carya illinoensis	Pecan	Kentucky	Large	75-100	40-75		x		x			
Carya ovata	Shagbark Hickory	Maryland	Large	65-90	50-65		x		x	x		
Carya tomentosa	Mockernut Hickory	Maryland	Large	55-70	45-60		x		x	x		
Celtis laevigata	Sugarberry	Virginia	Large	60-80	60-80		x	x	x	x		Small edib

Text: 3 pages on various topics

Using the Approved Tree Species List

Introduction

This species list is intended to serve as a guide for species selection in Takoma Park. The City has established a policy of using only native species when possible for tree planting. Trees provide many ecological benefits to our community but it is important that the right tree be selected for a given place. Not every tree will thrive in every location so it is important to consider the site soil and light condition.

One of the best indicators of a tree's ecological contribution is its canopy size. A larger canopy will provide more cooling shade to the city and your property, intercept and transpire more stormwater, provide more habitat for wildlife, and sequester more carbon dioxide. And larger trees tend to be of species that live longer lives. You can maximize the benefits your tree will provide by selecting a species that will eventually grow to have a healthy-sized canopy.

The next five slides explain in a nutshell our idea for improving the communications value of the document.

Product

An *Approved Tree Species List* document optimized for clarity and usability through

- **smart design**
- **layered information**
- **concise and relevant text**

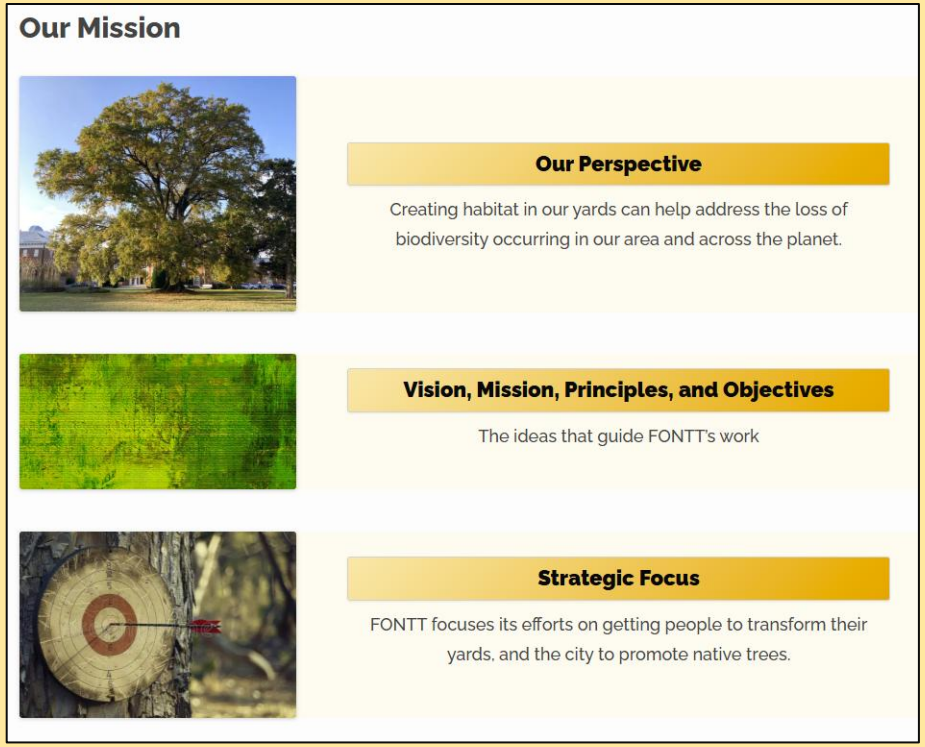
Process and tentative timeline

1. City accepts FONTT proposal	November
2. FONTT submits first draft	Mid-January
3. City comments on first draft	End January
4. FONTT submits revised draft	Mid-February
5. City comments on revised draft	End February
6. FONTT submits final draft	Early March
7. FONTT makes any additional adjustments requested by the City	Mid-March
8. City posts revised document on website prior to MD Arbor Day	April 1

No charge for our services

This work is in line with FONTT's mission to strengthen biodiversity

Biodiversity loss and climate change are two sides of the same coin



About Us

FONTT competence to undertake this task

The task is communications: design, organization, textual style.

Our ability to deliver quality communications products is demonstrated by FONTT's website and native tree guide.

FONTT Website

https://fontt.org/

Native Tree Guide

Link to online guide

Technical Review

The city provides technical review, as shown above in the *Process and tentative timeline* slide.

If useful, FONTT can obtain technical input from UMD faculty.
FONTT has an informal network of UMD faculty who provide advice and technical review for our products. These professors include

Dr. William Hubbard, Urban and Community Forestry, UMD Extension Service

Dr. Karin Burghardt, Burghardt Lab, Entomology Department

Dr. Joseph Sullivan, Forest Ecology, Plant Science Department

Dr. David Myers, Green Infrastructure, GIS, Landscape Architecture Department

Dr. Travis Gallo, Urban Ecologist, Environmental Science and Technology Department

The next five slides present our initial editing suggestions

Table: Re-format

- **Portrait-orientation**
- **Larger font**
- **Color bands to distinguish rows**
- **Hyperlinks**

Title	
Column Headings	
Hyperink to additional information on species	Tahoma 12
Hyperink to additional information on species	Tahoma 11
Hyperink to additional information on species	Calibri 12
Hyperink to additional information on species	Calibri 11

Table: Eliminate some columns

Eliminate "Size Category" column by organizing table by size (large, medium, small)

Size Category
Large
Large
Large
Large
Large
Large

Soil Moisture Preference			Sun Preference		
Dry	Moist	Wet	Full-Sun	Part-Sun	Shade
	X			X	X
X					

Large Tree Species

Large = 40 ft. and taller

D=Dry **M**=Moist **W**=Wet

Su=Sun **PSh**=Part Shade **Sh**=Shade

Eliminate four columns by having a single column each for "Soil Moisture Requirement" and "Light Requirements"

Table: Add explanatory notes for each column

Height: The figures represent the estimated height range for the species *at maturity*, which may require decades for a tree to reach. The data come from the Missouri Botanical Garden (2022), or if not available there, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2005) or the hyperlink

Sun Exposure: Data from U.S. Fish and W
there, Missouri Botanical Garden (2022

Su (Full sun) = at least six hours of sunli

PSh (Part shade) = three to six hours of

Sh (Shade) = less than three hours of di

Soil Moisture: Data from U.S. Fish and W
there, Missouri Botanical Garden (2022) or the hyperlink source for that species.

D (Dry) = Water does not remain after rain. Can be used as an indicator of drought tolerance.

This text is meant only to illustrate what a columnar explanatory note is.

The actual text for the list's columns would be written to reflect how those specific columns have been defined, based on comments and decisions by the city.

Table: Re-imagine some columns

Nearest Historically Native State
Marylan
Pennsylvania
Maryland
Maryland
Kentucky

Native to MD	Native to MoCo
☑	☑
☑	

FONTT can explain several alternatives for how the City may wish to define "native tree."

#Butterfly Species Hosted	Bees Find Attractive
274	1
317	3

The information in the *Notes* column provided through hyperlinks to trusted horticultural sources.

Notes
Fast growing. Somewhat weedy habit
Showy flower, large husked seed
More tolerant of urban conditions than other birches. Attractive bark
Showy flower, long 'bean pods'.
Evergreen
Showy flower
Edible fruit
Showy flower. Somewhat tender when young, though reported to

Option: Instead, use the *Notes* columnar space to indicate the ecological value of the various species

Text: Concise and Relevant

- **Start by explaining document's purpose and audience**
- **Address most or all additional topics through hyperlinks to dedicated information sheets or webpages**
- ***Option:*** **add short (name only) specialized lists, e.g., trees with fruit, good fall color, showy flowers**


Thank
You!