



**TREES IN THE
CITY OF HUXLEY**

Tree Selection, Placement, Planting, and Care

**Recommendations for
Homeowners
Commercial and Retail Businesses
Public Properties**

Updated Spring 2009
to include street tree planting procedures.



This document is prepared by the Huxley Tree Board to further promote the mission of the Board.

MISSION:

To work with the community to promote and develop an urban forest

VISION:

Increase urban tree population.

Promote better quality trees and maintenance.

Remove hazardous trees.

Provide information about trees.

Establish a working tree ordinance.

We encourage planting of trees and shrubs to improve the environment, increase property value, reduce airborne pollutants, produce oxygen, shade sidewalks and streets to cool the neighborhood, moderate noise, provide windbreaks, reduce heating and cooling costs, attract songbirds, and screen unpleasant views.

This supplement provides information on suggested tree species to select for certain situations and basic tree planning and care information. Careful selection and care of trees will help create a healthy urban forest and reduce the incidence of hazardous trees that can cause personal injury and property damage. It was also provide information concerning the updated Huxley tree ordinance in regard to the planting of street trees.

Contact the City Tree Board for information on:

Current tree planting projects

Grants or funding available for buying trees for private & public properties

Help in selecting, placing, planting, pruning, etc. of your trees

Volunteer opportunities

City of Huxley Ordinance Establishing a Tree Board

CHAPTER 25 - TREE BOARD

25.01 Tree Board Established

25.02 Duties

25.01 TREE BOARD ESTABLISHED.

There is hereby created and established a City Tree Board for the City, which consists of five members, appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Council, for staggered three-year terms.

25.02 DUTIES.

The Tree Board is an advisory board within the Parks and Recreation Department. The Tree Board, working with the Public Works Director, has the duty to prepare, revise annually and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal and disposition of trees and shrubs located within the right-of-way boundaries of all City streets or located on any other property owned by the City. The Tree Board shall develop this plan and work in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Board regarding trees located within City parks. Said plan shall be presented to the Council annually for approval. Upon the request of the Council, the City Tree Board shall consider, investigate, make findings, report on and provide recommendations concerning any special matters or questions coming within the scope of its work.

25.03 COMPENSATION.

Members of the Board shall serve without compensation.

25.04 OPERATION.

The City Tree Board shall choose its own officers, establish rules and regulations within the scope of its duties and keep a journal of its proceedings. A majority of the members shall be quorum for the transaction of business.

Guidelines for planting near overhead utility lines:

Call 1-800-292-8989 to locate underground utilities, visit <http://www.iowaonecall.com/> for more information.

(See pruning section for tree care under power lines)

1. If directly under overhead lines, plant small trees with a mature height of 25 feet. High voltage lines are usually 30' to 35' above ground.
2. Plant medium sized trees at least 10' lineal from overhead lines.
3. Plant large sized trees at least 20' lineal from overhead lines.
4. Trees taller than 25 feet at maturity should be planted far enough away so branches do not come within 10 feet of power lines.

1. All tree plantings in the R-O-W need prior approval from the city through an application/permit process. Application forms are available from the Parks and Recreation Department in the Citizen Community Center (3C's) or at City Hall during regular business hours.
2. The approval process ensures that the correct types of trees are placed in the allowed areas for safety and property protection considerations.
3. The Tree Board and Huxley Public Works Department work together in the R-O-W application process.
4. For specific questions, see the Huxley Tree Ordinance for specific details.

Guidelines for New Construction:

Tree plantings are recommended in new subdivision developments, commercial developments, parking lots and public spaces. The Tree Board is available to assist in reviewing the landscape plan concerning construction techniques that avoid damage to existing trees and identifying trees that can be saved.

1. Plan for the placement of street trees when determining the location of new utilities.
2. Plant dense landscaping to screen unattractive views such as storage areas, trash enclosures, loading docks, transformers, etc.
3. Public parking areas along streets, highways, parks, or other such areas should plant a minimum of 1 tree per 10 parking stalls to provide visual impact and shade.
4. Commercial, retail, and industrial sites should plant trees/shrubs in off-street parking areas for visual impact and screening for adjacent residential areas.
5. Plant trees and shrubs in public areas such as schools and city buildings for visual impact and screening for adjacent residential areas.
6. Landscape screening should be used in unsightly areas as along the highway gateways leading into and through the City of Huxley.

Guidelines for Screening:

1. If a year round screen is desired, include coniferous evergreens.
2. Trees do not have to be in a straight line. Grouping of trees can provide needed screening with a natural appearance.
3. Plan the entire planting, even if you plan to plant over several seasons.
4. Select small and/or medium-sized trees for screening small areas, but include larger species in screenings for large property.
5. For limited space, select columnar trees with minimum width.
6. Avoid monotony by blending different types of trees in the screening.
7. Dense trees with coarse texture are most useful as sound barriers.
8. In retail & industrial sites use trees with medium texture for a feeling of space and for light and air movement.

Call 1-800-292-8989 to locate underground utilities, visit <http://www.iowaonecall.com/> for more information.

1. Plant bare root trees before the buds swell and new growth begins, about March or April. Keep roots cool and moist until planting.
2. Plant balled and bur lapped or container grown plant until early summer and again early in the fall.
3. Well-drained, fertile, loamy soil is preferred. Heavy clay and poorly drained soils are deficient in oxygen and suffocate tree roots.
4. The planting hole should be dug twice as wide and as deep as the root ball. With heavy soil, dig a wider hole.
5. Use the soil from the original hole as backfill.
6. Plant a tree as its original growing depth. Planting too deep or too shallow will kill the tree.

Mulching:

Trees will grow nearly twice as fast if mulched out to the drip-line of the tree, according to research by the Morton Arboretum, Chicago. For young trees, use a **three-foot** circle of mulch **six inches deep** at the outer rim, tapering down to ground level at the base of the tree. This prevents rodent and insect damage to the bark. Mulch holds moisture, prevents soil compaction which can retard root growth, and protects against damage from mowers and string trimmers.

Mulch Materials: wood chips, bark chunks/granules, composted leaves, corncobs and sawdust.

Caring for Newly Planted Trees:

Watering:

1. During dry periods, water every five to seven days.
2. Trees on heavy clay soil may need water only every 10 to 14 days.
3. To promote root growth water slow and deep, Water the perimeter of the planting site also.
4. Too much water, particularly if the soil is poorly drained, can kill trees.

Fertilizing:

Applying fertilizer wastes time and money, leads to salt buildup in the soil, and contributes to water pollution. Fertilize only if you know the soil is deficient in certain minerals.

Staking:

Stake a newly transplanted tree only if it is top-heavy, bare root, or has high wind resistance like evergreens. Do not support trees too rigidly! Trees should flex to develop strength. Stake for **one year only**.

Caring for Established Trees:

Trees should never be topped:

Topping causes growth of weak shoots that easily break during storms, makes the tree vulnerable to rotting, can result in a hazardous tree, decreases the value of the tree, and destroys the natural form of the tree.

Pruning Directions:

1. Never prune trees that are touching or near utility lines: consult Alliant Energy.
2. Vigorous pruning is best done mid-winter to early spring before buds open. Do not prune oaks between March and August to avoid oak wilt. Broken or dead branches can be pruned anytime.
3. Do not apply wound treatments, they interfere with healing of cuts.
4. Use the following guide for size of branches that can be pruned:
 - a. Under 2 inch diameter – go ahead.
 - b. Between 2-4 inch diameter – think twice.
 - c. Greater than 4 inch – have a good reason.
 - d. Leave the chainsaw in the garage!
 - e.

Power Line Pruning:

V-shaped method: use on trees directly under power lines. Remove branches from the center of the tree, leaving side branches to grow up and away from power lines. Side branches shade the center of the tree suppressing sprouting.

Side-trim technique: for trees alongside power lines. Remove only branches interfering with the lines. Cut branches at their point of origin.

Avoid topping! (see Topping above)

Avoid tipping: removing the ends of side branches, causing excessive sprouting, and the need to be pruned frequently.

Remove the tree: trees that look deformed from poor pruning are often structurally weak, posing a hazard to people and property, and should be removed.

Which Branches to Prune:

Branch Angles and Size –For strength, the ideal branching angle is approximately 10 to 2 o'clock. Narrower angles are weaker. Remove branches causing weak angles (Figure 1). Branches should be no more than ½ or ¾ the diameter of the trunk. Space branches 15 – 35 inches apart.

Center of Gravity – Correct wind damaged trees by pruning. Straighten the center of gravity by cutting back the leader and laterals on the downwind side (direction of lean) to more upright

from sun injury and add strength to the trunk. Begin pruning these limbs 1-4 years after planting and remove a few each year. (Figure 3)

Rubbing Branches – Remove a branch that rubs against another. Rubbing results in wounds and decay. (Figure 4)

Watersprouts and Suckers – “Parasite” sprouts at the base or inside the crown are rapid growing, weak, and upright. They use more energy than they return to the tree. Remove them as soon as possible. (Figure 5)

Double Leaders – Remove extra upright leaders. Never remove the leader of a tree, unless it is damaged. If removed, prune tree to train a main branch to become the leader.

Selecting Your Tree

Our goal is to have a variety of tree species in Huxley. A tree survey revealed that we have a heavy planting of Green Ash and Silver Maple. The recommended trees are low maintenance and have few pest problems.

Recommended Trees for Huxley

15-25’

Small

Crabapples
Flowering Crabs
Hornbeam
Hophornbeam
Amur Corktree
Amur Maple
Red Bud
Serviceberry
Japanese Tree Lilac
Japanese Pagoda Tree
Amur Maackia
Hawthorn
Crimson King Maple
Thornless Cockspur
Washington Hawthorn
Winter King Hawthorn
Shantung Maple
Pekin Lilac
Blackhaw Viburnum
Dogwood
Common Witch Hazel
Magnolia

25-40’

Medium

River Birch
Little Leaf Linden
Horsechestnut
Buckeye
Paper Birch
Black Cherry
Redmond Linden
Shingle Oak

>40’

Large

White Oak
Red Oak
Black Oak
English Oak
Swamp White Oak
Honey Locust
Kentucky Coffee Tree
Basswood
Hickories
Hackberry
Sugar Maple
Black Maple
Norway Maple
Ginko (male)

Trees Not Recommended for Huxley

Boxelder
White Poplar
Willows
Silver Maple
Russian Olive
Ginko (female)

Siberian Elm
Lombardy Poplar
Tree of Heaven
Catalpa
Weeping Birch
Pin Oaks

Cottonwood
Bolleana Poplar
American Elm
Black Locust
Sycamore
Ash