

Boulevard Tree Planting Process

Boulevard Tree Permits are required for planting trees within the City of La Crosse owned right-of-ways. Permits may be completed by property owners and there is no fee for the permit. To ensure a successful boulevard tree permit application, please follow these guidelines:

- Visit CityofLaCrosse.org's forestry page to obtain a copy of the Boulevard Tree Planting Permit Application. Complete and return this application to the Forestry Dept. prior to planting.
- Resident is responsible for scheduling a utility "locate" with Digger's Hotline prior to final approval. Digger's Hotline can be reached by dialing "811", 800-242-8511 or by visiting www.diggershotline.com.
- Ensure that you have reviewed the guidelines for tree planting and care outlined in Sec. 34-144 of the City of La Crosse Municipal Code, and that your desired planting location meets these requirements.
- Please use the list of recommended and prohibited trees that we have provided to make your planting selection. Trees that are on the prohibited list will not be approved.
- All tree species and locations will be subject to approval by the city's Forestry Department.

Timeline for Approval and Planting

STEP 1: Fill out your Boulevard Tree Planting Application ensuring that:

- You have called Diggers Hotline to schedule a locate.
- Your desired location is not within 30' of an intersection
- Your desired location is not within 2' of a curb line or sidewalk
- Your desired planting meets the Recommended Boulevard Trees Guidelines

Step 2: Return your completed Boulevard Tree Planting Application to the La Crosse Forestry Department by mail or in-person during open hours of 8am to 4pm M-Th, to 400 La Crosse Street, La Crosse, WI 54601.

Step 3: Inform the Forestry Department once Diggers Hotline has located utilities on the boulevard.

Step 4: Forestry Department staff will inspect the requested site before providing final approval of the requested tree and issuing a permit to the applicant.

Step 5: Once you receive approval, you may plant your boulevard tree in the specified location and continue to maintain water and fertilizer care of the tree.

Recommended & Prohibited Boulevard Trees

The City of La Crosse is committed to promoting a wide variety of trees in its urban forest. To help with this effort, we invite our citizens to research their preferred tree species and determine whether it is suitable for curbside planting. There are many resources available to educate oneself on proper planting methods, including the library, nurseries, the National Arbor Day Foundation, University Extension Office, and the La Crosse Forestry Division Office. It is also important to consider proper aftercare when planting, such as mulching, wrapping thin-barked trees in winter, watering frequency, and fertilizing after two years. Please review the recommended and prohibited trees below to guide your tree search.

Recommended Boulevard Trees

TALL

- HONEYLOCUST
- HACKBERRY
- LINDEN
- ALDER
- RIVER BIRCH
- GINKGO (MALE)
- AMUR CORKTREE
- OAK
- DED RESISTANT ELM
- KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE
- HICKORY
- ZELKOVA
- BUCKEYE
- CATALPA
- TULIP POPLAR
- TURKISH FILBERT
- SYCAMORE/PLANE TREE

SMALL

- TREE LILAC (SINGLE STEM)
- MUSCLEWOOD
- AMUR MAACKIA
- CRABAPPLE
- HAWTHORNE
- IRONWOOD
- ALDER
- RED BUD
- MAGNOLIA
- FRUITLESS PEAR/PLUM
- SERVICEBERRY
- DOGWOOD

Prohibited Boulevard Trees

Some species of trees do not make desirable street side trees. The city of La Crosse prohibits the planting of trees that have weak wood structure, shallow roots, are susceptible to disease, have nuts or large fruits, have thorns, require constant maintenance, and those that do not adapt well to the harsh conditions of a street side planting site (ex. salt sensitive). Because of various objectionable characteristics the following trees are NOT permitted to be planted street side within the city limits of La Crosse:

- EVERGREENS (CONIFERS)
- BLACK LOCUST
- FRUIT TREES (BEARERS)
- COTTONWOOD
- RUSSIAN OLIVES
- MULBERRY
- ASH
- WILLOW
- ASPEN
- NON-DED ELM
- MAPLE
- SIBERIAN ELM