

2025 LBWID Residential Replacement Trees

Species	Characteristics	Ornamental Traits	Wildlife	Tolerance
<i>Quercus alba</i> White Oak Family: Fagaceae	Slow to moderate growth rate. Majestic, eventually very wide spreading, with stout horizontal branches; rounded crown; a very long-lived, legacy tree. ~80-100 feet	Red-orange to burgundy brown fall color. Acorns. New leaves silvery pink; otherwise green above, whitish beneath; some may remain attached in winter	Very high wildlife value. Supports more songbirds, butterflies, and mammals than all other trees. Most important tree to plant now for the future	Full sun to part shade. Tolerates shade but needs sun to thrive. Very adaptable; moist to dry soil.
<i>Quercus phellos</i> Willow Oak Family: Fagaceae	Fast growing, large oak with conical-round crown; very wide spreading branches; majestic habit at maturity. ~50-100 feet	Small willow-like leaves give soft, fine texture. Pale yellow to bronze fall color and small acorns. Readily available.	Very high wildlife value	Full sun to part sun; Young trees prefer sun. Prefers moist sites; tolerates flooding; very adaptable; tolerates dry compacted urban soil.
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> American Sycamore Family Platanaceae	Fast growth. Massive tree; one of largest area hardwoods. Tall strong trunk, broad open crown, spreading branches; ~60-100 feet	Fabulous exfoliating creamy white bark mottled with grey, brown and green. Large lobed leaves, paler underneath	Supports songbirds and other wildlife	Full sun to part sun. Moist to wet soils. Adaptable, usually found along streams, lakesides; tolerates flooding.
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> Black Gum Family: Nyssaceae	Moderate rate of growth. Artistic habit; pendulous lower branches; interesting rugged bark. ~30-60 feet	Fiery orange to red fall color; female trees have small blue fruit which attracts many songbirds in fall.	High wildlife value. Taproot—so plant small or from large container.	Widespread in Lake Barcroft on both dry slopes and moist lakeside sites. Young trees tolerate shade to full sun. Street tree, dry, moist, or wet sites; drought tolerant.
<i>Quercus bicolor</i> Swamp White Oak Family: Fagaceae	Moderate growth rate. Narrow rounded open crown. Becomes a majestic oak with massive trunk, wide branches that may angle downward ~60–100 feet	Acorns. Showy flaked bark when young. Grey. Dark green leaves are silvery below (bicolor) for handsome effect. Red to brown fall color	Very high wildlife value. Supports hundreds of species of songbirds, butterflies, and other wildlife	Full sun to part sun. Very adaptable as an urban tree. Prefers moist to wet areas, tolerates floods, streams. Tolerates heavy clay acidic soils.
<i>Tilia Americana</i> or <i>Tilia Redmond</i> American Linden Aka Basswood Family: Tiliaceae	Large stately tree with dome-shaped dense crown, frequently with drooping lower branches and long, divided trunk. 60-100 feet	Large, heart shaped leaves are pale yellow in fall. Creamy yellow flower clusters in June are fragrant. Bark is gray brown with shallow furrows. Handsome.	Flowers are rich in nectar--a favorite for bees and pollinators. Linden honey is excellent with mild spicy taste. Flowers and leaves are edible; small mammals feed on seeds.	Tolerates shade to part shade. Beautiful tree for rich, moist soils; NOT for excessively dry sites. Naturally prefers north and east facing slopes
<i>Quercus rubra</i> Northern Red Oak Family: Fagaceae	Fast growing, tall trunk, wide-spreading crown 60-90 feet	Red fall color, acorns, dense foliage	Supports lots of wildlife,	Full sun to part sun. Adaptable, dry to moist sites; widespread in Lake Barcroft. Good urban or street tree.
<i>Quercus coccineus</i> , Scarlet Oak Family: Fagaceae	Moderate growing, tall trunk, rounded crown ~40--80 feet	Amazing scarlet fall color, acorns	Supports lots of wildlife	Needs full sun. Dry to moist soil and tolerant of slopes. Good urban or street tree.

Source: Betsy Washington

Light and moisture definitions may vary slightly by source.

LIGHT/SHADE DEFINITIONS:

Sun: Needs at least 6 hours minimum of full, direct sunlight

Part Sun/Part Shade: Needs 3-6 hours of direct light **BUT** less than 3 hours of unprotected midday sun

AND/OR needs shaded or filtered protection from intense sun from 1-6pm.

Shade: Needs less than 3 hours of direct sun and no intense mid-day sun

MOISTURE DEFINITIONS:

DRY: Soil dries out quickly after rain—slopes, windy, sunny, sandy, well-drained locations. Trees suited to dry sites may be more drought-tolerant when mature, but watering during dry periods is recommended, especially before new tree has good root system.

MOIST: Soil holds rain well; soil is often damp; occasionally may become saturated.

WET: Soil is saturated much of the growing season except during drought.

RESOURCES:

Illustrated booklets about tree essentials are available in print and PDF formats:

Tree Basics from Fairfax County Tree Commission. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/trees

Tree Owner's Manual from U.S. Forestry and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture: www.treeownersmanual.info

Plant lists, photographs, descriptions and other gardening resources:

Plant NOVA Natives: <https://www.plantnovanatives.org>

VA Tech tree factsheets. Search by common and species names. <http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/factsheets.cfm>

US Fish & Wildlife Service. <https://www.fws.gov/Chesapeakebay/pdf/NativePlantsforWildlifeHabitatandConservationLandscaping.pdf>

General information:

FAQ: Fairfax County Department of Public Works & Environmental Services Urban Forest Management Division

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/urban-forestry-faq

Fairfax County Tree Commission: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/tree-commission

Virginia Department of Forestry: www.dof.virginia.gov