

2026 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 or 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. |

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