

Go Visit Some of Saratoga's Legacy Elms

These eight trees are among those that survived Dutch Elm disease in the mid-20th century.

DBH=Diameter at Breast Height (4'6" high)

- 176 So. B'way (south of Lincoln) [DBH=48 in.]
- 35 Maple Ave (parking lot) [DBH=45 in.]
- Congress Park (near pond) [DBH=44 in.]
- 519 B'way (opp. City Center) [DBH=42 in.]
- 563 No. B'way (at Arterial) [DBH=38 in.]
- Spa St Park (by admin. bldg.) [DBH=35 in.]
- Court St (south of Phila) [DBH=33 in.]
- 368 B'way (corner, Phila) [DBH=30 in.]

Saratoga's Biggest & Best Trees?

Tell us about your **favorite** tree, the **biggest** tree in your neighborhood, or about one of our **historic** trees.

Email us at:

saratogatreesurvey@gmail.com



A magnificent 200-year old white oak on Cherry St., currently under threat of removal by development at former Ellsworth Ice Cream factory. At 37" in diameter, it is the largest white oak on Saratoga's streets. UFP is working to save it.

TOP GOALS for SARATOGA SPRINGS' URBAN FOREST MASTER PLAN

- **REGAIN SARATOGA'S GRAND TREE VISION.** Educate the public, the design and development communities, City Hall, the Planning Board, and other land use boards that "Trees Pay Us Back."
- **PLANT LARGE TREES AND MORE OF THEM. PRESERVE LARGE TREES.**
- **MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS OF URBAN TREES & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN ALL INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.**
 - **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.** Establish a city-wide vision for the "preservation and expansion of the urban forest."
 - **REVISE THE CITY CODE.** "Preserve and expand the forest" in all development projects.
 - **PLANNING BOARD.** Empower and train them to "preserve and expand the urban forest."
 - **DPW.** Make "preservation and expansion of the urban forest" more central in management and planning.
- **ENLARGE AND IMPROVE THE PLANTING SPACES AND ENVIRONMENTS FOR TREES.**
- **LEGISLATE AND ENFORCE A STRONG TREE REMOVAL POLICY.** Limit removal of City trees to cases of public danger or the health of the tree.
- **FIND AND LEVERAGE MORE RESOURCES FOR TREES,** public and private, financial and volunteer
- **"GREEN THE GUT"
& "TREE TOGA'S CORE"**



URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT

Advocate - Educate - Act

The **Urban Forestry Project (UFP)** took formal shape late in 2011. UFP grew out of a group of volunteers who had been inventorying the street trees of Saratoga Springs under a NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation grant to the City.

Over the first nine months of 2012, the UFP completed the inventory of more than 5600 street and park trees. We recruited and organized more than 125 citizen volunteers to help with the task. The inventory provides the informational foundation for the City's Urban Forest Master Plan, under development.

The Urban Forestry Project quickly broadened its focus beyond the inventory, and now works as a full-service educational and advocacy group for Saratoga's urban trees.



April 21, 2012: inventory volunteers under historic elm.

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http://www.SustainableSaratoga.org



**Sustainable Saratoga's
Urban Forestry Project**

SAY NO to INVASIVE PLANTS

Invasive species threaten agriculture and wildlife.

For more information on invasive species, see the NYS DEC Invasive Species List:

<http://www.nyis.info/index.php?action=israt>

Invasive plants escape urbanization and colonize local wild forests. The most aggressively invasive outcompete and displace native species. Invasive species are not part of the native food chain and may be unattractive to deer, insect larvae, and birds. Some shade out natives. One way or another, they disrupt the ecology, often degrading a diverse native forest, leaving little room for native plants that provide food to native mammals, birds, and insects.

IN PARTICULAR, AVOID THESE SPECIES

Norway Maple (incl. Crimson King):

Threaten native sugar maple; already banned in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Callery Pear (including cultivars such as Bradford pear)

Japanese Tree Lilac

Japanese Barberry and Winged Burning

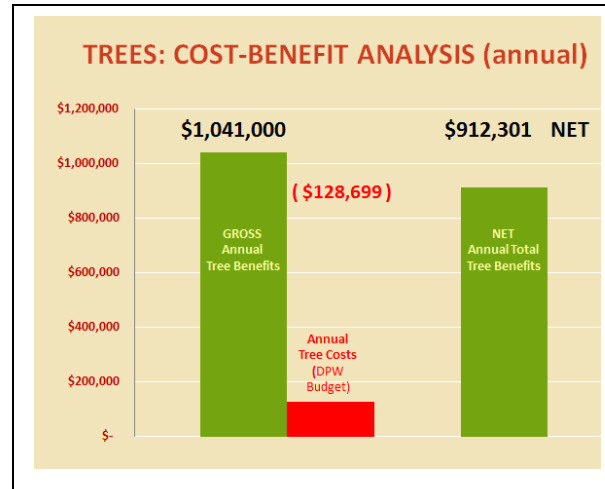
Bush: Received DEC's highest ranking for aggressive invasiveness. Skidmore's North Woods show the damage these cause.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING TREES

The bigger the tree, the greater the environmental benefits. Choose trees that have the largest mature size possible, given the space, soil and use restrictions of the location. Prune early to shape a large tree to its space.

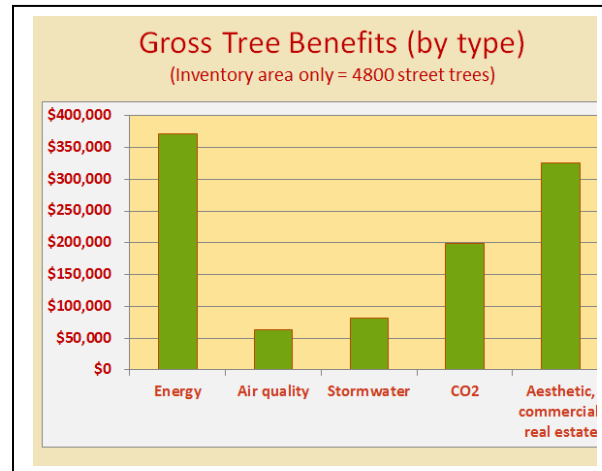
Diversity is important. A single-species forest can be quickly wiped out by a single pathogen or insect, as happened with Dutch Elm disease. Best practice now says that no species should exceed 10% of the urban forest. We recommend *not* planting maples for several years. See our website for recommended trees.

Plant natives or near-natives i.e. from Ohio, not Japan). **Be wary of non-native species.** Beware of so-called sterile cultivars; many have now reverted back to fertile invasives.



“...this City Council finds and declares that the **preservation and expansion of the Urban Forest** will serve the public interest by improving the community's physical, social, cultural and economic environment”

*Saratoga Springs City Council
June 3, 2008*



SUSTAINABLE SARATOGA's URBAN FORESTRY PROJECT 2012 Actions

- Produced a comprehensive inventory of 4800 streets trees and 800 park trees within the City's large inner area. The City's grant from DEC valued the inventory at \$23,600. Since DEC will count the tree inventory UFP produced as in-kind matching funds from the City, UFP has provided a considerable service to the City and the taxpayers.
- Consulted with DPW about invasive trees and successfully advocated that DPW use non-invasive alternatives in its plantings.
- Successfully advocated to double the planned tree plantings in the Woodlawn Parking Garage project.
- Consulted with the City Planning Office on the 2012 revisions to the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations. Successfully advocated that the City's ordinances should follow DEC guidance on invasive species, leading to a revised list of trees for planting by developers.
- Contacted developers and advocated before the Planning Board regarding various development projects. Argued on behalf of preserving existing trees and designing streetscapes to increase the potential planting area for large-species trees.
- Advocated before City Council for an increase in the tree planting budget for 2013 (still pending). The City Council outlined goals (“preservation and expansion of the urban forest”) in the unanimously approved June 2008 resolution. These goals require funding.

Representatives of UFP are working with the City and other stakeholders in a committee to develop an Urban Forest Master Plan for the City Council to consider. The City's goal is to adopt the Master Plan by Spring 2013.