



## Tree City USA Now and Forever

Guest Article by Jennifer Magavero, an arborist with the City of Tallahassee

As an arborist with the City of Tallahassee, I've seen up-close the changes to our landscape and the quantity of trees lost to storm activity during the past three years. To help ensure we remain a Tree City USA with a thriving urban canopy, the City of Tallahassee is expanding its Adopt a Tree program in three key ways.

This year, four tree species will be offered for participants to choose from. This will give homeowners a greater range of diversity to accommodate both site conditions and aesthetic preferences.

Additionally, the location for where trees can be planted is expanding. In previous years, trees could only be installed in the front right-of-way; this year, the City will install adopted trees in your yard up to 100 feet from the centerline of the roadway. This will ensure that mature canopy growth does not conflict with overhead utilities and that root development has adequate space away from hardscapes such as curbs and sidewalks.

The City is also expanding inclusion for residents on private roadways, making sure our overall canopy coverage remains one of the highest in the nation.

Residents can select up to two trees from the four available species, which are:

- **Green Ash** trees have an oval-shaped canopy that will reach a maximum height of 60 feet with a spread of 40 feet. Foliage is a bright, glossy green color that will turn yellow prior to autumn leaf drop. The seeds, though copious, are inconspicuous. One to two seeds are housed in a thin papery husk and is a good food source for song birds. Ash trees are both drought and flood tolerant and will grow in a wide variety of soil types.
- **East Palatka Holly** trees are an evergreen understory species that will grow to a maximum height of 40 feet with a 10 to 15-foot spread. The canopy is pyramidal in shape with attractive dark green glossy foliage. The flowers in the spring are not showy but are a great nectar source for pollinators. In the winter, holly fruit matures to a beautiful, bright red that is favored by songbirds and squirrels. Holly trees are a durable species that are drought tolerant once established.

- **Eastern Red Cedar** is an evergreen conifer with a pyramidal shaped canopy that reaches a maximum height of 50 feet and a spread of 25 feet. The dense canopy is comprised of fine-textured, scale-like needles that are medium to silvery green in color. Cedars produce a small cone that is less than half an inch in length and has the appearance of a purplish-blue berry. Songbirds love cedar fruit, and the dense vegetation provides ideal nesting habitat. This tree is also a popular choice for blocking undesirable views or screening for privacy due to the density of the canopy.
- **Overcup Oak** is a deciduous oak species with a symmetrical, rounded canopy that typically grows to 40 feet in height with a 30-foot canopy spread. The deeply lobed, darker green leaves turn coppery red in the fall just prior to leaf drop. The acorns for this species are small, usually a half inch to an inch in length and are not as messy as acorns of other oak species. Overcup oaks can be grown in a wide variety of soil types, tolerating both dry and wet sites.

Residents often ask how tree species are selected for inclusion in the program. First and foremost, all species offered must have good wind/storm resistance. The secondary requirement is that the species be native or naturalized to this area.

Participation in the program is easy, and the City provides several methods to register for your free trees. City residents who are more computer savvy may visit the City of Tallahassee website at [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com) and click on the Adopt a Tree tab to sign up. For residents who prefer a more personal approach, you can either call (850) 891-5300 or email your contact information to [AdoptaTree@talgov.com](mailto:AdoptaTree@talgov.com), and staff will assist you with placing your request.

When it comes time to plant, City staff will assist with tree placement in your yard and install the trees for you. The first year after installation is the most critical and will require regular watering during the establishment period. Don't let this intimidate you; the City will provide a care sheet with explicit directions on watering amounts and schedules. Also, knowledgeable staff, like me, is always available to answer questions throughout the year.

Thoughtfully located and properly maintained trees give us innumerable benefits that increase the quality of our lives in many ways. The City is currently in the process of creating its Urban Forest Master Plan, which will ensure the urban forest is healthy and properly managed for future generations.

Learn more about the Adopt a Tree program at [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com).

### COMING IN DECEMBER

Dec 5	City Commission regular meeting at 4 pm
Dec 13	Community Redevelopment Agency meeting at 9:30 am
Dec 13	Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency meeting at 3 pm
Dec 18	Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency board meeting at 1:30 pm
Jan 1	Jan. 1, 2019 – New Year's holiday; administrative offices closed (Visit <a href="http://Talgov.com">Talgov.com</a> for holiday week schedule change information.)

All meetings are held in the City Commission Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall (300 S. Adams St.), unless noted otherwise. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change. City Commission meetings are shown live and rebroadcast on WCOT, the City's government access channel (Comcast Cable and CenturyLink channel 13). City Commission meetings are also streamed live online and are indexed and posted for viewing on v. Call the Department of Communications at 891-8533 for more information or view the current City Commission agenda online at [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com). Follow @COTNews on Twitter for City news.

## Be Safe While Shopping

The Tallahassee Police Department reminds you to be safe during the holiday shopping season. While you are in the stores picking out those must-have gifts, thieves could be out in the parking lots checking your car doors. Always remember to park in a well-lit area, near other people and to lock your vehicle. Criminals are always looking for the easiest target to make a quick buck, and an unlocked car is a simple target. It takes less than 10 seconds to open a door, peek inside and steal your valuables before moving on to the next car in the parking lot.

Whether you're out shopping or parked at home, by simply locking your car doors you can prevent most car burglaries during the holiday season.

## Conserve Now, Save Later

Every April, the City re-sets your residential Maximum Sewer Charge based on your prior winter's water usage. The City calculates your Sewer Max based on the second highest month of metered water usage as billed during December through March, which is when most customers use the least amount of water. Little efforts to conserve water in winter can result in big savings later!

For more information, visit [Talgov.com/YOU](http://Talgov.com/YOU).

## Recycling Made Easy!

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 84 percent of all household waste can be recycled, and the City makes it easy with single-stream recycling. All paper, metal, cans, bottles and plastic can be combined in the same barrel. (Styrofoam and plastic bags cannot be recycled in your barrel.) Residential recycling is picked up curbside once a week on the same day as your garbage. This month, if you have extra cans, bring them to Cans for Cash on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot on the Outdoor Living side of Home Depot, 3200 Capital Circle NE. Give Earth a gift by recycling.

If you have a question about whether an item can be recycled, visit [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com).

Update your personal utility contact information at [Talgov.com/Update](http://Talgov.com/Update)

## Host of Holiday Happenings

December is the month to be merry. On Dec. 1, downtown will be packed with merrymakers from 3 to 10 p.m. for Winter Festival, featuring the Lighting Ceremony at 6 p.m., Jingle Bell Run at 6:15 p.m. and Nighttime Holiday Parade at 7:15 p.m. The festival features five stages of live entertainment, Candy Cane Lane, food vendors and much more. The following weekend, enjoy an enchanted Saturday evening in Cascades Park for the Holiday Stroll from 6-8 p.m. Soul Santa's itinerary has him visiting the LeVerne Payne Community Center, located at 450 W. 4th Avenue, from 2-6 p.m. on Dec. 21 and the Walker-Ford Community Center, located at 2301 Pasco Street, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 22. While the lights will be up throughout Dec., Dorothy B. Oven Park will have extra holiday cheer on Dec. 20 for Elf Night from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Check [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com) for additional information about these and other City holiday happenings closer to the December holidays.

## WORD SEARCH

Topic: Traffic Elements

K L A W S S O R C T  
B O R F Y I R W U O  
A W E D M R A O L B  
C B M K B C B R K A  
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Back-in  
Bike Box  
Camera

Crosswalk  
FYA  
Meter

Mid-block  
Roundabout  
Stop bar

INSIGHT is published monthly to inform citizens about City services and related terms of interest. If you require an accommodation because of a disability in order to participate in a program, service or activity, please contact the appropriate City department. For persons using a TDD, please call 711. Requests should be made at least seven hours in advance. Sign language interpreters require 10 days advance request.



For all City of Tallahassee utility related inquiries, please call 891-4968 or visit [Talgov.com](http://Talgov.com).

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