

# GREAT TREES FOR THE KANSAS CITY REGION

AS RATED BY METROPOLITAN AREA EXPERTS

Study by Robert Whitman, ASLA, AICP, LEED AP Landscape Architect at Gould Evans

(August 6, 2010 revision)

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## LARGE TREES FOR THE LANDSCAPE (IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE OUT OF 218 TREES)

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1. *Quercus alba* **White Oak**
2. *Quercus bicolor* **Swamp White Oak**
3. *Acer saccharum* 'Autumn Splendor' **Caddo Sugar Maple**
4. *Gymnocladus dioica* 'Espresso' **Kentucky Coffeetree**
5. *Acer x truncatum* 'Warrenred' **Pacific Sunset Maple**
6. *Acer saccharum* 'John Pair' **John Pair Caddo Maple**
7. *Ginkgo biloba* 'Autumn Gold' **Autumn Gold Ginkgo**
8. *Acer saccharum* 'Fall Fiesta' **Fall Fiesta Sugar Maple**
9. *Quercus macrocarpa* **Bur Oak**
10. *Quercus muehlenbergii* **Chinkapin Oak**
11. *Acer miyabei* 'Morton' **State Street Miyabe Maple**
12. *Taxodium distichum* 'Shawnee Brave' **Bald Cypress**
13. *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* **Dawn Redwood**
14. *Taxodium distichum* **Bald Cypress**
15. *Acer saccharum* 'Legacy' **Legacy Sugar Maple**
16. *Nyssa sylvatica* **Blackgum**
17. *Taxodium ascendens* **Pond Cypress**
18. *Ulmus propinqua* 'JFS Bieberich' **Emerald Sunshine Elm**
19. *Quercus shumardii* **Shumard Oak**
20. *Quercus rubra* **Red Oak**
21. *Ginkgo b.* 'Princeton Sentry' **Princeton Sentry Ginkgo**
22. *Acer x Keithsform* **Norwegian Sunset Maple**
23. *Tilia tomentosa* 'Sterling' **Sterling Silver Linden**
24. *Quercus x wareii* 'Long' **Regal Prince Columnar Oak**
25. *Tilia americana* 'DTR 123' **Legend American Linden**
26. *Ulmus x Frontier* **Frontier Elm**
27. *Quercus pagoda* **Cherrybark Oak**
28. *Quercus x Crimschmidt* **Crimson Spire Col. Oak**
29. *Tilia tomentosa* **Silver Linden**
30. *Quercus stellata* **Post Oak**
31. *Zelkova serrata* 'Musashino' **Columnar Zelkova**
32. *Acer saccharum* 'Green Mountain' **Green Mt. Sugar Maple**
33. *Carpinus betulus* **European Hornbeam**
34. *Cladrastis kentukea* **Yellowwood**
35. *Ulmus parvifolia* 'Emerald Prairie' **Em. Prairie Lbk. Elm**
36. *Quercus lyrata* **Overcup Oak**
37. *Acer miyabei* **Miyabe Maple**
38. *Quercus prinus* **Chestnut Oak**
39. *Ulmus parvifolia* 'Allee' **Allee Lacebark Elm**
40. *Carpinus caroliniana* **American Hornbeam**
41. *Magnolia acuminata* 'Butterflies' **Butterflies Magnolia**
42. *Quercus coccinea* **Scarlet Oak**
43. *Ulmus amer.* 'New Harmony' **New Harmony Amer. Elm**
44. *Eucommia ulmoides* **Hardy Rubber Tree**
45. *Ulmus americana* 'Princeton' **Princeton American Elm**
46. *Ulmus americana* 'Valley Forge' **Valley Forge Amer. Elm**
47. *Carpinus betulus* 'Frans Fontaine' **Columnar Hornbeam**
48. *Zelkova serrata* 'Village Green' **Village Green Zelkova**
49. *Maclura pomifera* 'White Shield' **Seedless Osage Orange**
50. *Aesculus x carnea* 'O'Neill's Red' **Red Horsechestnut**
51. *Ulmus parvifolia* 'Athena' **Athena Lacebark Elm**
52. *Zelkova serrata* 'Green Vase' **Green Vase Zelkova**
53. *Acer saccharum* **Sugar Maple**
54. *Tilia Americana* 'McKSentry' **American Sentry Linden**
55. *Ulmus x Morton Glossy* **Triumph Elm**
56. *Fagus sylvatica* 'Atropunicea' **Purpleleaf Beech**

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**LARGE STREET TREES (IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE OUT OF 218 TREES)**

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|---|---|
| 1. <i>Quercus bicolor</i> <b>Swamp White Oak</b>                        | 26. <i>Ulmus a.</i> 'Valley Forge' <b>Valley Forge American Elm</b>     |
| 2. <i>Tilia tomentosa</i> 'Sterling' <b>Sterling Silver Linden</b>      | 27. <i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Musashino' <b>Columnar Zelkova</b>          |
| 3. <i>Tilia americana</i> 'DTR 123' <b>Legend American Linden</b>       | 28. <i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Green Vase' <b>Green Vase Zelkova</b>       |
| 4. <i>Acer miyabei</i> 'Morton' <b>State Street Miyabe Maple</b>        | 29. <i>Quercus x Crimschmidt</i> <b>Crimson Spire Columnar Oak</b>      |
| 5. <i>Taxodium d.</i> 'Shawnee Brave' <b>Col. Bald Cypress</b>          | 30. <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Emerald Prairie' <b>Lacebark Elm</b>       |
| 6. <i>Ulmus prop.</i> 'JFS Bieberich' <b>Emerald Sunshine Elm</b>       | 31. <i>Quercus texana</i> <b>Nuttall Oak</b>                            |
| 7. <i>Ulmus x</i> 'Frontier' <b>Frontier Elm</b>                        | 32. <i>Tilia americana</i> 'McKSentry' <b>American Sentry Linden</b>    |
| 8. <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> 'Autumn Gold' <b>Autumn Gold Ginkgo</b>         | 33. <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Allee' <b>Allee Lacebark Elm</b>           |
| 9. <i>Acer x trunc.</i> 'Keithsform' <b>Norwegian Sunset Maple</b>      | 34. <i>Ulmus x</i> 'Morton Glossy' <b>Triumph Elm</b>                   |
| 10. <i>Acer x truncatum</i> 'Warrenred' <b>Pacific Sunset Maple</b>     | 35. <i>Ulmus x</i> 'Patriot' <b>Patriot Elm</b>                         |
| 11. <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> 'Expresso' <b>Kentucky Coffeetree</b>    | 36. <i>Taxodium ascendens</i> <b>Pond Cypress</b>                       |
| 12. <i>Quercus shumardii</i> <b>Shumard Oak</b>                         | 37. <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> <b>Bur Oak</b>                            |
| 13. <i>Ginkgo b.</i> 'Princeton Sentry' <b>Princeton Sentry Ginkgo</b>  | 38. <i>Quercus coccinea</i> <b>Scarlet Oak</b>                          |
| 14. <i>Quercus buckleyi</i> <b>Texas Red Oak</b>                        | 39. <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> 'Imperial' <b>Imperial Honeylocust</b> |
| 15. <i>Quercus x wareii</i> 'Long' <b>Regal Prince Col. Oak</b>         | 40. <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Athena' <b>Athena Lacebark Elm</b>         |
| 16. <i>Quercus lyrata</i> <b>Overcup Oak</b>                            | 41. <i>Acer saccharum</i> 'John Pair' <b>John Pair Caddo Maple</b>      |
| 17. <i>Ulmus americana</i> 'Princeton' <b>Princeton Amer. Elm</b>       | 42. <i>Gleditsia triacanthus</i> 'Skyline' <b>Skyline Honeylocust</b>   |
| 18. <i>Quercus alba</i> <b>White Oak</b>                                | 43. <i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Village Green' <b>Village Green Zelkova</b> |
| 19. <i>Ulmus americana</i> 'New Harmony' <b>New Harmony Elm</b>         | 44. <i>Acer saccharum</i> 'Fall Fiesta' <b>Fall Fiesta Sugar Maple</b>  |
| 20. <i>Acer saccharum</i> 'Autumn Splendor' <b>Caddo Sugar Maple</b>    | 45. <i>Acer saccharum</i> 'Legacy' <b>Legacy Sugar Maple</b>            |
| 21. <i>Quercus rubra</i> <b>Red Oak</b>                                 | 46. <i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i> <b>Dawn Redwood</b>             |
| 22. <i>Maclura pomifera</i> 'White Shield' <b>Seedls. Osage Orange</b>  | 47. <i>Quercus prinus</i> <b>Chestnut Oak</b>                           |
| 23. <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> <b>Chinkapin Oak</b>                   | 48. <i>Taxodium distichum</i> <b>Bald Cypress</b>                       |
| 24. <i>Eucommia ulmoides</i> <b>Hardy Rubber Tree</b>                   | 49. <i>Ulmus x</i> 'Morton' <b>Accolade Elm</b>                         |
| 25. <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> 'Bloodgood' <b>Bloodgood Planetree</b> | 50. <i>Acer miyabei</i> <b>Miyabe Maple</b>                             |

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**LOWEST RATED COMMONLY USED TREES (IN ORDER OF LEAST PREFERENCE OUT OF 371 TREES)**

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| 1. <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Bradford' <b>Bradford Pear</b> | 6. <i>Acer ginnala</i> <b>Amur Maple</b>                         |
| 2. <i>Acer saccharinum</i> <b>Silver Maple</b>             | 7. <i>Crataegus viridis</i> 'Winter King' <b>Green Hawthorn</b>  |
| 3. <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Newport' <b>Newport Plum</b>  | 8. <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> 'Purple Robe' <b>Black Locust</b> |
| 4. <i>Populus deltoides</i> <b>Cottonwood</b>              | 9. <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> 'Rotundiloba' <b>Sweetgum</b>  |
| 5. <i>Fraxinus</i> <b>Green &amp; White Ash</b>            | 10. <i>Acer rubrum</i> <b>Red Maple</b>                          |

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**MOST CULTURALLY ADAPTABLE TREES FOR KC (OUT OF 371 TREES)**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Ulmus americana</i> 'New Harmony' <b>New Harmony Elm</b></li> <li>2. <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> <b>Bur Oak</b></li> <li>3. <i>Ulmus</i> × 'Morton Glossy' <b>Triumph Elm</b></li> <li>4. <i>Quercus bicolor</i> <b>Swamp White Oak</b></li> <li>5. <i>Ulmus propinqua</i> 'JFS Bieberich' <b>Emerald Sunshine Elm</b></li> <li>6. <i>Ulmus</i> × 'Patriot' <b>Patriot Elm</b></li> <li>7. <i>Maclura pomifera</i> 'White Shield' <b>Fruitless Osage Orange</b></li> <li>8. <i>Quercus</i> × 'wareii' 'Long' <b>Regal Prince Columnar Oak</b></li> <li>9. <i>Taxodium d.</i> 'Shawnee Brave' <b>Columnar Bald Cypress</b></li> <li>10. <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> <b>Sycamore</b></li> <li>11. <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> 'Expresso' <b>Kentucky Coffeetree</b></li> <li>12. <i>Taxodium distichum</i> <b>Bald Cypress</b></li> <li>13. <i>Ulmus</i> × 'Morton' <b>Accolade Elm</b></li> <li>14. <i>Acer truncatum</i> <b>Shantung Maple</b></li> <li>15. <i>Quercus imbricaria</i> <b>Shingle Oak</b></li> <li>16. <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> 'Autumn Gold' <b>Autumn Gold Ginkgo</b></li> <li>17. <i>Tilia tomentosa</i> 'Sterling' <b>Sterling Silver Linden</b></li> <li>18. <i>Ulmus</i> × 'Frontier' <b>Frontier Elm</b></li> <li>19. <i>Acer</i> × 'trunc.' 'Keithsform' <b>Norwegian Sunset Maple</b></li> <li>20. <i>Acer</i> × 'truncatum' 'Warrenred' <b>Pacific Sunset Maple</b></li> <li>21. <i>Tilia americana</i> 'DTR 123' <b>Princeton Amer. Linden</b></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22. <i>Acer</i> × 'freemanii' 'Autumn Blaze' <b>Autumn Blaze Maple</b></li> <li>23. <i>Quercus shumardii</i> <b>Shumard Oak</b></li> <li>24. <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> <b>Chinkapin Oak</b></li> <li>25. <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> <b>Hackberry</b></li> <li>26. <i>Ginkgo b.</i> 'Princeton Sentry' <b>Princeton Sentry Ginkgo</b></li> <li>27. <i>Platanus</i> × 'acerifolia' 'Bloodgood' <b>Bloodgood Planetree</b></li> <li>28. <i>Acer</i> × 'freemanii' 'Armstrong' <b>Armstrong Col. Maple</b></li> <li>29. <i>Quercus lyrata</i> <b>Overcup Oak</b></li> <li>30. <i>Acer miyabei</i> 'Morton' <b>State Street Miyabe Maple</b></li> <li>31. <i>Malus</i> <b>Coral Burst &amp; Adirondack Crabapple</b></li> <li>32. <i>Quercus buckleyi</i> <b>Texas Red Oak</b></li> <li>33. <i>Euonymus bungeanus</i> <b>Winterberry Euonymus</b></li> <li>34. <i>Taxodium ascendens</i> <b>Pond Cypress</b></li> <li>35. <i>Malus</i> <b>Japanese &amp; Professor Springer Crabapple</b></li> <li>36. <i>Quercus rubra</i> <b>Red Oak</b></li> <li>37. <i>Ulmus a.</i> 'Valley Forge' <b>Valley Forge American Elm</b></li> <li>38. <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> <b>Honeylocust</b></li> <li>39. <i>Acer campestre</i> <b>Hedge Maple</b></li> <li>40. <i>Corylus colurna</i> <b>Turkish Hazel</b></li> <li>41. <i>Malus</i> <b>Donald Wyman &amp; Mary Potter Crabapple</b></li> <li>42. <i>Acer saccharum</i> 'A.S.' <b>Autumn Splendor Caddo Maple</b></li> </ol> |
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**LONGEST LIVED TREES (IN ORDER OF USEFUL LIFESPAN, OUT OF 371 TREES)**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> <b>Bur Oak</b></li> <li>2. <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> <b>Chinkapin Oak</b></li> <li>3. <i>Quercus alba</i> <b>White Oak</b></li> <li>4. <i>Quercus bicolor</i> <b>Swamp White Oak</b></li> <li>5. <i>Quercus rubra</i> <b>Red Oak</b></li> <li>6. <i>Quercus stellata</i> <b>Post Oak</b></li> <li>7. <i>Juglans nigra</i> <b>Black Walnut</b></li> <li>8. <i>Quercus lyrata</i> <b>Overcup Oak</b></li> <li>9. <i>Taxodium dist.</i> <b>Bald Cypress</b></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> <b>Ginkgo</b></li> <li>11. <i>Ulmus americana</i> <b>Amer. Elm cultiv.</b></li> <li>12. <i>Platanus</i> × 'acer.' <b>London Planetree</b></li> <li>13. <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> <b>Sycamore</b></li> <li>14. <i>Maclura pomifera</i> <b>Osage Orange</b></li> <li>15. <i>Quercus prinus</i> <b>Chestnut Oak</b></li> <li>16. <i>Quercus imbricaria</i> <b>Shingle Oak</b></li> <li>17. <i>Quercus shumardii</i> <b>Shumard Oak</b></li> <li>18. <i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> <b>K. Coffeetree</b></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19. <i>Metasequoia glyp.</i> <b>Dawn Redwood</b></li> <li>20. <i>Quercus palustris</i> <b>Pin Oak</b></li> <li>21. <i>Quercus coccinea</i> <b>Scarlet Oak</b></li> <li>22. <i>Carya</i> <b>Hickory &amp; Pecan</b></li> <li>23. <i>Quercus pagoda</i> <b>Cherrybark Oak</b></li> <li>24. <i>Quercus robur</i> <b>English Oak</b></li> <li>25. <i>Ulmus</i> X <b>Elm Hybrids</b></li> <li>26. <i>Acer</i> <b>Pac. &amp; Nor. Sunset Maples</b></li> <li>27. <i>Catalpa speciosa</i> <b>Northern Catalpa</b></li> </ol> |
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SMALL TREES FOR THE LANDSCAPE (IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE OUT OF 153 TREES)

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|---|--|
| 1. <i>Acer griseum</i> <b>Paperbark Maple</b>                         | 14. <i>Malus</i> 'Royal Raindrops' <b>Royal Raindrops Crab</b>       |
| 2. <i>Acer truncatum</i> <b>Shantung Maple</b>                        | 15. <i>Cercis canadensis</i> <b>Redbud</b>                           |
| 3. <i>Cornus kousa</i> <b>Kousa Dogwood</b>                           | 16. <i>Cornus florida</i> <b>White Flowering Dogwood</b>             |
| 4. <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> <b>White Fringetree</b>              | 17. <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> <b>Sweetbay Magnolia</b>              |
| 5. <i>Aesculus pavia</i> <b>Red Buckeye</b>                           | 18. <i>Amelanchier</i> 'Autumn Brilliance' <b>Apple Serviceberry</b> |
| 6. <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> <b>Witch Hazel</b>                     | 19. <i>Heptacodium miconioides</i> <b>Seven-son Flower</b>           |
| 7. <i>Acer palmatum</i> 'Bloodgood' <b>Red-leaf Jap. Maple</b>        | 20. <i>Cornus controversa</i> 'June Snow' <b>June Snow Dogwood</b>   |
| 8. <i>Chionanthus retusus</i> <b>Chinese Fringetree</b>               | 21. <i>Parrotia persica</i> <b>Persian Parrotia</b>                  |
| 9. <i>Cercis reniformis</i> 'Oklahoma' <b>Oklahoma Redbud</b>         | 22. <i>Magnolia</i> × 'Jane' <b>Jane Magnolia</b>                    |
| 10. <i>Syringa reticulata</i> 'Ivory Silk' <b>Japanese Tree Lilac</b> | 23. <i>Malus</i> 'Adirondack' <b>Adirondack Crabapple</b>            |
| 11. <i>Acer buergerianum</i> <b>Trident Maple</b>                     | 24. <i>Malus</i> 'Velvet Pillar' <b>Columnar Crabapple</b>           |
| 12. <i>Acer triflorum</i> <b>Three-Flowered Maple</b>                 | 25. <i>Cornus mas</i> <b>Corneliancherry Dogwood</b>                 |
| 13. <i>Malus sargentii</i> <b>Sargent Crabapple</b>                   | 26. <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> <b>Ironwood/Hophornbeam</b>             |

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SMALL STREET TREES (IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE OUT OF 153 TREES)

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|--|---|
| 1. <i>Acer truncatum</i> <b>Shantung Maple</b>                       | 9. <i>Syringa pekinensis</i> 'China Snow' <b>Chinese Tree Lilac</b> |
| 2. <i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Schmidtlow' <b>Wireless Zelkova</b>       | 10. <i>Acer griseum</i> <b>Paperbark Maple</b>                      |
| 3. <i>Acer buergerianum</i> <b>Trident Maple</b>                     | 11. <i>Malus</i> 'Adirondack' <b>Adirondack Crabapple</b>           |
| 4. <i>Syringa reticulata</i> 'Ivory Silk' <b>Japanese Tree Lilac</b> | 12. <i>Acer tartaricum</i> <b>Tartarian Maple</b>                   |
| 5. <i>Malus</i> 'Velvet Pillar' <b>Columnar Crabapple</b>            | 13. <i>Parrotia persica</i> <b>Persian Parrotia</b>                 |
| 6. <i>Maackia amurensis</i> <b>Amur Maackia</b>                      | 14. <i>Prunus padus</i> 'Drietre' <b>Merlot Bird Cherry</b>         |
| 7. <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> <b>Ironwood/Hophornbeam</b>              | 15. <i>Malus</i> 'Royal Raindrops' <b>Royal Raindrops Crab</b>      |
| 8. <i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> <b>Golden Raintree</b>             | 16. <i>Crataegus ambigua</i> <b>Russian Hawthorn</b>                |

**ABOUT THIS STUDY:**

KC area tree experts were asked to provide numerical opinions (0-5 ratings) for 378 trees in four categories (Landscape Value, Street Tree Value, Cultural Adaptability, and Useful Lifespan). These ratings were averaged to determine the highest rated trees for each category. Contact Robert Whitman if you are a KC area tree expert & would like to participate.

**PARTICIPANTS:**

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