



*Celebrating
the Trees of
Grosse Pointe Woods*



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COMMUNITY TREE COMMISSION

The members of the Community Tree Commission invite you to join them in *Celebrating the Trees of Grosse Pointe Woods*! The commission was established in 1978 and its purpose, as stated in the by-laws, is:

- To encourage the effective management of tree resources.
- To promote and publicize an annual Arbor Day proclamation and inform the community at large of programs for comprehensive tree management and commemorative tree plantings.

Specifically, the purpose of the Grosse Pointe Woods Tree Commission is to “Help Keep the Woods in Grosse Pointe Woods.” Some of the ways it helps to do this are:

- **Memorial Tree Program and Adopt a Tree Program** – The purpose of these programs is to give people the opportunity to plant a tree in memory of a special person or to honor a person, family, group, or business. In April of each year, the commission hosts a dedication program honoring the people for whom a tree was purchased.
- **Arbor Week Presentations** – This program is presented each year, during the last week of April, to over 300 third graders at the five Grosse Pointe Woods elementary schools and Barnard Center. The video used during the presentation stresses the many benefits that trees provide, gives a brief history of Arbor Day, and prepares students to plant and care for the seedlings that are given to them by their teachers at the end of the school day. Since 1979 over 10,000 seedling trees have been distributed. Many have survived and grown to maturity.
- **Free Fall Tree Planting Program** – Each fall the commission coordinates the planting of approximately one hundred sturdy 2 to 2½ inch caliper trees that are 8 to 12 feet tall. These trees are planted in front of residents’ homes between the sidewalk and the curb at the city’s expense. The city also maintains these trees. The species of trees planted each year are selected because of their ability to grow and prosper in urban conditions of heat, pollution, and potential salt damage. Since 1976, approximately 3,000 trees have been planted. That may seem like a lot of trees, but it barely replaces those lost to disease, storm damage, or old age.



The Community Tree Commission also assists the city in meeting the requirements specified by the National Arbor Day Foundation to establish and maintain a comprehensive forestry program. The directive of the Foundation is to “plant, care for, and protect trees.” By fulfilling these requirements, Grosse Pointe Woods has received the prestigious “TREE CITY USA” designation for over 26 consecutive years.

PROHIBITED AND NOT RECOMMENDED TREES

Types of trees whose planting is prohibited (City Ordinance 90-71)

The following types of trees shall not be planted in a street right-of-way, in a city park or on other city owned land.

American Elm (except Princeton, Valley Forge and New Harmony cultivars)	
Ash	Pin Oak
Black Locust	Poplar
Box Elder	Siberian Elm
Bradford Pear	Silver Maple
Catalpa	Sugar Maple (Prohibited in street right-of-way only)
Chestnut	Thorny Honeylocust
Cottonwood	Tree of Heaven
Domestic fruit	Willow
Hawthorn	Walnut
Horsechestnut (except Baumann cultivar)	

Trees not recommended for planting on city property

In addition to the ordinance above, the following trees cannot be recommended for street planting. These are, in no particular order:

Any evergreen conifer. (spruce, pine, fir, hemlock, cedar, juniper, yew, cypress etc.)	
Mountain Ash (any species)	Black and Choke Cherry
Mulberry (any species)	Sycamore
Birches with white bark.	Golden Chain Tree
Aspen (poplar family)	Sumac (any species)
Hickory	



RECOMMENDED TREES

Recommended Species for Street Planting

These would also make excellent shade and specimen trees on private property.

- Alder, Italian - *Alnus cordata*
- Birch, River - *Betula nigra*
- Coffeetree - *Gymnocladus dioicus*
- Ginkgo - *Ginkgo biloba* (male trees only)
- Hackberry - *Celtis occidentalis*
- Hazelnut, Turkish - *Corylus colurna*
- Honeylocust - *Gleditsia triacanthos* (non-thorny trees only)
- Hornbeam, European – *Carpinus betulus*
- Horsechestnut, Baumann – *Aesculus hippocastanum Baumanii*
- Linden, Littleleaf – *Tilia cordata*
 - American – *Tilia Americana*
 - European – Crimean, Silver
- Maple, Red – *Acer rubrum*
- Norway – *Acer platanoides*
- Freeman – *Acer x freemanii*
- Oak, Northern Red – *Quercus rubra*
 - Scarlet – *Quercus coccinea*
 - English – *Quercus robur*
 - Swamp White – *Quercus bicolor*
- Pear, Callery – *Pyrus calleryana* (not Bradford)
- Redwood, Dawn – *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*
- Scholtartree – *Sophora japonica*
- Sourgum (aka Blackgum, Pepperidge, Tupelo) – *Nyssa sylvatica*
- Sweetgum – *Liquidambar styraciflua*
- Tuliptree – *Liriodendron tulipifera*
- Zelkova – *Zelkova serrata*

The following are acceptable for planting under wires

- Crabapple – *Malus* (plant recommended cultivars only)
- Lilac, Japanese Tree – *Syringa reticulata*
- Maple, Hedge – *Acer campestre*
- Redbud – *Cercis Canadensis*

This list is not exhaustive. For reasons ranging from disease to plant breeding, both prohibited and recommended lists will be amended as necessary. If the tree you wish to plant is not on this list, or for other related concerns, please contact the City Forester at the Department of Public Works. DPW's number is 313-343-2460.



LAKE FRONT PARK WALKING PATH MAP (See pages 6 and 7)

Tree Identification Key

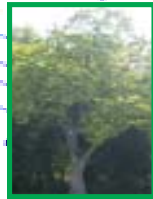
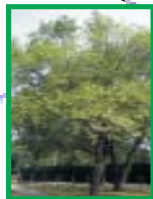
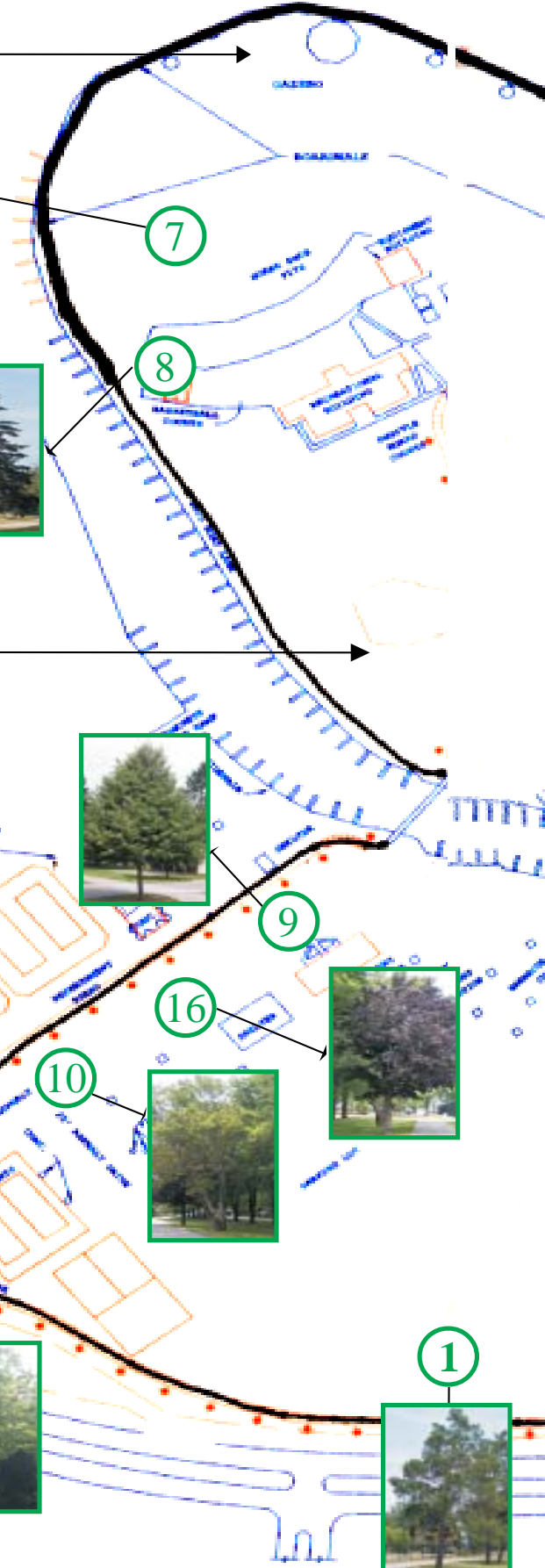
1. **Scots Pine**, *Pinus sylvestris* (Medium to large size; Northern European and Asian range) A beautiful ornamental with distinctive orange bark and great character as it ages. The needles are frequently rather blue in color. Used for landscaping, shelterbelts and Christmas trees.
2. **Cleveland Select Callery Pear**, *Pyrus calleryana* ‘Cleveland Select’ (Medium size; Northeastern Asian range) A recommended variety with a stronger branching habit than ‘Bradford’. The large white flower clusters in early spring are a welcome sight. Look for the small light brown fruit in winter visited by robins, starlings and waxwings. Used for landscaping.
3. **Norway Spruce**, *Picea abies* (Large size; Northern and Central European range) A very tall conifer that is the main component of Germany’s Black Forest. Look for a straight central trunk, pendulous branches and dark green needles. Used for landscaping, shelterbelts, lumber and stringed instruments.
4. **Northern Red Oak**, *Quercus rubra* (Large size; Northeastern North American range) A broad spreading hardwood with dark red fall color. It is found in many forest types in its area. While a forest tree is tall with a long clear bole, an open grown specimen’s width may match its height. Used for landscaping, flooring, furniture and firewood.
5. **Catalpa**, *Catalpa speciosa* (Large size; Central to Southern North American range) The very large heart-shaped leaves give it a tropical appearance. Look for white flowers, marked internally with yellow and purple, opening around the Fourth of July. Used for fence posts and limitedly in landscaping.
6. **Autumn Purple Ash**, *Fraxinus americana* ‘Autumn Purple’ (Large size, Northeastern North American range) A selected variety with deep reddish purple fall color. Initial observations may indicate somewhat more resistance to Emerald Ash Borer than other ash species. Used formerly for landscaping and also for baseball bats, furniture and firewood.
7. **Purple Beech**, *Fagus sylvatica purpurea* (Large size; Northern and Central European range) Probably the most noble presence of all specimen trees. Slow growing, dense and symmetrical with smooth gray bark, it can dominate a landscape for centuries. Look for an elephant hide appearance to the bark on older trees. Used for landscaping, flooring, furniture, kitchen implements and firewood.
8. **Colorado Blue Spruce**, *Picea pungens glauca* (Large size; Western US range) A tree so popular it is recognized by virtually everyone. Both blue and green seedlings occur, the bluest trees are grafted. It does not age gracefully and despite its large size, it is often planted too close to houses. Used for landscaping.

LAKE FRONT PARK WALKING PATH MAP (See pages 6 and 7)

Tree Identification Key

9. **Littleleaf Linden**, *Tilia cordata* (Medium size; European range) Lindens are some of the best shade trees. They are symmetrical, dense and disease free. Look for very dark green leaves and fragrant summer blooms that are irresistible to bees. Used for landscaping, woodcarving and honey.
10. **Sycamore**, *Platanus occidentalis* (Large size; Eastern North American range) Often occurring along watercourses, it can grow to the largest trunk diameter of any eastern tree. Look for the mottled, multicolored bark and large maple-like leaves. Used for butcher blocks.
11. **European Hornbeam**, *Carpinus betulus* (Medium size; European range) The upright form is remarkable in winter, and extremely dense in summer. One of the most formal appearing trees, noted also for dark foliage and smooth dark gray bark. Used for landscaping.
12. **Green Ash**, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* (Medium to large size; Eastern North American range) Familiarize yourself quickly with these trees since they probably won't be around much longer (see Emerald Ash Borer bulletins). Formerly used for landscaping and firewood.
13. **Honeylocust**, *Gleditsia triacanthos* (Large size; Eastern Northern American range) Easily identified by the tiny leaflets, the honeylocust throws an open shade allowing for a good lawn beneath. Look for golden-yellow fall color and long twisted brown pods on some trees. Thornless varieties are used for landscaping.
14. **Silver Maple**, *Acer saccharinum* (Large size; Eastern North American range) The most over-planted tree. Very fast growth and ease of transplanting have resulted in this tree being virtually everywhere. A favorite home for carpenter ants. Please consult before planting one.
15. **Tricolor Beech**, *Fagus sylvatica roseomarginata* (Medium size; European range) A delightful specimen tree that will slowly become good sized. The leaf color seems to be brightest in spring, but is cheery throughout the growing season. This tree will become deservedly more popular in the landscape.
16. **Crimson King Norway Maple**, *Acer platanoides* 'Crimson King' (Medium size; Northern and Central Europe range) A widely popular choice for the unfading deep crimson of its large leaves throughout the growing season. Used for landscaping.





Grosse Pointe Woods Lake Front Park Walking Path



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The city forester has been employed by the Department of Public Works since 1985 and is responsible for anything pertaining to trees and landscaping in the city. Residents are encouraged to contact the forester, who is knowledgeable in all facets of vegetation, at 313-343-2460 with any questions or problems regarding plant life.

The Department of Public Works conducts specific activities that help “Keep the Woods in Grosse Pointe Woods.”

They include:

- An eight-year rotating tree trimming program for trees on public property. The city is divided into eight maintenance districts. Each year city trees in an entire district are trimmed. Under this program, a city tree is always trimmed within eight years. Any city tree that is hanging low over sidewalks and/or streets or is considered dangerous is trimmed immediately by Public Works.
- Each year all trees in front of commercial buildings are trimmed to keep buildings and signs visible.
- Each year any tree planted within the last ten years is inspected, pruned, trimmed, and elevated as required.
- There is a yearly program for the control of tree disease, that emphasizes removal of diseased Elm and Ash trees. The city forester condemns both private and city Elms and Ashes.
- The city forester also condemns private dead, dangerous, or dying trees as necessary. Contact Public Works at 313-343-2460 to report any tree you feel should be checked and/or condemned by the city forester.
- Since 1989 there has been an ongoing program to monitor and control the influx of gypsy moths.
- Any tree removed due to construction is replaced.



Homeowners are responsible for the trimming of trees on their private property. Any contractor trimming or removing trees in the city must be licensed. A list is available at Public Works. Any tree planted between the sidewalk and street, or near the street where there are not any sidewalks, is considered a city tree. These trees cannot be removed without permission of the city. If you have any questions concerning a city tree, please contact Public Works. Also, if you are interested in planting a tree yourself in this area, contact the city forester and discuss the type of tree you are interested in.

Detroit Edison is responsible for trimming trees encroaching on their easements. Any questions pertaining to this matter should be directed to Detroit Edison at 800-477-4747.

Each year Public Works receives requests to remove healthy city trees that someone perceives as a nuisance. Although each request is evaluated on a case-by-case basis, healthy trees are rarely removed. Some reasons deemed insufficient to warrant removal include dripping sap, roots in sewers, dropping twigs, and the presence of non-harmful insects.

HOW TREES BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY



- Trees clean our air by producing oxygen, absorbing dust and pollutants, and by reducing carbon dioxide.
- Trees conserve our resources by stabilizing soil and preventing erosion, reducing stormwater run-off, and by providing homes and food for wildlife and song birds.
- Trees improve our climate by shading our homes, slowing strong winds, and reducing the “urban heat island” effect.
- Trees provide economic benefits by increasing property values and lowering heating and cooling costs.
- Trees beautify our world by blocking unsightly views, displaying eye-pleasing colors, shapes and textures, and providing pleasing sounds and fragrances.
- Trees provide social benefits by increasing our mental well-being, contributing to a sense of community pride, and providing an irreplaceable legacy for future generations.

PLANTING AND CARE OF TREES

The goal of tree planting is to have a vigorous, healthy tree that lives to the limits of its natural longevity. Trees contribute to our lives and communities in many ways. Old, mature trees are a symbol of stability. Young trees represent vibrancy and growth. In order to assure trees for the future, new trees need to be planted and older trees maintained.

Reasons for Planting Trees

You may wish to plant a tree to beautify the grounds, provide fruit to harvest, or provide wildlife habitat. However, if the purpose is to save energy and provide shade, consider the following facts:

Large shade trees provide the most shade. However, they should not be planted within 20 feet of a house to minimize the chance of damage from falling branches and prevent roots from damaging basement walls. Small ornamental trees may be planted within 8 feet of a house.

The most important tree for shading is the one on the west side of your home. Place it 20 feet away from the house and 20 feet due west from the south corner. A tree off the southeast corner, 20 feet from the house, and 20 feet due east will give protective shade during the morning hours. Pay close attention to property lines. You may want to make it a joint planting with your neighbor so you both benefit from the tree.

If you wish to plant a tree on city property (between the sidewalk and curb) contact the city forester at 313-343-2460 before planting (see list of prohibited trees on page 4). The tree must be planted 6 feet away from the driveway, 40 feet from another tree, 10 feet from a light post or fire hydrant, 25 feet from an intersection, 30 inches from the sidewalk, and not under utility wires. The tree you plant is recommended to be at least 8 feet in height. See city code sections 90-73 and 78-10 (code 1975-5-20-10).



The Department of Public Works is responsible for the trimming of all trees located on city property. Do not trim any tree on your tree lawn without first checking with Public Works. Homeowners are responsible for the trimming of trees on their private property. Detroit Edison is responsible for trimming trees encroaching on their easement.

Select the “Right Tree for the Right Place”

Keep these points in mind when selecting and planting a tree:



- **Hardiness** – Make sure the tree you select is hardy enough to grow well in our variable climate. Tree experts have divided the country into hardiness zones and identified the zones in which a tree will thrive. Grosse Pointe Woods is in Hardiness Zone 5.
 - **Moisture** – Each tree species can tolerate wet or dry conditions to a different degree.
 - **Sun/Shade** – Most trees like lots of light. But some species will grow in and a few will even thrive in shade.
 - **Soil Conditions** – The depth, soil structure (black dirt, sandy, clay, etc.), and moisture content of the soil should all be considered.
- **Height at Maturity** – How tall will the tree be at maturity? Will it have “head space?” Will it tangle with utility wires?
 - **Room for Roots** – Will it have root area to grow well? Will the roots interfere with the sidewalk, patio, driveway, or underground services? Will it block windows or scenic views? Roots spread beyond the branch area of the tree. Most roots are found in the top 18 inches of soil; most absorbing roots are found in the top 6 inches of soil where oxygen and water are available.
 - **Wires and Walls** – Avoid planting under overhead wires and above underground utilities. Do not plant trees near building foundations or walls.
 - **Neighbor Opinions** – Discuss your plans for tree planting with your neighbors before you begin your project. How will the tree look from the standpoint of your neighbor? Will your tree shade a neighbor’s garden? Relocating the tree or choosing a smaller tree may avoid a problem and allow everyone to enjoy your tree.
 - **Type of Tree** – Some trees are hard to live with. Their brittle wood splits easily. They easily fall victim to disease and insects. They produce flowers, seeds, or fruits that are poisonous, irritate allergy sufferers, and must be cleaned from lawns and gutters.



When Digging

- Before You Dig, call MISS DIG at 800-482-7171 to make sure that there are no underground wires or pipes. By law, you must call MISS DIG at least three full working days prior to planting. If possible, dig the hole for the tree before you bring in the tree. Keep the root ball covered, well watered, and in a shady location until you are ready to plant.
- Measure the height and width (diameter) of the root ball.
- Dig the hole to a depth equal to the height of the root ball. Leave the bottom of the hole firm.
- Dig the hole three times the width of the root ball. Wide, shallow holes encourage natural horizontal root growth.
- Break up compacted soil. Sides of planted space should not be packed.
- *Do not add compost or peat to the soil used for planting.* Amended soil creates a comfortable environment for the roots, discouraging the natural growth of roots into the surrounding soil.

When Planting

- Gently lift the tree into planting space by the root ball, not the trunk. Do not drop the tree into the hole.
- Balance the tree upright in center of the planting hole.
- After the tree has been placed in the hole, cut away strings and burlap, and remove top two rings of the wire basket. Some materials can be safely left in the hole, such as the burlap and nails. Do not break the root ball apart or remove soil from the root ball.
- If the tree is container grown, cut and remove the container.
- Prune dead or crushed roots and straighten or cut circling roots. Use sharp pruning shears to make clean cuts.
- Use the original soil to refill the hole. As you replace the soil in the hole, add water to eliminate air pockets and firmly set the tree. Do not put soil mixed with grass or weeds into the hole.
- When planting in soil heavy with clay (which is common in Macomb and Wayne counties) leave one third of root ball above ground. This will aid the spread of lateral roots and reduce the chances of the roots becoming water logged in the heavy clay subsoil prevalent in our area.
- Prune out dead or broken branches, or branches which rub together.
- Do not stake tree. Staking a tree can actually weaken it because it is giving it a crutch. Compared to a rigidly staked tree, an unstaked tree will develop a strong root system, a sturdier trunk, and have less wind resistance because it can bend with the wind.
- Do not wrap the tree trunk. This does more harm than good. A wrap may girdle the tree, mask insect, or disease problems or trap moisture next to the bark.



Mulching at the Time of Planting

Natural mulch, such as compost, aged wood chips, or shredded bark, should be placed around the base of the tree at the time of planting. The mulch protects shallow roots and gradually releases nutrients to help support the growth of the young tree.

- Mulch lightly with about two to four inches of compost or aged wood chips. Never mound the mulch around the trunk of the tree. Keep the mulch at least three inches away from the tree trunk in order to avoid the potential for rotting the trunk. Avoid using freshly cut wood chips that may drain nitrogen from the soil.
- The total depth of the mulch should not exceed four inches. This amount of mulch will retain moisture and moderate soil temperatures, while still allowing air to reach the soil.
- Extend mulch outward at least to the width of the crown of the tree. In order to encourage healthy root growth, mulch can be extended beyond the tree branches.
- Do not plant grass under the tree. Grass roots compete with the tree roots for nutrients and water. Flowers, however, may be planted under a tree because their roots are generally less aggressive.
- Do not fertilize for one year.





Care of trees

- Water is the critical factor for tree survival after planting. Water deeply on a regular basis throughout the first growing season. Allow water to run slowly, soaking the soil, once or twice a week. Do not over water. Continue deep root watering for five years after planting.
- Replace mulch, such as compost, each year. Keep grass and weeds out of the mulched area, since they compete with the tree for water and nutrients.
- To protect the tree trunk, keep lawn mowers and weed whips away from the base of the tree. The mulched area around the tree is a helpful reminder.
- Reduce or eliminate herbicide use near tree and in surrounding lawn.
- Start an annual inspection program while the tree is young so that problems can be identified early.
- Prune dead or injured branches immediately. If a tree is on city property, contact the Department of Public Works, and they will maintain the tree.
- Any questions about your tree may be directed to the Department of Public Works 313-343-2460.

CELEBRATE THE TREES OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS!

Take a walk around Grosse Pointe Woods to enjoy the “Urban Forest” that surrounds us – almost 10,000 trees growing along our streets, in our parks, and thousands more growing on private property.

The most common trees growing along our streets are Maple and Locust varieties. Next are Ash, Linden, Crabapple, Elm, Oak and Sweetgum trees. Many of these same varieties, plus Austrian and Scotch Pine, Junipers, and Sycamores are growing along the Lake Front Park walking path (see center insert).

Along the walking path, there are markers identifying trees that have been planted. Additional varieties will be planted along the path in the future with markers identifying each tree.



By working together we can keep the *woods* in Grosse Pointe Woods and preserve one of our most valuable resources – *trees*.



Credits

This brochure was prepared by the members of the Grosse Pointe Woods Community Tree Advisory Commission and is published by the City of Grosse Pointe Woods.

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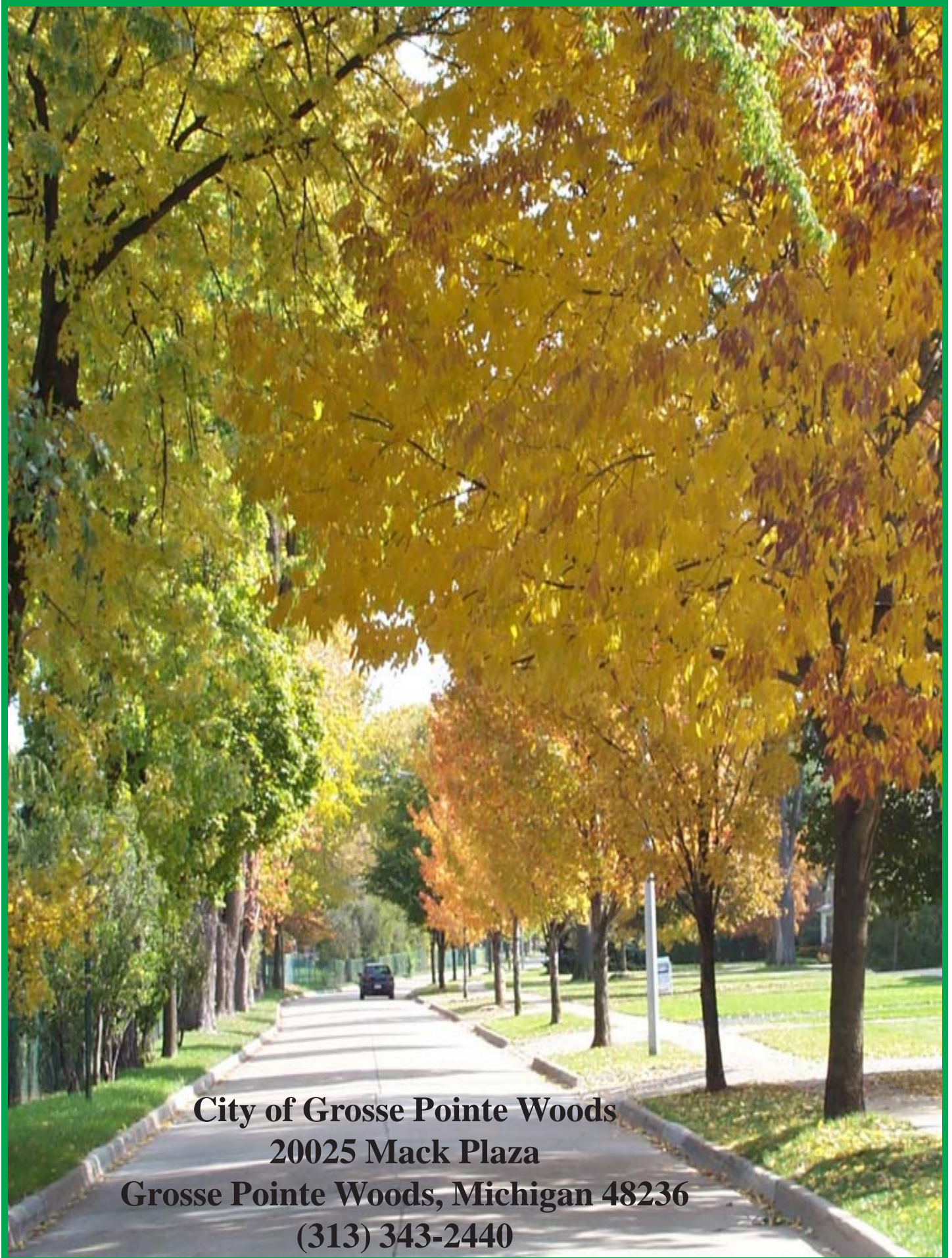
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Sources of information for this brochure include:

- State of New Hampshire Forester's Office
- Global ReLeaf of Michigan
- National Arbor Day Foundation
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- USDA Forester Service
- Brochures from the Cities of Oak Park and St. Clair Shores

***This book is for informational purposes only.
Residents should consult city ordinances for details.***





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