

Native trees and naturalized areas in Normal, IL



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Normal Parks and Recreation

Natives

What is a native?

- Native plants are plants indigenous to a given area in geologic time. This includes plants that have developed, occur naturally, or existed for many years in an area (trees, flowers, grasses, and other plants).



Native Trees- these are just a handful of what we have planted.

Trees:

- Black Alder
- River Birch 'Tecumseh'
- Bur Oak
- White Oak
- Chinquapin Oak
- Hybrid Elms
- American Beech
- Swamp White Oak 'Regal Prince'
- Chestnut Oak
- Shingle Oak
- Scarlet Oak



Native Trees continued

- Serviceberry 'Autumn Brilliance'
- Ohio Buckeye
- Corneliancherry Dogwood
- Washington Hawthorn
- Redbud
- White Bud
- Paw Paw
- Red Oak
- Black Oak
- Bald Cypress
- Kentucky Coffeetree 'Stately Manor' and 'Espresso'
- Sweetgum 'Happidaze'
- Red Maple 'Redpointe' -ask me about this one!!
- Sassafras
- Shagbark Hickory
- American Chestnut (this tree still exists!)



What is a cultivar?

- a variety of plant that originated and persisted under cultivation.

(*This can include form, fruit, fall color, size, and leaf shape. Ex. 'Red Sunset' Red Maple.)



Native Shrubs

- Bottlebrush Buckeye
- Black Chokeberry 'Iroquois Beauty' and 'Viking'
- Grey Dogwood (keep an eye on this!)
- Common Witchhazel
- Nannyberry Viburnum
- 'Annabelle' Hydrangea-guess where this is from?
- Blackhaw Viburnum
- Carolina Allspice
- Fothergilla
- Red Buckeye
- Smooth Sumac
- Virginia Sweetspire



Native Perennials

- Black Eyed Susan
- Brown Eyed Susan
- Pale Purple Coneflower
- Butterfly Weed
- Rattlesnake Master
- Little Bluestem
- Blazing Star
- Side Oats Gramma
- Purple Coneflower
- Horsetail
- Common Soft Rush



Where can you find all these plants?

Normal Parks- The Town of Normal plants anywhere between **300-600** trees annually (this is not a typo!). Newly renovated park planters such as Fairview, Maxwell, Anderson and Fell.



Fairview Park Planter- getting started



Fairview Park Planter- wall complete



Fairview Park Planter-too late to plant!



Maxwell Park Planter-layout



Maxwell Park Planter- taking shape



Maxwell Park Planter- ready to plant



Maxwell Park Planter- completed



Fell Park Planter- base course, not a cemetery



Fell Park Planter- wall finished, plants this spring!



Where can you find all these plants?

Normal Streets- Streets are always changing due to utility development, storms, vandalism and pests such as Emerald Ash Borer.



Where can you find all these plants?

Uptown Normal- Uptown beds contain natives.



Where can you find all these plants?

Constitution Trail- The trail contains native trees and shrubs throughout. Updates are coming.



Native Areas in Normal

1. Fransen Nature Area- Located on the south side of Raab Rd., east of Carriage Hills. We have installed over 25 forbes and grasses.



2. Children and Elders Forest- Maxwell Park

Turtle Grove- A great example of native trees and shrubs in a naturalized setting. Over 30+ species of native trees.

Eagle Grove- Just north of skunk creek, adjacent to Turtle Grove.



3. Maxwell Park- Disc Golf

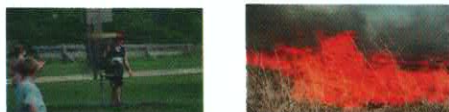
The disc golf area contains large areas of native trees in a natural setting. Some prairie species have started to appear. West of the creek is a little known prairie area with a walking trail.



Disc Golf continued

What is the plan for the future?

- Continue planting native trees and shrubs.
- Removing existing Ash tree seedlings.
- Planting existing tall grass areas in prairie.
- Using fire to help maintain the area naturally.



4. Hidden Creek Nature Sanctuary

Located on W. Sycamore, just west of Constitution Trail. A wooded area with walking trails. A great opportunity for some future restoration. Why does the area need attention?



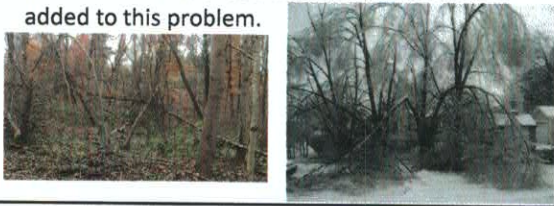
Hidden Creek Nature Sanctuary continued

Invasive species- Many invasive species have crowded/shaded out the ground level.



Hidden Creek Nature Sanctuary continued

Poor forest canopy- Over time, the shaded canopy has given way to many unwanted species. These short lived species have died and littered the forest floor. Recent storms have added to this problem.



Hidden Creek Nature Sanctuary continued

Water quality- Lack of cover on the forest floor causes debris and soil to wash in to Hidden Creek. This poor water can limit bird/animal interaction.



Hidden Creek Nature Sanctuary continued

What are we doing to change it?- We have contacted an ecological consulting company to help us with a plan, that can be implemented over time.



5. Blackstone Trails

This is a new area located just north of Shepard Park, on the north side of Shepard Rd. NPRD will begin maintaining this area this spring.



Blackstone Trails continued

Blackstone Trails has been planted with native grasses and forbes along the shoreline to hold the banks naturally. Native trees line the trail edges.



Questions?

