

# UMass Community Tree Conference

*Species Selection in the Urban Landscape –  
Professional Perspectives*



# Things to Remember

- ▶ Please turn off your cell phone or set to vibrate
- ▶ Breaks at 10:30 and 1:20
- ▶ Lunch is on your own (11:40 – 12:30)
- ▶ Scholarship presentations at 12:30 (MAA, MATWFA, SEMATWFA)
- ▶ CEUs at end of day



# Why is Species Selection Important?

Trees provide benefits and have value



Value is maximized when benefits exceed costs



Arguably, the most effective way to reduce costs is to plant the right tree in the right place



But there are many factors to consider—some are mutually exclusive

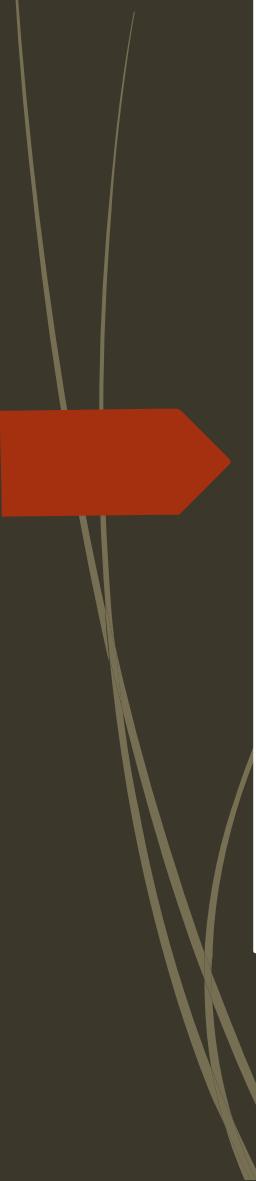
# Overview

- ▶ Storm resistance [Alex Sherman]
- ▶ Wildlife habitat [Desirée Narango]
- ▶ Public health [Neil Angus]
- ▶ (Changing) Climate [Matthew Cahill]
- ▶ Pest susceptibility [Jennifer Forman-Orth]
  
- ▶ Aesthetics
- ▶ Maintenance needs
- ▶ Messiness
- ▶ Invasiveness
- ▶ Ecosystem services & functional benefits



# Summary

- ▶ Right tree, right place
  - ▶ Key factors that affect survival and growth
  - ▶ Specific functions
- ▶ Online tools
- ▶ Synthesis of recommendations



## RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE: *Key Factors*

- ▶ Climate (hardiness zone, precipitation)
- ▶ Available sunlight (full sun, partial sun, shade)
- ▶ Soil properties (pH, bulk density, drainage, structure, texture)
- ▶ Available growing space (above- and below-ground)



## RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE: *Specific Functions*

- ▶ Reduce air or water pollution
- ▶ Reduce building energy consumption
- ▶ Provide wildlife habitat
- ▶ Control erosion
- ▶ Reduce noise
- ▶ Design
  - ▶ Aesthetics
  - ▶ Create view
  - ▶ Direct traffic or attention



## Online Tools

- ▶ Missouri Botanic Garden Plant Finder
- ▶ [www.CITREE.de](http://www.CITREE.de)



## Selection



by criteria



by names

RESET

TRAFFIC AREAS

DENSELY BUILT-UP  
AREASGREEN ROOFS AND  
CONTAINER PLANTSSPARELY BUILT-UP  
URBAN AREASINDUSTRIAL AND  
COMMERCIAL AREASPARKS, GARDENS  
AND CEMETERIESWAT  
PORRENATURATION  
AREAS / DERELICT  
LANDALLOTMENT  
GARDENS

CHILDREN

ELDERLY



## SPECIFICATION

Site characteristics and natural distribution

Tree appearance

Ecosystem services

Required management activities

Risks and Interferences

## Synthesis of Recommendations

Maintain diversity:  
Taxonomic & Functional



<b>Species</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Net</b>
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i> 'Espresso'	4	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	1
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	3	<i>Eucommia ulmoides</i>	1
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	3	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> 'Inermis'	1
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	2	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> 'Hapdell'	1
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	2	<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	1
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> 'Rotundiloba'	2	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	1
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	2	<i>Parrotia persica</i>	1
<i>Acer campestre</i>	1	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	1
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	1	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	1
<i>Betula nigra</i>	1	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	1
<i>Carya ovata</i>	1	<i>Salix nigra</i>	1
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	1	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	1
<i>Cladrastis lutea</i>	1	<i>Ulmus americana</i> 'Princeton'	1
<i>Continus obovatus</i>	1	<i>Ulmus hybrids</i>	1

# DESIRABLE

Species	Birds	Climate change	Pests	Public Health	Storm resistance
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>					
<i>Gymnocladus dioicus 'Espresso'</i>					
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>					
<i>Zelkova serrata</i>					
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>					
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua 'Rotundiloba'</i>					
<i>Quercus bicolor</i>					

# UNDESIRABLE

Species	Birds	Climate change	Pests	Public Health	Storm resistance
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Red	White	Red	White	White
<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>	White	Red	Red	White	White
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	White	White	Red	Red	White
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	White	Red	White	White	Red
<i>Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford'</i>	White	Red	White	White	Red
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White	Red	White	Red	White
<i>Styphnolobium japonicum</i>	Red	White	White	Red	White
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	White	White	Red	White	Red