



# **Native Tree and Plant Amendments**

## **PWPT Committee Presentation**

**Planning, Building & Development  
October 5, 2022**

# Agenda

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- **Background**
- **Policy Priorities**
- **Proposed Amendments**
  - **Section 151.167**
- **Committee Discussion**



# Background

# Review – 7/27 PWPT Direction

- **Member consensus to draft proposed ordinance amendments:**
  - **Removing trees not adapted to current or future climate conditions including white pine, as well as non-buckthorn invasives**
  - **Reducing DBH (diameter at breast height) requirement for tree replanting to ensure better survival and long-term success**
- **Member consensus to direct further review into the following (prior to ordinance drafting):**
  - **Genus-level mix limitations on plant material requirements (in light of supply, cost and other factors)**

# “Nativars” vs. Natives

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- **“Nativars” are native species that have been cultivated for unique characteristics such as leaf color, disease resistance, or growing habits**
- **“Strict” species are native species as they occur in the wild**
- **Strict species may be more utilized by insects and other fauna in some cases (University of Illinois Extension, 2019)**
- **Nativars may alter the local native population of a species**

# Policy Priorities

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- **Oak Restoration**
  - Oaks compromised approximately 2/3rds of all trees c. 1830
  - Some oak species are fire and drought resistant (e.g., bur oak)
  - Oak trees are critical to native fauna
- **Disease Resistance**
  - Formerly important trees have been decimated by disease (chestnuts, elms, ashes)
  - Species diversity reduces disease spread
- **Climate Resistance**
  - Species must adapt to hotter, drier summers and intermittent, intense winters

# Policy Discussion

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- **Transition Landscaping (Section 151.167)**
- **Woodland Restoration/Replacement (Section 151.071)**
  - **Amendments regarding woodland replacement will be presented at a later date following additional staff research and consultation**
  - **Discussion will focus on balancing oak ecosystems with species diversity and resilience**
  - **Discuss possibilities for more site-specific regulations and possible incentives**



# **Proposed Amendments Concepts**



# Plant Materials List

## Chapter 151 Appendix A

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### Summary:

- **Removed 3 invasive species (flowering pear; Amur maple; *rosa multiflora*)**
- **Expressly included additional native plants and trees**
- **Denote salt-tolerance, climate readiness, and native status in plant materials list**

# Species Mix

## Section 151.167 (E)(2)(e)

### Summary:

- **Species diversity requirements increase for larger projects**
- **Genus-based limits not included because oak species (g. *Quercus*) should be approx. 65% of canopy trees**

- (e) Species mix. For ~~projects requiring more than five canopy trees~~, each plant type (i.e., canopy tree, understory tree, etc.) associated with the landscape requirements of this section, no single plant species shall represent more than the following percentage ~~40%~~ of the total plantings of each plant type.
1. 30% for projects requiring nine or less canopy trees;
  2. 25% for projects requiring ten to nineteen canopy trees;
  3. 20% for projects requiring twenty or more canopy trees.

# Plant Caliper and Height

## Section 151.167 (E)(2)(a)

### Summary:

- Younger and/or smaller transplanted trees can adapt to new sites more readily
- Reducing the min. caliper width of canopy trees will require more trees per reforestation requirements

- (a) Size. Unless otherwise expressly provided, all plant materials used to satisfy the requirements of this section shall meet the following minimum size standards:

<i>Plant Type</i>	<i>Minimum Size</i>
<i>Trees</i>	
Canopy tree	3 <u>1.5</u> -inch caliper
Understory/ornamental tree	2 <u>1.5</u> -inch caliper or 8 <u>6</u> feet height
Evergreen/conifer tree	8 feet height
<i>Shrubs</i>	
Broadleaf/deciduous	3 feet height
Needleleaf/evergreen	2 feet height
Columnar evergreen	3 feet height

# Transition Plant Unit

## Section 151.167 (E)(1)

### Summary:

- **Current plant unit designed for aesthetic screening using a mix of canopy trees, evergreens, and shrubs**
- **Retains evergreens despite limited number of common natives**

(1) Plant units. A plant unit is a measurement used to determine the quantity of plant material required.

(a) ~~One~~ Transition plant unit is comprised of all of the following elements, of which at least one canopy, understory, or evergreen tree should be native or climate-ready:

1. One canopy tree;
2. Two understory trees;
3. Two evergreen trees; and
4. Seven shrubs.

# Uses for Transition Plant Units

## Section 151.167

Use	Old Requirement	New Requirement	Section
Parking lot perimeter (>4,000 sq. ft.)	1 plant unit per 100 linear ft.	1 Transition plant unit per 100 linear ft.	\$151.167(F)(2)(h)
Streets, residential adj. to arterial +	3 plant units per 100 ft. road frontage	3 Transition plant units per 100 ft. road frontage	\$151.167(H)(2)
Streets, non-residential adj. to arterial +	1 plant unit per 100 ft. road frontage	1 Transition plant unit per 100 ft. road frontage	\$151.167(H)(2)
Transition areas	1 plant unit for every 10' transition area width	1 Transition plant unit for every 10' transition area width	\$151.167(J) \$151.167(E)(2)(f)
Streets, local	2 canopy trees per 100 ft. road frontage	2 canopy trees per 100 ft. (subject to species mix requirements)	\$151.167(H)(1)



# **Committee Discussion**