



# **Native Tree and Plant Amendments**

## **PBZE Committee Presentation**

**Planning, Building & Development  
January 10, 2024**

# Agenda

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- **Background & PWPT Committee Direction**
- **Openlands Background & Market Research**
- **Proposed Amendment Concepts**
- **Anticipated Timeline**



# Background

# Canopy Cover in Lake County

- Lake County has 30% canopy cover, but it could be increased significantly
- Residential is largest land use category in Lake County
- Residential areas have greatest potential for increased tree canopy

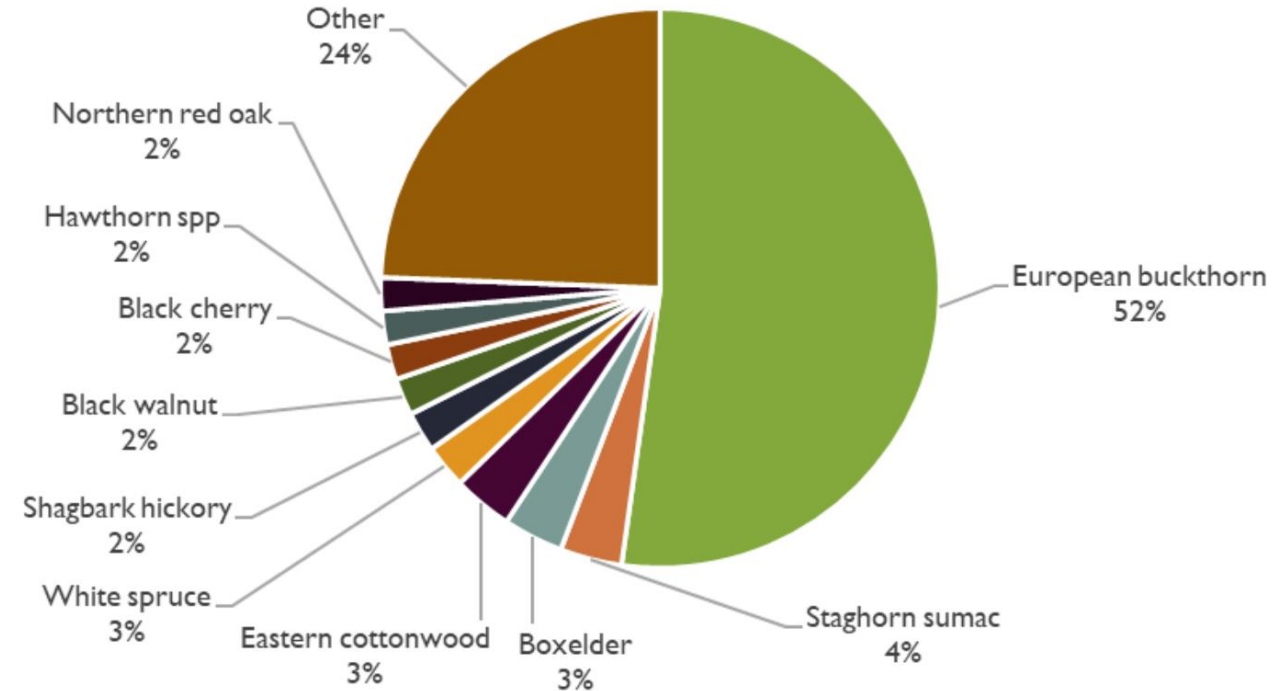


Figure: Lake County tree species by stem count (CRTI, 2020 Tree Census)

# PWPT Committee Direction

- **As of 2022, member consensus was 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**
  - **Proposed Amendments to 151.167 Landscaping**
- **Member consensus to direct further review into the following (prior to ordinance drafting):**
  - **Limitations on plant material requirements (in light of supply, cost and other factors)**



# **Openlands Market Research**



# Trees





Oxygen

Cooling

Stormwater mgmt

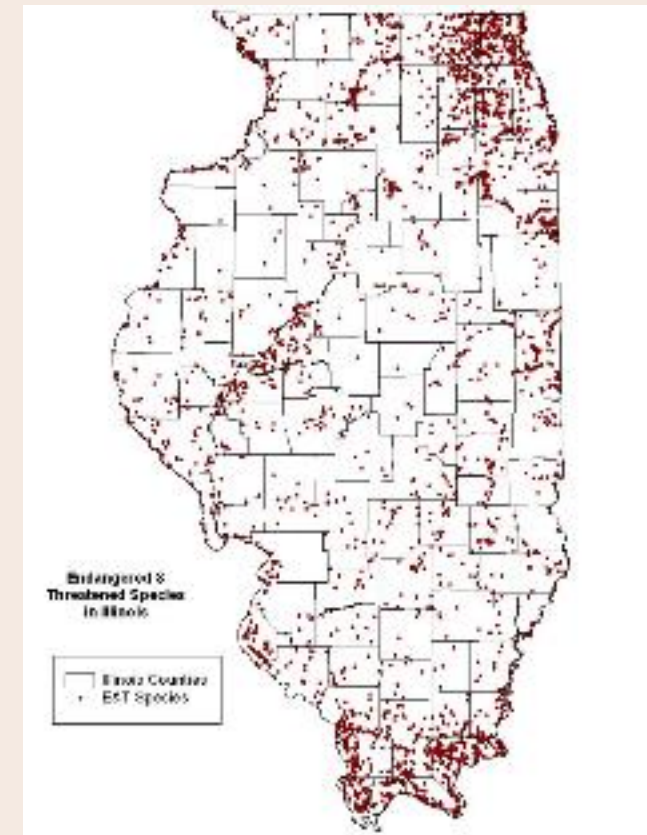
Carbon sequestration

Wildlife habitat

Well-being



Some trees provide more services than others





## Native

Sugar maple  
Acer saccharum

## Cultivar

Fall Fiesta® Sugar Maple  
Acer saccharum 'Bailsta'

## Nativar

Fall Fiesta® Sugar maple  
Acer saccharum 'Bailsta'

## Straight Native

Sugar maple  
Acer saccharum



## Benefits of Natives



## Benefits of Natives









Goals for Consideration:  
Diversify the canopy  
Improve survival rates  
Increase natives  
Eliminate invasives



Diversify the canopy





Improve  
survival rates





# Eliminate invasives





Increase  
natives





Is the inventory of native trees and shrubs sufficient to meet demand?



Would an amendment that requires a minimum percent of native species result in higher project costs?





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# **Proposed Amendment Concepts**

# Terms Defined (Ch. 151.271)

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- Refine definition for “Native Plant Species”.
- **Defined currently as: “*NATIVE VEGETATION (OR PLANT SPECIES)*. Plant species grown in the Chicago region, specifically this county, prior to European settlement of the region. (See Plants in the Chicago Region, Indiana Academy of Sciences.)”**

# Landscaping (Ch. 151.167)

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- **Update intent statement**
  - **Include goals to support ecological sustainability, stormwater management, and climate resilience.**
- **Plant units**
  - **Current plant unit designed for aesthetic screening using a mix of canopy trees, evergreens, and shrubs**
  - **Require some of required elements be native.**
- **Material Size**
  - **Younger and/or smaller transplanted trees can adapt to new sites more readily**

# Landscaping (cont.)

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## Increase species diversity requirements

- A greater mix of tree species and families can limit the spread of pests/disease and lessen overall impact on local forests
- Requiring a greater mix of species can better ensure long-term forest health from current and unforeseen biological and climate threats
- Action:
  - Change species diversity requirements so that no single plant species shall represent more than 20% of total plantings (down from 40%)

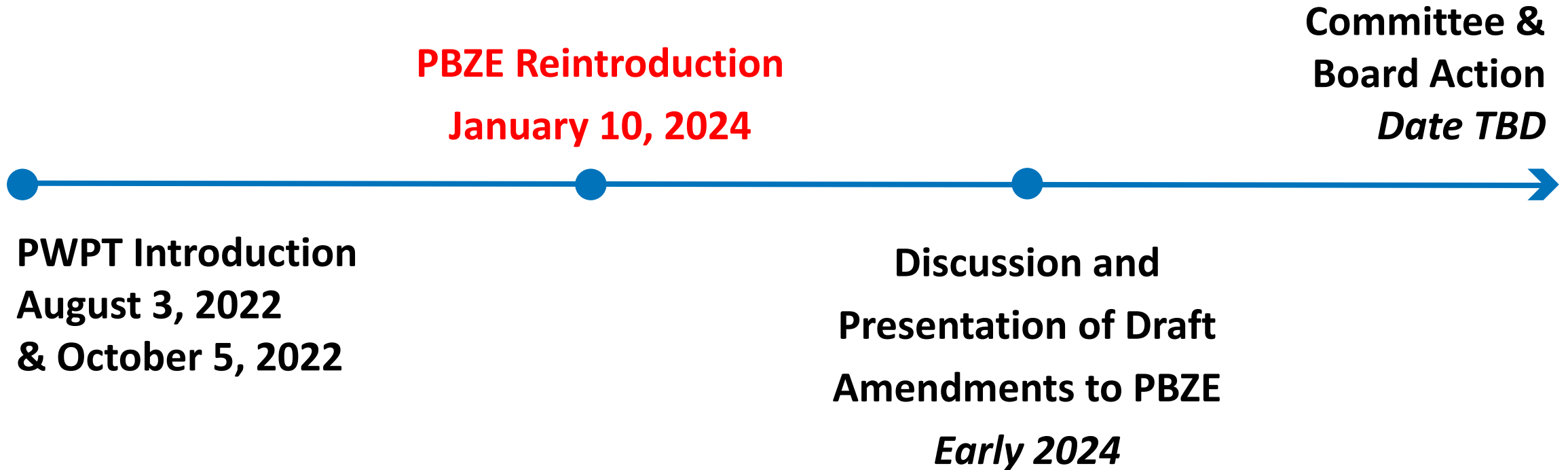
# Appendix A: Plant Materials List

- Plant Materials List is used as reference for both landscaping standards for new development (§ 151.167) and for replanting after removal of woodlands and significant trees (§ 151.071)
- Currently contains non-native, disease-prone, and incompatible trees
- Native trees are allowed but not indicated or prioritized on list

## Action:

1. Remove non-native, disease-affected, and trees deemed incompatible with County goals
2. Identify/add more native trees available locally

# Anticipated Timeline





**Questions**