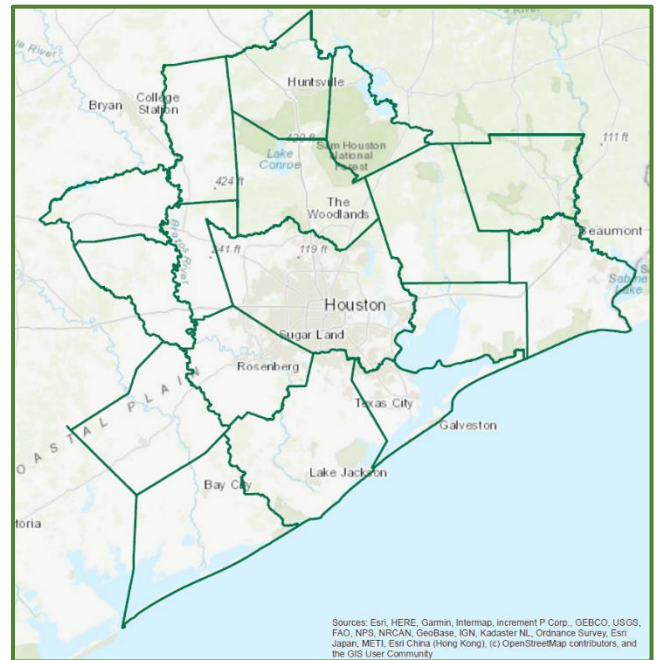


Native Tree List



In 2020, HPARD's Tree Protection Committee published a new list for trees that can be planted on City of Houston property and Right of Way. The new Tree List only includes tree species that are native to the Houston Area. Native trees provide quality habitat for local wildlife, are well adapted to the conditions of the Houston area, and provide ecosystem services in the form of carbon sequestration, air and water quality improvement, and reduce urban heat. Native trees have checks and balances that prevent them from becoming invasive species.

Tree species were selected for the new tree list if the species is native to Harris County or within two adjacent counties (see map). This method ensures that the trees are well adapted to the area while also including trees from the surrounding counties that may have other beneficial adaptations.



Sources:

The primary sources selected to determine native status were the *Atlas of United States Trees* and *A Checklist of the Native and Naturalized plants of Houston and Vicinity*. These sources were selected because they considered the native status of the species before European settlement of the Houston area, and because they used specific and localized data sources. A wide variety of other sources were also cross-checked to ensure accuracy.

The *Atlas of United States Trees* was created in 1971 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Forest Service to map the natural distribution of all tree species in the U.S. prior to European settlement. The authors used decades of dendrology records, dating back to the first comprehensive report on trees in the U.S. created in 1884 as part of the tenth national census. Over 300 references were used, including state herbaria, doctoral theses, state-published distribution maps, and Forest Service maps of forest types.

The *Checklist of the Native and Naturalized Plants of Houston and Vicinity* is a list of plants that are native to Harris, Waller, Montgomery, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Liberty, Chambers, and Galveston counties. The checklist clearly distinguishes plants that are not native and have become naturalized or noxious. The author referenced 31 different books and herbaria and thoroughly checked each species at the Alfred Traverse Herbarium at Rice University, the Tracy Herbarium at Texas A&M, and the Southern Methodist University Herbarium.

Citations:

Little, Elbert L., Jr. 1971. Atlas of United States trees. Volume 1. Conifers and important hardwoods. Misc. Publ. 1146. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.

Little, Elbert L., Jr. 1976. Atlas of United States trees. Volume 3. Minor western hardwoods. Misc. Publ. 1314. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.

Little, Elbert L., Jr. 1977. Atlas of United States trees. Volume 4. Minor eastern hardwoods. Misc. Pub. No. 1342. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.

Vines, Robert A., Thurow, Fredrick W. 1964. A Checklist of the Native and Naturalized plants of Houston and Vicinity. Copyright by Robert A. Vines, Houston, TX 1964.