



## PLANTING TREES & SHRUBS IN SMALL SPACES

Hintonburg Community Association – [www.hintonburg.com/greening](http://www.hintonburg.com/greening)

### 5 great reasons for planting a tree or shrub in Hintonburg:

Urban trees have been proven to...

- ✓ Improve mental health and reduce stress – they actually make us happier!
- ✓ Reduce air pollution, provide oxygen and filter rainwater.
- ✓ Reduce the temperature in the immediate area by 2–8 degrees Celsius in the summer.
- ✓ Promote social interaction, a greater sense of safety and more use of outdoor space.
- ✓ Provide food and habitat (e.g., fruit for humans; places for birds to nest).

Here are some [other great reasons](#) to plant trees in urban areas.



### Are you working with a very small piece of land?

Trees grow to different maximum sizes depending on the species – some stay quite small! If you are worried about space, you can choose small species or plant shrubs instead.

Start by taking a look at the front yards in Hintonburg and you'll see trees happily growing in patches of land as small as a square metre. It's all about choosing the right species for your situation.

### Want a tree for your front yard? Get a free tree from the City!

The City of Ottawa's *Trees In Trust* program plants free trees on the City's right-of-way (the first few feet of property adjacent to the road/sidewalk). The City will provide you with a choice of available trees and provide advice on species based upon your location. Then the City will plant the 2–3 metre tall tree for you. Learn more about the program and sign up for a tree [here](#).

*Side yards in the City's right-of-way are also eligible for the program.*

### Want a tree or shrub for your backyard?

The city doesn't provide trees or shrubs for private property but you have other options:

- ✓ [Ecology Ottawa](#) gives away seedlings throughout the year (tiny trees around 30 cm tall with limited species choice). Watch the [HCA e-newsletter](#) for tree giveaways.
- ✓ There are a number of local nurseries that sell a large variety of trees and shrubs. These plants are older/taller than a seedling. The [CAFES Urban Tree Manual](#) lists a number of nurseries. Some nurseries that carry native and/or fruit-bearing trees include: [Ferguson Tree Nursery](#) and a little further afield, [Ontario Native Plants](#).

*See next page!*

### Tips on choosing the right species:

There are SO many types of trees and shrubs that can grow in Ottawa. Here are some considerations to get you started:

**Species size:** Depending on the plot of land, you may have room for a shrub, small tree, or a large tree which can truly add to the Hintonburg tree canopy. Here is an [Ottawa tool](#) that identifies lots of local species and provides maximum heights. This [decision tool](#) from the Glebe Community Association is also great.

**Native vs. non-native:** Native species are indigenous to the local region whereas non-native species have been brought in by humans. The HCA is championing the use of native species because they are adapted to our local climate, have developed good resistance to pests, and support our local ecosystem by [creating habitats for other native species like birds](#). Alternatively, some (but not all!) non-native species like the [Norway Maple](#) (many in Hintonburg) are considered invasive species and shouldn't be planted because of their negative impact on the local ecosystem. This [Ontario tool](#) lists whether trees/shrubs are native or not. Watch out for species that have both native and non-native subspecies. For instance, Eastern White Cedar is native to Ottawa but most other cedars aren't.

**Deciduous vs. coniferous:** Deciduous trees drop their leaves in the fall while coniferous trees keep their needles throughout winter. If you like having greenery all year you might want to consider a conifer.

**Fruiting and nut-bearing trees:** You might want to consider planting a fruiting tree (e.g., apple, sour cherry, pear, plum, serviceberry, hickory nut) so you can enjoy their harvest.

### Tips for planting and taking care of trees & shrubs:

Check out...

- [Ottawa's Urban Tree Manual, which includes information on planting](#)
- [Tree Canada's tips on planting and caring for urban trees](#)
- [Champlain Park's Planting Trees in Small Spaces flyer](#)

### Get in touch!

Send the HCA environment committee an email. Write to [info@hintonburg.com](mailto:info@hintonburg.com) and put "trees" in the subject line.

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All photos except the Hintonburg sign courtesy of Berit Erikson