

APPENDIX C  
STREET TREES

Without street trees arching over the streetscape and reaching up to the sky, the most dominant elements of the streetscape in Gorham are utility poles, wires and vast expanses of parking lots, a stark and meager visual statement. This is sadly a far cry from Gorham's image historically.

In the ideal scenario, utilities are accommodated underground, allowing for the full growth of large-sized street trees, which in turn creates an appropriate scale for the Village streetscape. If it is not possible for Gorham to bury utilities in the foreseeable future, then the less-ideal but still valuable street tree strategy is to select smaller species whose mature height will never reach the utility wires.

In all cases, species selection is very important, in order to achieve a tree size that is appropriate to the scale of street, to ensure clearance for pedestrians and vehicles under lower branches and to avoid root systems which tend to spread deep and wide. The following is a list of recommended species for consideration in Gorham.

#### RECOMMENDED TREE SPECIES SUITED TO PLANTING ALONG MAIN STREET, GORHAM

##### ***Carpinus caroliniana*** **American Hornbeam**

- 20 - 35' in maturity, grows slowly
- Good fall color
- Inconspicuous fruits, no litter
- Smooth, light gray, sinewy bark, interesting in winter
- Relatively trouble free and needs little maintenance
- Hardy to Zone 3

##### ***Malus 'Centzam'*** **Centurion Crabapple**

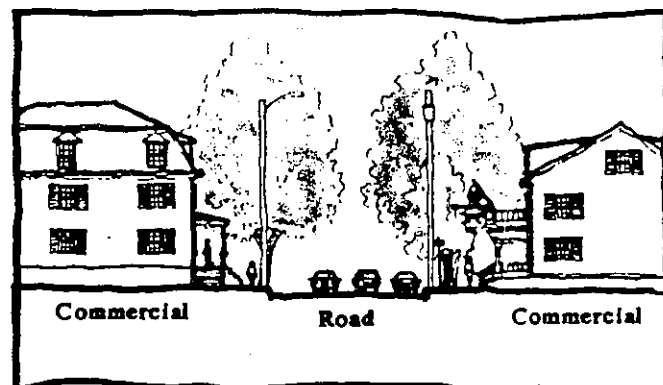
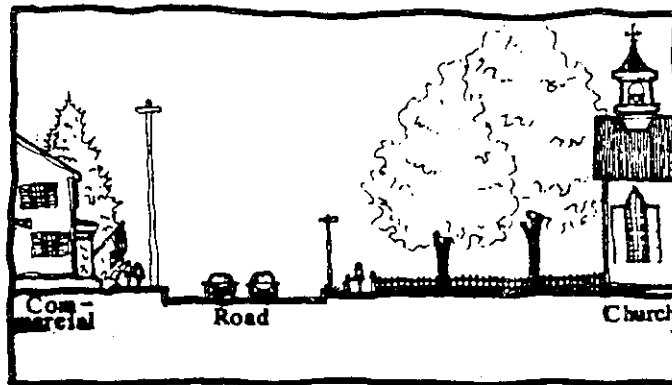
- 20 - 25' in maturity
- Reddish tinged leaves.
- Attractive in spring: Red flower buds opening to rose-red flowers
- Hardy to Zone 3
- Upright branching habit well suited to street tree use
- Disease resistant
- Non-littering
- Adaptable to many soil types
- *Limitations:* Pruning needed but only in first few years for clearance

## STREET TREES

Maintenance issues pertaining to street trees, such as interference with utility wires, underground utilities, pruning, clearance of branches and litter from leaves, fruits and flowers, are obviously important to the logistics and economics of a municipality's capacity to care for public property. However, it is important for us to remember the fundamental reasons for using street trees along main streets in any kind of intentional and consistent way.

As urban planners and designers have known for centuries, street trees are one of the essential requirements for great streets. When street trees are of a large enough stature, i.e. when their branches are above people's heads and their crowns are full and round, they shape the scale and the volume of space between opposite sides of the street. Consistent rows of street trees are the most dramatic means of spatially defining the streetscape. Furthermore, by planting them consistently in a parkway or esplanade between the sidewalk and the roadway, a distinctly pedestrian way is created which is separate from the roadway. On the contrary, if street trees are on the outer side of the sidewalk, walkers are essentially in the same volume of space with vehicles.

The cross-sections below depict these differences in streetscape scale and volume. The placement of street trees has a vital role in the identity and character of both roadways and walkways.



***Prunus sargentii* 'Columnaris'**  
**Columnar Sargent Cherry**

- 30 - 40' in maturity
- Glossy green leaves turning red-orange in fall
- Flowers deep rose in early spring
- Non-showy, non-littering black cherries
- Slow growing
- Considered one of the best cherries for streetside use
- Mahogany colored bark
- Upright branching habit
- Requires little maintenance
- *Limitations:* Life expectancy limited to approx. 20 years

***Acer rubrum***  
**Red Maple**

- 45 - 55' in maturity
- Fall color
- Very little maintenance required
- High tolerance for poor or variable soil conditions
- Suggested Cultivars:
- Autumn Flame'--very cold-hardy and compact
- 'Northwood'--extremely cold-hardy
- *Limitations:* Height in maturity may interfere with utility wires

***Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Impcole'**  
**Imperial Honeylocust**

- 30 - 40' in maturity
- Tidy-looking tree at all sizes with no litter
- Interesting winter branching habit
- Thornless and fruitless
- Resistant to injury
- Adaptable to a wide range of soils
- Tolerates salt, heat, drought, compaction and other adverse urban conditions
- *Limitations:* Height in maturity may interfere with utility wires