

Quick Plant List for Wrentham May 2020

In the scopes of work specify plants by their botanical names not their trade names. Allow NO SUBSTITUTIONS – Do not pay for them. Nurserymen will recommend what they have in stock and need to move, not what you ask for – and tell you anything you want to hear. You will likely need to look in atypical places to find these plants. I would suggest New England Wetland Plant (newp.com) and just about anything in their catalog for natives is fine with the Commission. There are several other sources for the plants below but be careful and do not trust the Nurserymen.

In the future the Commission may ask for a certified plant list of what was planted. Several of the local Nurseries do not have the best interests of the Commission goals at heart. This is the Commission's short list of the plants, along the lines of what you provided:

Canopy:

White Oak, *Quercus alba*: there is a great one in the back of the cemetery.
Shagbark Hickory, *Caruya ovata*: slow to grow but long-lived.
Paper Birch, *Betula papyrifera*: quick growing, good wildlife food, not long lived.
Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum*: Autumn color.

Street:

Liberty and Princeton Elms, *Ulmus americana*: a Dutch Elm Disease resistant variety that is tolerant of salt spray and air pollution.
Red Oak, *Quercus rubra*: fall color.
Sweet Gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*: great fall color.
Basswood, *Tilia americana*.
Sugar Maple, Shagbark Hickory and White Oak work well on streets too.

Flowering:

Redbud *Cercis canadensis*: Spring flowering and also a good yard tree.
American Dogwood *Cornus florida*.
Mountain Ash *Sorbus americana*.
Crabapple is ok, I like *Evereste* available from Raintree Nursery.

Buffer:

Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*.
White Spruce, *Picea glauca*.
White Pine, *Pinus strobus*: they can be trimmed and tamed!
Balsam fir, *Abies balsamea*.

Shrubs:

Spicebush, *Lindera benzoin*: early spring flowers, fall color and the host plant of the swallowtail butterfly.

Witch hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*: fall flowering and color

American Holly, *Ilex opaca*: NO cultivars!

Gray alder, *Alnus incana*: fall color and bird habitat.

Northern Bayberry, *Myrica pensylvanica*: Salt tolerant, great bird food.

Virginia Rose, *Rosa virginiana*: flowers and fruit for animals.

Rhododendrons and Azaleas can be used near homes.

Groundcover: This is a tough category. With shallow roots these plants can be very picky about exposure and soils

Wild strawberries, *Fragaria virginiana*: you could stabilize the area with wood chips and put in one strawberry every 10 to 20 square feet and it should fill in nicely as the woodchips decay – fortunately, this is one groundcover that is usually pretty successful everywhere.

Allegheny pachysandra, *Pachysandra procumbens*: recommended by a Commissioner who has it in their yard – if it works there it should work elsewhere in town.

Three-toothed cinquefoil, *Sibbaldiopsis tridentate*: loves full sun and tough conditions (parking lots etc.).

Maidenhair fern, *Adiantum pedatum*: needs rich, moist soils, slightly acidic and shade to part-shade.

Pennsylvanian sedge *Carex pensylvanica*: likes dry shady spots and looks a lot like grass (I've got it in my yard growing under trees).