

## Restoring Ravine and Bluff Slopes

Reintroducing native ravine plants is important in restoring the natural character of the ravines. Over the years, many non-native plants have been introduced in to the ravine systems. Frequently, they are more aggressive than native species and take over sections of the ravine.

Non-native trees such as Buckthorn and Norway Maple create a dense canopy and heavy shade, eliminating growth on the slopes. Removing the root systems of that growth exposes the steep slope to accelerated erosion from water runoff.

This pamphlet provides suggested plants for ravine and bluff restoration as well as slope stabilization.

For more information, contact the  
Lake Forest City Forester at  
(847) 604-8591.

This pamphlet provided by:  
**The City of Lake Forest**



## Select Native Ravine Plants for Restoration

### SHADE TREES

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	S,B	S,PS,SH	M,W	Fast Growing
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	U,C,S	S,PS,SH	D,M	Orange fall color; excellent shade tree
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	U,C	S,SPD	M	Beautiful bark, slow growing
American Beech	<i>Fagus gradifolia</i>	S	PS, SH	M	Mulched bed; stately tree
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	U,C,S	S,PS	M	Fall color
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	U	S	D,M	Moderate growth; allelopathic
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	U,C	S,PS	D	Lake bluffs and openings
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	U,C	S	D	State tree; dominant in uplands; pH sensitive
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	U,C	S	M,W	Interesting bark
Burr Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	U,C	S	D	Upland; openings
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	U,C,S	S,PS	M	Fall color; moderate growth
American Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	S,B	S,PS,SH	M	Very shade tolerant; big leaf

### INTERMEDIATE TREES

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Service Berry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	U,C,S	S,PS,SH	D,M	Good wildlife value; flowers; fall color
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	U,S,B	S,PS,SH	M	'Muscular' bark; yellow fall color
Pagoda Dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	S,B	PS,SH	M,W	Flowers; fall color
Hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	U,C,S	S,PS,SH	D,M	Durable; looks like a young elm
Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	U,C	S	D	Flowers; bird food

### SHRUBS

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Grey Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	U,C,S,B	S,PS	D,M	Berries; fall color; colonizing habit
Redosier Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	B	S	W	Red stems in water
Busy Honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	U,C	S,PS	D,M	Good low shrub for crest
Common Witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	U,C,S,B	S,PS,SH	D,M	Fall bloom; common shrub in ravines
Red Vine Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera dioica</i>	C	S,PS	D,M	Beautiful flower; vine; hard to find
Wild Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	U,C	S,PS	D	Sunny openings; white flowers
Chokeberry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	U,C,S	S,PS,SH	D,M	Shady slopes; clump forming
Sandbar Willow	<i>Salix interior</i>	B	S	W	Sunny openings on creep banks
Nannyberry Viburnum	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	U,S,B	S,PS,SH	M,W	Flowers; fruit
Blackhawk Viburnum	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	U,C	S,PS	D,M	Flowers; fall colors

KEY:

Location	Light	Water
U Upland	S Sun	D Dry
C Ravine Crest	PS Partial Shade	M Moist
S Ravine Slope	SH Shade	W Wet
B Ravine Bottom		

### GRASS & SEDGES

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Pennsylvania Sedge	Carex pensylvanica	U,C,S	S,PS	D,M	Groundcover in uplands; grass-like
Canada Wild Rye	Elymus canadensis	U,C	S,PS	D,M	Interesting seed head
Fowl Manna Grass	Glyceria striata	U,B	S,PS,SH	W	Wet woods
Bottlebrush Grass	Hystrix patula	U,S,C	S,PS	D,M	Pretty seed head
Panic Grass	Panicum Implicatum	U,C	S,PS	D,M	Upland openings

### WILD FLOWERS

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Columbine	Aguilegia canadensis	C,S	S,PS	D,M	Hummingbird favorite
March Marigold	Caltha palustris	U,B	S,PS	W	Beautiful spring flower along creeks
Shooting Star	Dodecatheon meadia	U,C,D	S,PS	D,M	Unique spring flower; goes dominant
Sharp-Lobed Hepatica	Hepatica acutiloba	C	PS	D,M	Early spring flower
Blue Phlox	Phlox divaricata	U,C,S	S,PS	D,M	Beautiful blue flowers
May Apple	Podophyllum peltatum	U,C,S	PS,SH	D,M	Colonizing ground cover
Solomon's Seal	Polygonatum biflorum	U,C,S	PS,SH	D,M	Nice texture en masse
Bloodroot	Sanguinaria canadensis	U,C,S	PS,SH	M	Good groundcover; white flower
False Solomon's Seal	Smilacina racemosa	U,C,S	PS,SH	D,M	Nice flower and berries
White Trillium	Trillium grandiflorum	U,C,S	S,PS,SH	D,M	Showy big white flowers
Prairie Trillium	Trillium recurvatum	U,C,S	S,PS,SH	D,M	Mottled leaf; maroon flower

### GROUNDCOVERS

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Comments</u>
White Ginger	Asarum canadense	S	PS, SH	M	Good groundcover
Pennsylvania Sedge	Carex pensylvanica	U,C,S	S,PS, SH	D,M	Looks like small tufts of grass
Horsetail	Equisetum arvense	B	PS, SH	W	Creek's edge; seeps
Trout Lily	Erythronium albidum	U,C,S	PS, SH	D,M	Colonizer; goes dormant
Swamp Buttercup	Ranunculus septentrionalis	U,B	S,PS	W	Rapid growth in wet openings
Early Meadow Rue	Thalictrum dioicum	U,C,S	PS, SH	D,M	Delicate foliage; good for small massing
Native Ferns	Various sp. ferns	U,S,B	PS, SH	D,M,W	Nice texture
Violets	Viola sp.	U,C,S,B	PS, SH	D,M,W	Spreading; nice flowers

### NON-NATIVE GROUNDCOVERS (may be invasive)

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Lily of the Valley	Convallaria majalis	C,S	PS, SH	D,M	Wonderful scented white flower
Purpleleaf Wintercreeper	Euonymus coloratus	U,C,S	S, PS	D,M	Evergreen; quick spreading
Orange Daylily	Hemerocallis fulva	U,C,S	S,PS	D,M	Orange flowers in the sun
Myrtle	Vinca minor	U,C,S	S,PS,SH	D,M	Evergreen; blue flowers

### PLANTS THAT SHOULD NOT BE USED IN RAVINES:

KEY:

Location	Light	Water
U Upland	S Sun	D Dry
C Ravine Crest	PS Partial Shade	M Moist
S Ravine Slope	SH Shade	W Wet
B Ravine Bottom		

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Botanical Name</u>
Norway Maple	Acer platanoides
Honeysuckle	Lonicera sp.
Buckthorn	Rhamnus sp.
Goutweed	Aegopodium sp.
Fleeceflower	Polygonum sp.



## Planting in Ravines

A list of recommended species for restoration and other planting in ravines.