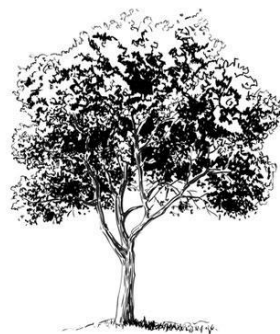# North Oaks Conservation Award
## Woodland Conservation Best Practices

The City finds that diseases such as Dutch Elm, Oak Wilt and Emerald Ash Borer, invasive plant species (such as buckthorn) and over browsing are threatening North Oaks' forests. The City of North Oaks finds that the long-term preservation of trees and woodlands within the City limits is in the best interests of the City. Given the ability of trees and woodlands to impact the public safety, health, welfare, and property values of the Community, the City finds that it is important to treat or remove diseased trees to slow the spread of diseases and to encourage the planting of a variety of native trees, shrubs, and flowers so that our forest will be diverse in age and species of trees which will benefit the health and sustainability of our forest in the most cost effective way.

Benefits of woodlands
Trees help humans and other living things in many ways. Among them, they:

- Remove carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) and other pollutants from the air
- Produce oxygen
- Provide food and shelter for animals
- Nurture biodiversity
- Preserve important parts of our state's history
- Add beauty to the landscape
- Provide a pleasant environment for recreation
- Help reduce energy demand by shading homes in summer and sheltering them from wind in winter
- Reduce noise pollution by absorbing sound
- Increase property values
- Help protect streams and lakes by reducing runoff

## Best Practices for Woodlands - Ideas

• Plant native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Minnesota has 52 native tree species to choose from. See www.mndnr.gov/trees_shrubs
• Plant a variety of species. A single pest can wipe out many trees of the same species. Take advantage of the strength in diversity! See www.mndnr.gov/forestry/nurseries/choosing.html
• Plant a variety of ages. A range of ages will help keep a forest healthy as individual trees grow, age, and die.
• Plant the right tree in the right spot. Different trees have different needs for sunlight, shade, temperature, moisture, and soil.
• Plant the right way. Dig a hole big enough to make room for the roots. Position the tree so the first root is just below the soil. Firm soil around the tree. Water regularly.
• Remove nuisance trees such as box elder, ash, buckthorn, cottonwood, Siberian elm, black locust and Norway maple.
• Standing dead trees (snags) and dead parts of live trees offer both room and board for many kinds of wildlife. As long as they aren't a safety hazard, consider leaving a few of these on the property.
• For more information on selecting, planting, and caring for trees, see: www.mndnr.gov/treecare/index.html and www.mndnr.gov/forestry/nurseries/index.html

Additional resources: Mark Rehder, North Oaks City Forester mrehder@sstree.com
University of Minnesota Forestry Division http://www.extension.umn.edu

For more information about the North Oaks Conservation Award or Woodland Conservation Best Practices, please call the City of North Oaks at 651-792-7750.