

Wolf River Boulevard: A Native Plant Guide

Botanic Name	Common Name	Min. Ht.	Min. Spr.	Sun	Bloom	Bloom Time	Fall Color	Water	Rate of Growth
SHRUBS									
<i>Hypericum frondosum</i> 'Sunburst'	Golden St. Johnswort	3'-0"	3'-0"	☀/ ☑	Yellow	June-July	Red-Yellow	☉/☔	Moderate
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Grey Owl'	Grey Owl Juniper	2'-0"	4'-0"	☀	-	-	-	☉/☔	Slow
<i>Rhus aromatica</i> 'Gro-Low'	Fragrant Sumac	1'-6"	6'-0"	☀/ ☑	Yellow	April - May	Red	☉/☔	Fast
<i>Rosa carolina</i> 'Alba'	Carolina Rose	1'-0"	5'-0"	☀/ ☑	White	June-August	Red	☉/☔	Moderate
PERENNIALS									
<i>Amsonia hubrichtii</i>	Arkansas Bluestar	2'-0"	2'-0"	☀/ ☑	Blue	April - May	Golden	☉/☔	Moderate
<i>Baptisia alba</i>	White Wild Indigo	2'-0"	2'-0"	☀/ ☑	White	April - May	-	☉/☔	Moderate
<i>Coreopsis</i> 'Crème Brulee'	Threadleaf Coreopsis	1'-0"	1'-0"	☀	Yellow	June - October	-	☉/☔	Moderate
<i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>	Wine Cups	0'-6"	0'-6"	☀	Pink-Purple	May-June	-	☉/☔	Moderate
<i>Liatris microcephala</i>	Dwarf Gayfeather	1'-0"	0'-9"	☀	Purple	July	-	☉/☔	Moderate
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Blazing Star	2'-0"	0'-9"	☀	Purple	July-August	-	☉/☔	Moderate
<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Moss Phlox	0'-3"	1'-0"	☀	Pink	March-May	-	☉/☔	Moderate
<i>Salvia greggii</i>	Autumn Sage	2'-0"	2'-0"	☀	-	-	-	☉/☔	Moderate
<i>Symphotrichum laeve</i>	Smooth Aster	2'-0"	1'-0"	☀	Violet	September-October	-	☉/☔	Moderate
GRASSES									
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Cloud 9'	Cloud 9 Switch Grass	5'-0"	2'-0"	☀/ ☑	Golden	July-February	Golden	☔/☔/☔	Moderate
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Northwind'	Northwind Switch Grass	4'-0"	2'-0"	☀/ ☑	Yellow	July - February	Yellow-Beige	☔/☔/☔	Moderate
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Shenandoah'	Shenandoah Switch Grass	3'-0"	3'-0"	☀/ ☑	Red-Pink	July - February	Beige	☔/☔/☔	Moderate
<i>Saccharum alopecuroides</i>	Silver Plume Grass	5'-0"	3'-0"	☀/ ☑	White	September-November	-	☉/☔	Moderate
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> 'Sioux Blue'	Indian Grass	3'-0"	2'-0"	☀	Brown-Yellow	August-February	Yellow	☉/☔	Fast
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie Dropseed Grass	2'-0"	2'-0"	☀	Pink-Brown	August - October	Golden	☉/☔	Slow









*Sources: The Southern Living Garden Book, 2004; Landscaping with Native Plants Promotes Biodiversity and Endorses a Land Ethic That Celebrates Our Natural Heritage (Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council); GroWild Trees & Shrubs Nursery 2009 List; <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org>

** Plant sizes are minimums









Sun requirements: ☉ (Part Sun), ☀ (Full Sun)

Moisture requirements: ☉ (Dry), ☔ (Some Water), ☔☔☔ (Wet)










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Sorghastrum nutans 'Sioux Blue'	Indian Grass	<p>Indian grass cultivar noted for its narrow, upright form and metallic-blue foliage. Foliage turns yellow in fall and usually retains hints of gold into the winter. Stiff, vertical flowering stems, topped by narrow, feathery, light brown flower panicles (to 12" long) highlighted with yellow stamens, rise well above the foliage clump in late summer to 5-6' tall. Panicles darken to bronze/chestnut brown in fall as they mature, later fading to gray.</p>	  <p>Grass habit and form</p> <p>Grass flower</p> <p>Grass flower and foliage</p>
Sporobolus heterolepis	Prairie Dropseed Grass	<p>Fine-textured, hair-like, medium green leaves (to 20" long and 1/16" wide) typically form an arching foliage mound. Foliage turns golden with orange hues in fall, fading to light bronze in winter. Open, branching flower panicles appear on slender stems which rise well above the foliage clump in late summer. Flowers have pink and brown tints, but are perhaps most noted for their unique fragrance (hints of coriander). Tiny rounded mature seeds drop to the ground from their hulls in autumn giving rise to the descriptive common name.</p>	   <p>Grass foliage</p> <p>Grass habit and form</p> <p>Grass flower</p>
Symphyotrichum laeve	Smooth Aster	<p>Cone-shaped clusters of violet-blue flowers with golden yellow centers that appear on the top half of a vase shaped clump. Small flowers (.75 to 1.25" across) with violet blue to purple (sometimes white) rays and yellow center disks appear in open, loose, panicle-like clusters in autumn. Unlike many other asters, this one has perfectly clean foliage. Stems are usually unbranched with variable, mostly toothed, smooth, bluish green foliage. Attractive to butterflies.</p>	   <p>Perennial flower</p> <p>Perennial foliage</p> <p>Perennial flower, foliage, form</p>









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Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low'	'Gro-Low' Sumac	Woody groundcover for covering flat and sloping areas. In late spring 'Gro-Low' is covered with profuse tiny yellow flowers. The summer foliage is shiny and dark green and turns orange, red and burgundy in fall. Grows readily in all types of soil including clay. Fast growth rate.		
Rosa carolina 'Alba'	Carolina Rose	Shrub has green foliage and inconspicuous white flowers, with a smattering of conspicuous red fruits or seeds. The greatest bloom is usually observed in the early summer, with fruit and seed production starting in the summer and continuing until fall. Leaves are not retained year to year. It has a moderate life span relative to most other plant species and a moderate growth rate. At maturity, it will typically reach up to 5 feet high, with a maximum height at 20 years of 5 feet.		
Saccharum alopecuroides	Silver Plume-Grass	Silver Plume Grass is a very large, upright grass, reaching up to 10 feet in height. It is popular for its attractive foliage. White flowers are displayed from mid fall to mid winter. The leaves are up to an inch across. The silvery plumes are up to 12 inches in length.		
Salvia greggii	Autumn Sage	Mounding shrub. Most of the branches originate near the base of the plant, giving a vase-shaped appearance. Many flower colors are available although shades of red, pink and white are the most common. The leaves are leathery and small, adaptations that probably help prevent moisture loss in its dry native climate. Autumn sage is usually evergreen, but a hard freeze may cause it to die to the ground, usually to reemerge in spring.		











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Phlox subulata	Moss Phlox	A vigorous, spreading, mat-forming, sun-loving phlox that grows to only 6" tall but spreads to 24" wide. Noted for its creeping habit, its linear to awl-shaped leaves (which retain some green in winter) and its profuse carpet of mid-spring flowers with notched flower petals. Native to somewhat dry, rocky or sandy places, open woodland areas and slopes. Loose clusters of fragrant, tubular flowers bloom in April-May.	 <p>Perennial flower and foliage</p>	 <p>Perennial flower and habit</p>	
Panicum virgatum 'Cloud 9'	Cloud 9 Switch Grass	This ornamental switch grass cultivar is reportedly the tallest of the switch grasses, typically growing 5-7' tall. It typically forms a narrow, erect clump of light metallic blue foliage (to 6') which is topped in summer by finely-textured, golden flower panicles which hover over the foliage like an airy cloud. Panicles persist well into fall before eventually turning beige as the seeds mature. Seed plumes persist well into winter.	 <p>Grass foliage</p>	 <p>Grass habit and form</p>	
Panicum virgatum 'Northwind'	'Northwind' Switch Grass	A tall ornamental switch grass cultivar. Olive-green to bluish-green foliage forms a compact, narrow, erect, clump which is topped in late summer by finely-textured, yellow flower panicles which hover over the foliage like an airy cloud. Flower panicles typically bring total plant height to 6'. Panicles turn beige as the seeds mature in fall with the seed plumes persisting well into winter. Foliage turns yellow-beige in fall and provides good winter interest.	 <p>Grass habit and form</p>	 <p>Grass fall color</p>	
Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'	'Shenandoah' Switch Grass	Foliage emerges bluish-green but rapidly turns burgundy-red (by late June) to form a compact, narrow, erect, 3' tall clump of foliage which is topped in summer by finely-textured, reddish-pink flower panicles which hover over the foliage like an airy cloud. Panicles turn beige as the seeds mature in fall with the seed plumes persisting well into winter. Foliage also turns beige in fall and provides good winter interest.	 <p>Grass habit and form</p>	 <p>Grass fall color</p>	 <p>Grass foliage</p>

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<p><i>Hypericum frondosum</i> 'Sunburst'</p>	<p>Golden St. Johnswort</p>	<p>A small, dense, upright, mounded deciduous shrub noted for large showy golden yellow flowers and attractive blue-green foliage. Blooms in June and July. Flowers give way to reddish-brown fruit capsules that ripen in September and persist well into winter. Attractive exfoliating reddish-brown to purplish bark develops on mature stems. Foliage is semi-evergreen to evergreen. 'Sunburst' features slightly larger flowers.</p>		
<p><i>Juniperus virginiana</i> 'Grey Owl'</p>	<p>Grey Owl Juniper</p>	<p>This eastern red cedar cultivar is a broad, slow-growing, evergreen shrub with a compact, wide-spreading habit which typically grows up to 3' tall (infrequently larger) and to 6' wide. Features scale-like, silver gray foliage. A female form which produces profuse, glaucous, berry-like cones which are attractive to birds.</p>		
<p><i>Liatris microcephala</i></p>	<p>Dwarf Gayfeather</p>	<p>This species is especially desirable because of its small stature. Compact rosettes of grassy tufts bear several rosy-purple spikes of 1-2' from late summer into fall. Drought tolerant. Attracts Birds and Butterflies. Cut flowers can be used in dried arrangements.</p>		
<p><i>Liatris spicata</i></p>	<p>Blazing Star</p>	<p>Tall, upright, clump-forming perennial; native to moist low grounds, meadows and marsh margins. Grows 2-4' tall in cultivation; can reach a height of 6'. Features terminal spikes (6-12" long) of sessile, rounded, fluffy, deep purple flower heads (each to 3/4" across) appearing atop rigid, erect, leafy flower stalks. One or more stalks arise from a basal tuft of narrow, grass-like, medium green leaves (to 12" long). Blooms in summer.</p>		

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Amsonia hubrichtii	Arkansas Bluestar	Herbaceous perennial; erect, clump-forming plant; primarily grown for its blue spring flowers, feathery green summer foliage and golden fall color. Powdery blue, 1/2" star-like flowers appear in terminal clusters in late spring atop stems rising to 3' tall. Feathery, soft-textured, needle-like, leaves are bright green in spring and summer, but turn bright gold in autumn. From a distance plants have a lily-like appearance.	 <p>Perennial Flower</p>	 <p>Perennial flower, form, habit</p>	 <p>Perennial fall foliage</p>
Baptisia alba	White Wild Indigo	Herbaceous perennial; looks more like a shrub; round bushy shape; dormant in the winter; early spring unique bare stalks (similar to asparagus shoots), then start leafing out; a month later it produces several 12"-18" upright white flower spikes above the stem; stem and foliage color is blue-green; leaves are trifoliolate, meaning there are sets of three leaflets on each stem. Once established, extremely long lived. Resents disturbance	 <p>Perennial Flower</p>	 <p>Perennial seed pods</p>	 <p>Perennial flower, form, habit</p>
Coreopsis 'Crème Brûlée'	Threadleaf Coreopsis	Has large, deep yellow flowers with attractive serrated petals; foliage is bright green. Vigorous, prolific perennial in bloom from early to late summer and into the autumn. Uniquely, flowers appear not just above the canopy but also farther down the stems, amongst the lacy leaves, to give a fuller effect. Attractive to bees and butterflies. Resistant to mildew. 'Crème Brûlée' upgrades 'Moonbeam', the standard by which all other Threadleaf types are judged.	 <p>Perennial flower</p>	 <p>Perennial foliage, flower, habit</p>	
Callirhoe involucrata	Wine Cups	Herbaceous perennial; features cup-shaped, poppy-like, bright magenta flowers and palmately lobed, dark green leaves on stems that scramble along the ground to 3 feet wide. Flowers bloom primarily from late spring to mid-summer, with some continued bloom into fall.	 <p>Perennial flower and foliage</p>	 <p>Perennial foliage, flower, habit</p>	

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Wolf River Boulevard is an Audubon International Silver Certified project. In order to achieve this significant recognition, the City had to abide by stringent environmental practices throughout the road's construction and agree to continued environmentally sensitive maintenance thereafter. Given the City's focus on the Triple Bottom Line, which includes environmental sustainability, these construction and maintenance practices are in alignment with the City's goal: Excellence Every Day.

The landscape of Wolf River Boulevard consists of native, drought tolerant plants (both preserved during construction and newly planted). A plant is considered drought tolerant if it can survive dry weather without watering for three months or longer. Plants in some areas of the continental United States need to be drought tolerant. Tennessee, for one, is an area that frequently sees months without rain, and many of its native plants are able to do without additional watering. This can reduce water and fertilizer use, reducing maintenance costs and also preserving the character of the region. When determining the plant selection for Wolf River Boulevard, consideration was given to slope, any strong prevailing winds, heavy shade, or microclimate areas that tend to be cooler or warmer in order to match the right plants with the right site conditions and use plants that occur together in their natural habitats.

Sustainable resource management requires the use of native plants. Native plants are defined as those plants that were growing naturally in North America prior to European settlement. Non-native invasive plants are species that were introduced by humans to a region and often spread rapidly and endanger native ecosystems and reduce ecological diversity. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, invasive species impact nearly half of the species currently listed as Threatened or Endangered under the U.S. Federal Endangered Species Act. By incorporating native plants in the landscape palette at the Wolf River Boulevard project, the wildlife community and long term management will benefit by:

- Providing animals with the same food and cover they evolved with;
- Minimizing the need to supply extra water, fertilizer, cultivation and other care;
- Reducing the need for pesticides because plants are co-evolved with local pests.



Wetland mitigation area #5 (near Farmington)



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