River Birch *Betula nigra*

- **Plant Characteristics:** Pyramidal to oval-headed in youth, often rounded in outline at maturity. The trunk is usually divided into several large arching branches close to the ground.
- **Size:** Height: 40—70’
  Width: 40—60’
- **Foliage:** Lustrous medium to dark green above. The undersides of the leaves are hairy.
- **Bark:** Bark is reddish brown or pinkish-brown and smooth on the youngest twigs, becoming shaggy (peeling and curling) and either reddish-brown, yellowish-brown, with sparse hairs.
- **Flower:** Male in 2-3” long, slender dark brown catkins. Female in short, conical woolly clusters. Monoecious.
- **Fruit:** Small nutlet, born in a 1—1 1/2” long pendulous catkin, ripens and sheds seed in spring.
- **Soil:** Prefers good, well-drained, moist soil.
- **USDA Hardiness Zone:** Zone 3b—9
- **Light Range:** Sun, does not tolerate shade.
- **pH Range:** Prefers 6.5 or below
- **Other:**
  - Transplants well
  - Best adapted to moist soils
  - Will survive in drier soils
  - Most adaptable birch for North-South landscapes
  - Very heat tolerant, but not drought tolerant
  - Is planted for erosion control