

SPEARFISH STREET TREE POLICY

SPEARFISH STREET TREE POLICY EXPLANATION: HISTORY, PURPOSE AND FUNCTION

HISTORY

Trees beautify the landscape and enhance the quality of life for all residents. The National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Spearfish as a "Tree City, USA" since 1984 in honor of the care we provide for our trees. Unfortunately, since the aftermath of Winter Storm Atlas in 2013, Spearfish has lost much of its tree canopy or left many trees in need of proper care. This policy is to assist in replacing and improving our "treescape".

PURPOSE

This voluntary program is to assist the residents of Spearfish with the costs associated with planting, pruning and removal of Street or Boulevard Trees within city rights-of-ways. By working together, we can preserve, protect, and enhance our tree heritage and the urban forest of Spearfish.

GOAL

The Street Tree Policy establishes a set of workable specification standards for activities affecting our Urban Forest resources. These standards and guidelines for working around public trees allow the City to assist responsible parties in maintaining this valuable resource, and to help those parties minimize public safety hazards presented by trees.

STREET TREE PLANTING AND REMOVAL PERMIT

This free permit process is required prior to any work being done to any trees located within the right-of-way. It assures the safety of our citizens by allowing the City Foresters to share proper pruning, planting, and removal techniques as well as proper tree selection based on a site evaluation of each unique location.

Planting standards require a minimum size of 1 1/2" caliber trees with the City matching up to \$125 per tree.

Tree removal expense will be a 50/50 cost share, with larger projects being reviewed on a case by case basis.

TREE PLANTING PROCESS (\$125 max match)

Before any tree planting is done, the following steps must be followed:

- Property Owners must submit the completed STREET TREE PLANTING PRUNING REMOVAL PERMIT.
- Property Owner may select the type of tree(s) using the City's approved tree list.
- A site evaluation will be performed by the Superintendent.
- If approved, the Superintendent will meet with the Property Owner to determine the species of tree.
- The City will select, purchase, and plant the tree(s) unless Property Owner wishes to contract with an approved contractor. If contracted, contractor must make arrangements to obtain the tree from the City.

TREE REMOVAL PROCESS (50/50 Cost Match)

Before any tree removal is done, the following steps must be followed:

- Obtain three quotes for tree removals from a list of qualified contractors provided by the City.
- Complete the STREET TREE PLANTING PRUNING REMOVAL PERMIT.
- Submit the completed STREET TREE PLANTING PRUNING REMOVAL PERMIT along with the three quotes to the Superintendent.
- Superintendent will contact the qualified contractor with permission to perform the removal and notify the Property Owner.
- Billing for the service will be handled with 1/2 the cost, up to cost share limitations, less sales taxes, to the City and the balance being billed to Property Owner.

WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

The complete policy, permit, and recommended tree list information can be found at the Spearfish Forestry Link listed below:

http://www.cityofspearfish.com/departments/parks_recreation_and_forestry/index.php



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