

Trees in Downtown Boise



Trees provide important economic, environmental and aesthetic benefits.

Boise is the City of Trees, and downtown is its heart and soul. Thanks to years of planning and attention to detail, the City of Trees now enjoys a vibrant, diverse, safe and attractive downtown. The trees themselves have become a vital element in downtown's success.

Since Boise was founded, citizens have recognized the value of trees in the city. In 1952, the Boise Tree Ordinance was adopted. The ordinance is a group of laws

INFORMATION FOR PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS AND TENANTS

This flyer addresses frequently asked questions you might have about trees in downtown Boise (see over). If you have other questions, please contact Community Forestry or any of the other agencies actively involved downtown (see below).

governing trees in the public right-of-way (street trees). Boise Parks and Recreation Department's Community Forestry Unit is the agency charged with the management of street trees in Boise and the enforcement of the Tree Ordinance. To that end, Community Forestry offers free inspections and permits, which are required for planting, pruning or removal of trees in the public right-of-way.



STREET TREE BENEFITS

Trees provide many important benefits for the local economy, the environment and you! Trees in Boise are an invaluable source of shade and beauty, welcoming residents and visitors alike. Professional research shows that trees:

- ☛ Attract customers and encourage them to shop longer.
- ☛ Draw new businesses to the area.
- ☛ Increase marketability of property.
- ☛ Promote emotional and physical health.
- ☛ Increase job satisfaction, coping ability in employees.
- ☛ Improve pedestrian comfort and security.
- ☛ Decrease crime rate.
- ☛ Significantly reduce utility billing by shading buildings.
- ☛ Calm and slow traffic (increase store visibility!)
- ☛ Reduce pavement maintenance by shading and cooling.
- ☛ Improve air quality in often polluted downtown areas.
- ☛ Reduce noise, glare and ambient temperatures.
- ☛ Greatly improve aesthetics and livability.



This before-and-after comparison shows how street trees brought shaded comfort, beauty—and customers—to 8th Street.

CONTACTS:

Tree planting, pruning, care, more:
Boise Community Forestry; 384-4083;
www.cityofboise.org/parks/forestry

Sidewalks, flower pots, more:
Downtown Boise Association
472-5252; www.downtownboise.org

Streetscape standards, more:
Capital City Development Corp.
384-4264; www.ccdcoise.com

Streets, right-of-way, more:
Ada County Highway District
387-6100; www.achd.ada.id.us



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



QUESTION	ANSWER
Who is responsible for the trees along the streets downtown?	The maintenance of trees located on the public right-of-way is shared by the adjacent property owner and Boise City Community Forestry.
What are the property owner's responsibilities?	Property owners are responsible for watering and regular maintenance of trees adjacent to their property. In the fall, leaves are removed by the property owner or Downtown Boise Association.
How do I know if a tree is on a public right-of-way?	This will be determined at an on-site inspection. Generally, trees in parkway planting strips are on the public right-of-way. Trees in sidewalk planters next to the curb with grates are likely on the right-of-way.
How do I arrange to have my trees pruned?	Property owners are responsible for pruning trees on the right-of-way adjacent to their property. Tree services must be licensed with Community Forestry to prune public trees.
Who removes dead or dying trees?	Community Forestry provides tree removal at no cost to the property owner. Typically, larger trees identified for removal are posted for up to 30 days with a sign stating why the tree is being removed. If site conditions allow, a replacement tree is required.
Can I plant trees by my building?	Yes, if certain conditions are met. A planting strip or tree planters and irrigation must be available. Contact Community Forestry for a free inspection and permit.
Where do I get trees?	Trees can be purchased from Community Forestry or from any nursery. A tree planting permit is required prior to planting a tree, and only certain species are allowed on the street right-of-way.
Trees are blocking visibility of my store/sign. What can I do?	Contact Community Forestry for a free inspection. Pruning may improve visibility of storefronts and signs. Under no circumstances may trees be topped or removed without prior approval from Community Forestry. Relocation of existing signage or additional signage is another option.
Who is responsible for accidentally damaged trees?	Contact Community Forestry—in some cases replacement is provided. The person who causes damage to a tree is responsible for its repair or replacement, but ultimately it is the property owner's responsibility.
Can I string lights in trees adjacent to my property?	Yes, as long as lights are removed or adjusted periodically to allow for tree growth. Annual removal or adjustment of all lighting on trees on the public right-of-way is required. Do not use nails, screws or staples to attach lights.



A free permit must be obtained from Boise Community Forestry prior to planting, pruning or removing any street tree. This enables Community Forestry to manage the quality of care provided to street trees, and it protects property owners. Property owners must hire a city-licensed private tree service to prune trees in the public right-of-way. A list of tree services approved and licensed by Boise City is available from Community Forestry.

For more information, or a free brochure about their programs, contact Boise Community Forestry at 384-4083, or visit the Web site: www.cityofboise.org/parks/forestry.