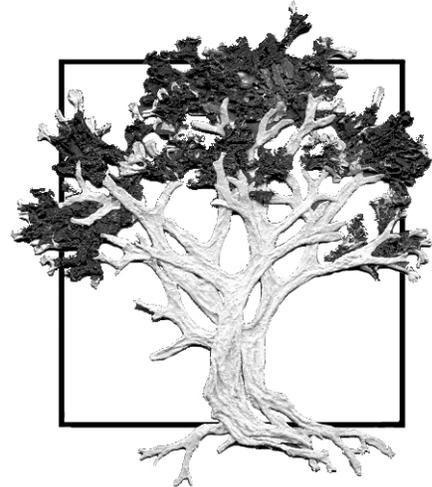


# NeighborWoods FAQs

## **What is the Neighbor Woods program?**

This is a City of Sandpoint Urban Forestry Program to plant new trees in the public parkways (area between curb and sidewalks or, if there is no curb or sidewalk, between the street and the private property line.)

It is a partnership program. The city will supply the trees and workshops(s) about the care of planting trees; its Urban Forester will confer with the property owner about the choice of tree and planting site; if a property owner is unable to dig the proper sized planting hole, the city will contract out the labor. The property owner agrees to care for the tree for three years until it is established.



## **How do I find out where the public Right of Way is if I don't have a curb and sidewalk in front of my house?**

Short of conducting of an actual survey, this is not always easy to do. But, the city's forester can, with the help of the city's Public Works department, make a good, educated guess.

Each city street has a designated right of way width—e.g., most streets have a 60 foot right of way width, a few like Church or Main have 80 foot widths. As a very rough approximation, if you find the center of the street on which you live and measure 30 (or in the case of Church and Main 40) feet toward your property, you will find the dividing line between your property and public property. But, be sure to ask the Urban Forester to check your measurements. Not all streets were built “on center!”

## **How and why did this program come about?**

The Tree Committee, a group of interested and skilled citizens, recognizes two facts: 1.) Sandpoint has an aging urban forest and trees must be continually planted to avoid the shock of “one day” waking up to the loss of many trees about the same time. 2.) Contrary to what we see on streets like Lake Street or 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, a lot of Sandpoint is without street trees.

The Committee understands not only the aesthetic value of street trees but their practical value in the health and safety of this community.

Our first NeighborWoods planting occurred in the fall of 2008. The City and your neighbors planted 55 trees. Since that time we have planted approximately 60 trees every spring and fall, resulting in about 385 trees being planted with the participation of about 175 home owners (as of spring 2011).

## **How do you choose the appropriate height and/or type of tree to plant as a street tree?**

We begin with the premise that you are working as a partner with us to prevent improperly planted trees that are not appropriate for their sites, such as trees that are too tall planted under power lines or trees that get too large for narrow planting strips.

The Urban Forester or a member of the Tree Committee will visit your home, after you have submitted an application showing where you want the trees. We take into consideration as many of the potential strengths and limitations of the site as possible, constraints such as the width of the planting strip, building setbacks, proximity to the street and/or sidewalks, proximity to other trees and vegetation, the presence or absence of overhead power lines and underground utilities, and soil type and condition. We also work with your preferences for spring flowering, fall color, fruit for birds—or no messy fruit at all!

We recommend and offer only single-trunked, deciduous trees for use as street trees. We have found most conifers become far too large at maturity for street trees, their trunks and large roots outgrowing the limited space in most City rights-of-way. Their lower branches, if not trimmed, also impede both vehicular and pedestrian traffic and greatly reduce visibility for driver and pedestrian safety. The beauty and structural stability of a conifer are affected adversely by limbing up in a way that deciduous trees are not. Traffic safety and visibility are also why multiple-trunked trees or thick shrubbery in rights-of-way along streets are discouraged.

### **Why are there so few native tree species offered?**

Unfortunately, most of our Pacific Northwest native trees get far too large for street trees. The conifer species in particular want to be BIG forest trees and quickly outgrow most urban settings, as well as restricting visibility unless limbed up in an unattractive (and sometimes unsafe) way.

And, many other native species tend to be multi-stemmed and thus tend to present problems for street and sidewalk clearance. Others in the poplar and willow and cotton wood families have very aggressive root systems that have the potential to break sewer and water lines.

We are not adverse in principle to planting native species and will continue to look for good fits. In fact, this fall we are going to try using “Autumn Brilliance Service Berry”.

### **How does the width of the planting strip affect the potential choice of street trees?**

A tree that matures with a trunk too large for a narrow planting strip is much more likely to damage sidewalks, curbs, and/or streets, requiring costly repairs. Such damage to the trunk also ultimately leads to the death of the tree—and costly tree removal. So we fit the tree to the space: a tree of small stature in a narrow planting strip (3 feet wide or smaller), a medium size tree in a planting strip of 3 to 5 feet wide and a larger tree in a larger planting strip (over five wide).

### **What tree species and cultivars will be offered?**

We try to offer at least five different species of trees (e.g. Maple is a species) and at least ten different cultivars (e.g., Autumn Blaze Maple and Northwood Maple represent two different cultivars of one species). And, we try to get at least two or three tree choices each for the small, medium and large planting strips.

We are limited to what is available to us from the nurseries in the Bonners Ferry area. But, there is still a lot of variety available in Bonners Ferry as there are world class nurseries in that area.

The trees we are ordering this fall are listed at the end of the next page. Some of the trees will be ordered in good quantity and for some there will be only 1 or 2.

### **How does the building setback, proximity to the road and/or sidewalks, and the proximity to other trees affect the type of tree chosen for planting?**

We want to limit the potential for conflict or competition between tree branches and buildings, cars, pedestrians, and other trees. City specifications are for mature trees to be maintained at a height of 14 feet over a street or road for vehicular clearance and 7 feet over sidewalks for pedestrian clearance. Tree varieties are carefully chosen to have a size and/or branching structure that will cause the least conflict at maturity, and they are carefully located a prudent distance from buildings and other trees—it’s not a good idea to have a tree growing into a building or other trees.

### **How do overhead power lines and underground utilities affect the choice of trees or their placement?**

Avista Power Company is required by law to provide for the safe transmission of power to their customers. In certain instances, this may require pruning trees to provide clearance for power lines. Often the degree and severity of such pruning on larger trees is damaging to their health and structural integrity. To ensure that our street trees remain healthy and structurally sound, under power lines we plant only those trees that mature to a shorter stature and thus require minimal, if any, pruning for clearance. Other overhead utility lines, such as cable, telephone, etc., do not require clearance pruning; however, we still recommend trees that fit below those lines in order to prevent damage and loss of service from tree-related incidents.

While most underground utilities are not directly affected by having trees planted over them, care must be taken not to cut or dig into such utilities while planting trees. **Underground utilities must be located before any tree planting activity is done. Idaho One Call is a free service, with a toll-free number: 811.** As part of your involvement in the NeighborWoods Program, you may be asked to call Idaho One Call after the site to determine if there are going to be any utility conflicts. Most of the time, the urban forestry department makes those calls for the participants.

### Can I get free trees if I don't live in Sandpoint?

Unfortunately, the free trees and individual guidance provided by the NeighborWoods Program are available only to residents within the city limits of Sandpoint since the funding comes from city taxpayers.

Free workshops and seminars sponsored by the NeighborWoods Program are open to everyone, regardless of residence, subject to available space. Please call the NeighborWoods coordinator (208) 265-1480 or [jyost@ci.sandpoint.id.us](mailto:jyost@ci.sandpoint.id.us) to check if the workshop or seminar you wish to attend has space available.

### The workshop: When is it and what will it cover?

The **workshop will take place in the fall, to be determined each year** at the city council chambers at city hall at 1123 Lake Street.

The City Forester and horticulturalist will instruct you in “Basic Tree Biology,” and “Young Tree Care and Maintenance.”

### What is the basic schedule of events?

1. Come in the city for an application or print an application from the city web site. Fill it out and submit it to the City’s Urban Forester, ideally at least one week before the workshop and no later than October 25<sup>th</sup>.
2. If necessary arrange for a site visit with the city forester or a tree committee member before the week of the workshop. Meanwhile the city forester and members of the tree committee will visit your house with your application and decide on what class tree you can plant (small, medium or large).
3. Review the tree list below by searching for “images” on Google. Read about the trees that interest you and come to the workshop with a least of at least five to six of the trees listed that interest you. If you come with just one tree preference and that tree is taken by people who choose before you then you will be disappointed. These trees are all great.

### Who should I call to find out more information?

Jared Yost, City Forester, at City of Sandpoint, 208 265 1480 or email him at: [jyost@ci.sandpoint.id.us](mailto:jyost@ci.sandpoint.id.us)

Trees ordered for May delivery.

#### SMALL TREES

- Paul's Scarlet Hawthorne (2)
- Malus Spring Snow (1)
- Perfect Purple Crabapple (2)
- Tree Lilac—China Ivory Pillar (1)
- Tree Lilac—Ivory Silk (4)
- Autumn Brilliance Service Berry (4)
- Pyramidal Mountain Ash (3)

#### MEDIUM SIZE TREES

- Pryus Calleryana Cleveland/Chanticleer (4)
- Prunus Padus Merlot (2)

#### LARGE TREES

- Linden (3)
- Autumn Purple Ash (2)
- Mancana Ash (4)
- Red Rocket Maple (4)
- Prairie Spire Ash (2)
- Imperial Honey Locust (2)
- Skyline Honey Locust (2)