

Memorandum

To: 220 N. 2nd.

From: Hailey Tree Committee
Public Works Department

RE: Removal of mature Spruce tree(s) in the ROW

Date: December 8, 2025

Background: In September, a member of the Hailey Tree Committee (HTC) notified City Staff regarding the removal of several mature Spruce trees, including one in the public right-of-way (ROW). There were no encroachment permits filed with the City authorizing the removal of this ROW tree.

12.20.030.01: PERMIT REQUIRED:

No person, firm or legal entity shall plant, prune or remove any public tree without first obtaining an encroachment permit from the City of Hailey. All such permit applications shall be reviewed following policies recommended by the Hailey Tree Committee. The City may grant a permit or conditionally grant a permit only when such is consistent with the provisions of this chapter and/or other applicable laws or standards. There shall be no fee for an encroachment permit obtained for removal of a public tree deemed by a certified arborist to be dead, dying or presenting a condition requiring risk mitigation. Conditionally granted encroachment permits may include provisions for the applicant to provide to the City of Hailey the replacement value of the public tree for the use of providing new public tree(s) in another location at the discretion of the City.

A 2014 tree inventory identified the ROW tree as a 12-inch diameter spruce with an estimated value of approximately \$2,500. Over the past ten years, the tree would have increased substantially in both size and appraised value. Using the “MyTreeValue” online valuation tool, HTC members estimated the tree’s current value to be roughly \$5,600.

The Hailey Tree Committee discussed options to remedy the situation at length, and came up with two options.

Tree Committee Recommendation:

Option 1: Plant 3-4 new trees in the ROW, with at least one on the west side. They should be 2-3 inch caliper, watered and maintained by the owner. Species to be approved by HTC in the spring or whenever landscaping begins.

Option 2: \$5000 paid to the City for payment of the ROW tree removed without proper processes.

UPDATE 1/9/2026

The options were presented to the owner/contractors during their December design review.

Correspondence with Community Development staff after the meeting stated the following:

-The property owner has proposed to Staff to plant 4 trees, two along E Galena and two along N 2nd Avenue, meeting the Tree Committee's Option 1 requirements. The tree species currently proposed for these street tree plantings are honey locust and hawthorn, according to submitted plans. The property owner will also be required to install irrigation to provide water to these trees. Staff made it a Condition of Approval that the Tree Committee has to review and approve the proposed public right-of-way landscaping plan, prior to doing any planting. -If the Tree Committee would like to provide species alternatives (if necessary) for the owner to consider planting, that would be good information to pass along to them sooner rather than later. Other helpful information could be specific planting instructions for the trees, such as removal of the burlap around the root ball, specific soil compaction instructions, etc.