



FREE Fall Street Trees for Downtown!

The Downtown Spokane Partnership and the City of Spokane are offering 40 free replacement street trees in the downtown business district this fall. Abutting property owners are responsible for street trees within the public right-of-way, and the trees are a part of required landscaping per city ordinance.

To prompt replacement tree planting, 40 trees are being offered this fall at no cost. Through the new Pilot Program (to August 2026) for downtown, a City arborist will provide free oversight to ensure proper species and proper installation (while waiving the free Tree Permit) if you prefer to hire a landscaper or property manager, or other - for the actual planting services. It is still an option to hire a city-licensed tree service for planting and permitting if preferred.

Steps:

- **Step 1:** Sign-up for a free street tree(s) through DSP, with confirmation of maintenance commitment
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Further Details:

- Replacement trees will be provided for dead or missing trees only (removals must be permitted and completed by a licensed tree service)
 - 2" caliper trees available include 'Emerald Sunshine' elm and honeylocust, which perform well in downtown/tough growing conditions.
 - Additional trees of the same species are not available for purchase, but likely can be found at local tree nurseries.
 - Limit – 4 free trees per property, limit 6 trees per property owner for those who own multiple parcels. Trees will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.
 - Trees cannot be used to fulfill planting requirements of new construction projects.
 - Must be within the DSP Boundaries.
- **Step 2:** Select someone for planting:
 - If you prefer to hire a landscaper or property manager for planting, a City arborist is available at no cost to meet the arborist requirement to ensure right tree / right place and proper planting.
 - It is also an option to hire a City Licensed Tree Service for the consult and tree planting. List of [tree services link](#) (all provide free estimates). Please do consumer due diligence when hiring any company. Some companies have extensive experience working in downtown, while other companies may not.
 - Free Tree Permit Required, N/A if using the City Arborist for planting, or acquired by City-licensed arborist (required for planting, pruning or removing street trees).
 - Tree Service (or other) coordinates pick up of tree stock through DSP/ Spokane Urban Forestry
 - Removals must be completed by a City-licensed tree service (unless 3" or smaller). This program provides free trees only. Trees do not come with a warranty; they are high quality trees purchased through a reputable grower.
 - Obstruction Permit for planting – issued by Development Services depending upon the level of Obstruction to the sidewalk and/or street for planting activities. City Arborist or Tree Service can provide advise and direction.
- **Step 3:** Tree Care
 - When replacements are planted - abutting property owner is to ensure irrigation is functioning, hired contractor and/or tree service may assist with this. If irrigation may be on a City system, please coordinate with the Water Dept by calling 311.
 - Monitor tree(s) to ensure it thrives! For example, if the tree is drying out, it will need to be watered by hand and irrigation issue resolved if applicable.
 - Maintenance/pruning is typically limited within the 3-5 years, then clearance pruning (to prune up low branches) and formative pruning is typically recommended to develop strong structure.
 - Ensure tree grate is installed properly/in compliance – Verify requirements through Development Services and/or Code Enforcement at 625-6300.
 - Consult with Urban Forestry 625-5495 if you have any issues navigating any City process for guidance.