

**CHAPTER 9
COMMUNITY FORESTRY**

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8-9-1: PURPOSE: The purpose of this Chapter is to promote and protect the public health, safety and general welfare by providing for the regulation of the planting and maintenance, and removal of trees, shrubs and other plants within the City of Idaho Falls. (Ord. 2207, 8-8-96; Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2877, 8-11-11; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-2: DEFINITIONS:

(A) Terms used in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed below:

1. ANSI A300: That certain standard tree, shrub and other woody plant maintenance standard practice as set forth in ANSI A300 (Part I)—2001, as published by the American National Standards Institute, Inc., May 22, 2001 Edition.
2. ANSI Z133.1: That certain safety standard regarding the planting and maintenance of trees in proximity to utility lines as published by the American National Standards Institute, Inc. May 22, 2001 Edition.

3. CITY FOREST: The sum of all trees and shrubs within the City.
4. CITY FORESTER: The person appointed by the Director to carry out the duties and functions set out in the Chapter.
5. CRITICAL ROOT ZONE: The area under a tree extending from the base of a tree in all directions to a line ten (10) feet outside of the drip-line.
6. DIRECTOR: The duly appointed Director of City Parks and Recreation Department or designee.
7. PARK TREE: Any public tree, shrub, bush and woody vegetation located in or upon any public park owned by the City, but excluding trees in the public right-of-way.
8. PERSON: Any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, association, company, or other governmental entity or organization of any kind.
9. PRIVATE TREE: Any tree that is not a public tree.
10. PRIVATE TREE SERVICE COMPANY: Any company or person engaged in the business of tree pruning, trimming, removal within or without the City, whose gross receipts are more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in any calendar year.
11. PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY: Improved or unimproved public property owned by, dedicated to, or deeded to, the public or the public's use for the purpose of providing vehicular, pedestrian and other public use. Such public property includes, but is not limited to, streets, alleys, sidewalks, public utility.
12. PUBLIC TREE: Any tree located upon public property owned or managed by the City, including a street tree.
13. SHRUB: A woody perennial plant, branched at or near the base and which at maturity is expected to grow less than fifteen (15) feet in height.
14. STREET TREE: Any tree, shrub, bush, and all other woody vegetation whose critical root zone is located on or encroaches into any public right-of-way or whose branches overhang any public right-of-way owned or managed by the City, or an adjacent property owner.
15. TOPPING: The severe cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three (3) inches in diameter within the tree's crown or the removal of the top part (trunk and limbs) of a coniferous tree, thereby removing the normal canopy and disfiguring the tree.
16. TREE: A woody and perennial plant, usually having one main stem or trunk and many branches and which, at maturity is expected to exceed fifteen (15) feet in height and two (2) inches in diameter. The failure to achieve such height at maturity shall not preclude

its consideration as a tree. (Ord. 2207, 8-8-96; Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2877, 8-11-11; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14; Ord. 3003, 4-23-15; Ord. 3007, 5-25-15)

8-9-3: CITY FORESTER: The Director may appoint a person to serve as City Forester. The City Forester shall have such duties and perform such functions as shall be prescribed herein and as required by the Director of Parks and Recreation. The City Forester is hereby authorized to:

(A) Direct, manage, supervise and control the City street tree and park tree program for the planting, removal, maintenance and protection of all public trees and shrubs on all public areas and to supervise and assist the Parks and Recreation Department personnel in the planting, removal, maintenance and protection of said trees and shrubs;

(B) To guard all public and private trees and shrubs within the City so as to prevent the spread of disease or pest and to eliminate dangerous conditions which may affect the life, health or safety of person or property. (Ord. 2207, 8-8-96; Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2877, 8-11-11; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14; Ord. 3003, 4-23-15)

8-9-4: ESTABLISHMENT OF A SHADE TREE COMMITTEE: There is hereby created and established a Shade Tree Committee for the City, which shall consist of seven members who reside within the City. The Shade Tree Committee shall be comprised of six (6) at-large members and one member (1) who shall be a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Members of the Committee shall be nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by a majority of the members of the Council. (Ord. 2207, 8-8-96) (Ord. 2403, 1-11-01); (Ord., 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2826, 11-12-09; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-5: TERM OF OFFICE: The term of the members of the Shade Tree Committee shall be three (3) years. In the event that a vacancy shall occur during the term of any member, his or her successor shall be appointed for the unexpired portion of the term. Members of the Committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and Council and may be removed for good cause at the sole discretion of the Council, including but not limited to failure to regularly attend scheduled meetings of the Committee or other dereliction of duty. (Ord. 2207, 8-8-96) (Ord. 2403, 1-11-01); (Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2877, 8-11-11; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-6: OPERATION OF THE SHADE TREE COMMITTEE: The Committee shall choose its own officers, make its own rules and regulations and keep minutes of its proceedings. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. (Ord. 2207, 8-8-96; Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-7: DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The Shade Tree Committee shall provide advice to the Director, Mayor, City Forester and Council as to the preservation, protection and management of the community forest of Idaho Falls, in accordance with the intent and purpose of this Chapter. The Committee shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(A) Assist the City Forester in encouraging landscaping installation and maintenance on private property by providing information on the value of landscaping and the proper planting and care of trees and other vegetation;

(B) Recommend policies and procedures to identify, mark, publicize and preserve historic and notable trees on both public and private property;

(C) Assist the City Forester in promoting appreciation of trees and the City Forest through annual Arbor Day observances and other activities;

(D) Encourage improvement of the community forest through planning and policy development;

(E) Assist City Departments and Divisions in every way possible to enhance the City Forest;

(F) Enhance opportunities for obtaining monetary funds for tree purchases, related supplies and community forestry activities through local and federal assistantship grants and donations;

(G) Serve as an advocate of the City's Forest. (Ord. 2207, 8-8-96; Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2877, 8-11-11; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14; Ord. 3003, 4-23-15)

8-9-8: SPECIES OF TREES PERMITTED:

It shall be unlawful to plant any tree within any public right-of-way or planting median or immediately adjacent to a public tree except the following species of trees:

Small Trees

Cherry, Canada Red	Prunus virginiana 'Shubertii'
Cherry, Sargent	Prunus sargentii
Crabapple, (persistent or fruitless varieties)	Malus spp.'Spring Snow/Thunderchild
Elm, Camperdown	Ulmus glabra 'Camperdownii'
Hawthorne, Black	Crateagus douglasii'
Hawthorne, Snowbird	Crateagus mordenesis
Hawthorne, Washington	Crateagus phaenopyrum
Hornbeam, American	Carpinus, caroliniana
Lilac, Japanese Tree	Syringa reticulata
Maple, Amur	Acer ginnala
Maple, Bigtooth	Acer grandidentatum
Maple, Hedge	Acer campestre
Mayday	Prunus padus
Pear, Callery (varieties)	Pyrus calleryana 'Cleveland/Princess'
Plum, Newport	Prunus cerasifera 'Newport'
Serviceberry, Saskatoon	Amelanchier alnifolia

Medium Trees

Amur Cork Tree	Phellodendron amurense
Beech, European	Fagus sylvatica
Birch, Heritage	Betula nigra 'Heritage'
Catalpa, Northern	Catalpa speciosa
Elm, Smoothleaf (varieties)	Ulmus carpinifolia 'Homestead/Frontier'
Hackberry	Celtis occidentalis
Honeylocust, (thornless varieties)	Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis
Linden, American (varieties)	Tilia americana
Linden, Littleleaf	Tilia cordata
Linden, Corinthian	Tilia cordata 'Corinthian'
Linden, Littleleaf	Tilia cordata
Maple, Norway (varieties)	Acer platanoides
Maple, Red (varieties)	Acer rubrum
Oak, Columnar English	Quercus robur Fastigiata
Walnut, English	Juglans regia
Zelkova	Zelkova serrata

Large Trees

Coffeetree, Kentucky	Gymnocladus dioicus
Honeylocust, Thornless (native species)	Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis
Horsechestnut	Aesculus hippocastanum
Linden, American (native species)	Tilia americana
Maple, Norway (native species)	Acer platanoides
Oak, Bur	Quercus macrocarpa
Oak, Bur/Gambel Hybrid	Quercus macrocarpa x gambelii
Oak, Bur/English Hybrid	Quercus macrocarpa x robur

Other species may be planted only with written permission from the Parks and Recreation Department. (Ord. 2207, 8-8-96); (Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2877, 8-11-11; Ord. 3003, 4-23-15)

8-9-9: UTILITIES:

(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to plant any public or private tree under or within twenty (20) lateral feet of any overhead utility wire, or over or within five (5) lateral feet of any underground water line, sewer line, electric transmission or distribution line or other utility except the following species of trees:

Cherry, Canada Red	Prunus virginiana 'Shubert'
Crabapple, (persistent or fruitless varieties)	Malus spp.
Elm, Camperdown	Ulmus blabra 'Camperdownii'
Honeylocust, Imperia	Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis 'Imperial'

Lilac, Japanese Tree	Syringa reticulata
Maple, Amur	Acer ginnala
Mayday	Prunus padus
Mountain Ash, European	Sorbus aucuparia
Plum, Newport	Prunus cerasifera ‘Newport’
Serviceberry, Saskatoon	Amelanchier alnifolia
Sumac, Staghorn	Rhus typhina

Other species may be planted only with written permission from the Parks and Recreation Department.

(B) It shall be unlawful to plant any public or private tree in any location in any manner which does not comply with the safety standards for planting and maintenance of trees in proximity to public utilities, as set forth in ANSI Z133.1.

(C) The City will not be responsible for damage to any tree or shrub located within a utility easement as a result of the operation or maintenance of City utility lines. Damage to any public utility system caused by trees improperly located within the public right-of-way or easement will be repaired at the owner's expense. (Ord. 2207, 8-8-96; Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2877, 8-11-11; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14; Ord. 3003, 4-23-15)

8-9-10: RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PRIVATE TREES:

(A) It shall be unlawful for any person owning a private tree or in control of a private tree to refuse or fail to take the following actions within a reasonable time after being directed to do so by the City Forester:

- (1) Remove, prune, or re prune any tree located on such person's private property in a manner that removes, abates or otherwise lessens the likelihood of or resolves any pest infestation, dangerous condition or circumstance located within such tree, the existence of which constitutes a public nuisance, as defined in Section 8-9-18 of this Code.
- (2) Remove, prune, or re prune any private tree located on such person's real property in a manner that provides for vertical clearance of the branches of such tree to a height of not less than eight feet (8') above any public sidewalk or not less than fifteen feet (15') above any public street or alley.
- (3) Remove, control or abate any pest investing or otherwise located in or upon any private tree located upon the owner's private real property.

- (1) Remove and properly dispose of all branches, twigs, leaves or other debris deposited upon public property by or at the direction of any person pruning, trimming or removing such private tree.

(Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2877, 8-11-11; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-11: LICENSING OF PRIVATE TREE SERVICE COMPANIES:

(A) It shall be unlawful for any private tree service company to prune, trim or otherwise remove any public or private tree located within the City without having a valid, current license to engage in such business.

- (1) Licenses shall be issued by the City Clerk upon payment by the applicant of a licensing fee in an amount set from time to time by Resolution of Council, and satisfaction by the applicant of the licensing requirements set forth below. Each license shall be issued for a period of one (1) year and shall not be transferrable.
- (2) Prior to the issuance of any license, the applicant shall satisfy the following requirements:
 - (a) Provide a copy of a certificate of insurance evidencing the applicant's current coverage of a commercial general liability policy, having limits of not less than a combined single limit of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).
 - (b) Provide a copy of a certificate of insurance evidencing current Idaho workers' compensation insurance, having limits not less than the Idaho statutory limits.
 - (c) Delivery of an affidavit signed by the applicant certifying that the applicant has within its employ or has contracted with an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture ("ISA") for the term of the license.
- (3) Such license may be revoked by the City Council upon satisfactory proof of any of the following reasons:
 - (a) The removal, pruning or trimming of any public or private tree within the City by the licensee at any time while the licensee does not have an ISA certified arborist on staff or has not contracted with a certified arborist.
 - (b) A removal, trimming or pruning of any tree by the licensee or any employee of the licensee who is not acting under the

direction or control of an ISA certified arborist, and pursuant to a written work plan approved by an ISA certified arborist.

- (c) The removal, trimming or pruning of any public or private tree by the licensee or any person employed or acting under the licensee's direction or control, in any manner which violates the provisions of this Chapter.
- (d) Failure of the licensee to maintain the liability insurance or worker's compensation insurance required by this Chapter.
- (e) Failure to keep current any condition of licensure.
- (f) A violation of this Chapter.
- (g) Providing false or inaccurate information relative to licensure.

(B) Exemptions from licensure.

(1) Unless a person or company is a Private Tree Service Company, as defined in this Chapter, no license shall be required of a person or company:

- (a) for occasional and incidental pruning of broken branches, trimming of ornamental shrubs, removal of tree branches or shrub branches that obstruct or interfere with paths, walkways, or gardens, and similar non-invasive care of trees and shrubs incidental to such person's or company's primary business; or
- (b) where emergency tree or shrub trimming, pruning, or removal is reasonably necessary to prevent or lessen irreparable or serious damage to human life or property within five (5) days immediately following a storm event, accident, tree failure, or the like which causes the emergency.
- (c) tree pruning below a fifteen foot (15') height, as measured from the base of the tree pruned. (Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2877, 8-11-11; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-12: PERMIT REQUIRED FOR PRUNING OF PUBLIC TREES:

(A) Unless exempt as provided by this Chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person to perform or caused to be performed any of the following acts without having first obtained a permit from the Director or the Community Forester:

- (1) Prune, cut or remove any portion of a public tree.

(2) Attach any object to a public tree in any manner which is reasonably likely to harm or materially injure the bark of such public tree.

(3) Cut, damage, or destroy the bark of any public tree.

(4) Dig, trench, excavate or place any hazardous, chemical or substance within the critical root zone of any public tree.

(B) The Director or City Forester may, as a condition for the issuance of such permit, require the applicant to post a cash bond or other security acceptable to the Director or City Forester, the condition for which is the permittee's removal of the stump of said tree within thirty (30) days of the date of the issuance of such permit. (Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2877, 8-11-11; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-13: REGULATIONS FOR PLANTING STREET TREES: Street trees shall be classified in accordance with the three (3) species size classes listed in this Chapter. Street trees shall not be planted closer together than the following: small trees, twenty feet (20'); medium trees, thirty feet (30'); large trees, forty feet (40'). No trees may be planted closer to the backside of any curb or the nearest edge of any sidewalk than the following: small trees, two feet (2'); medium trees, three feet (3'); and large trees, four feet (4'). All trees planted shall follow the Clear View Section of the City's Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance No. 1941, Sections 4-7. All distances shall be measured from the center of the tree trunk at ground level. (Ord. 2207, 8-8-96; Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2877, 8-11-11; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-14: TREES AND SHRUBS OVERHANGING PUBLIC PROPERTY: All owners, or persons in control of private real property upon which a street tree or shrub is growing, shall remove or trim, at his or her expense, all limbs or foliage which overhang or project into any public street, sidewalk, alley or easement and which interfere with public travel or use of such public way or easement or which do not satisfy the requirements of the City Zoning Ordinance entitled "Clear View of Intersecting Streets and Ways." All trees and shrubs planted shall follow the Clear View Section of the City's Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance No. 1941, Sections 4-7. Street trees and shrubs shall be trimmed from the ground level to at least fifteen feet (15') above any public street, public easement or alley, or to at least eight feet (8') above the curb and sidewalk. (Ord. 2207, 8-8-96; Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2877, 8-11-11; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-15: ABUSE OF PUBLIC TREES AND SHRUBS:

(A) Unless authorized by an appropriate public officer, it shall be unlawful for any person to:

(1) injure, deface, disfigure or destroy any public tree;

(2) permit any animal under his or her care or control to injure any public tree or shrub;

(3) cause any fire to injure any portion of any public tree or shrub;

- (4) cause any toxic chemical to be applied to, seep, drain or be emptied on or about any public tree or shrub;
- (5) attach any device or structure to or on public trees, in a manner which harms or which is reasonably likely to cause harm a public tree;
- (6) injure, destroy, to cut or pick any flower or ornamental plant growing, standing or being on public property;
- (7) make or cause excavations in the soil near roots of public trees unless appropriate measures are taken to prevent exposed soil from drying out;
- (8) damage the roots of a public tree by compacting or filling on or around the base of the tree; or
- (9) to top, prune or trim any public tree, except in accordance with the provisions of ANSI A300.

(B) Nothing herein shall prevent or prohibit the pruning, removal, treatment, care or maintenance of any public tree or shrub, provided such work complies with the provisions of ANSI A300. (Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-16: STREET TREE CARE: The Department of Parks and Recreation shall have the right to remove, trim, destroy and control all street trees which are planted, grown or maintained in violation of the provisions of this Chapter. The Department of Parks and Recreation shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove street trees within the lines of all streets, alleys, avenues, lanes, squares and public grounds, as may be necessary to ensure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds. (Ord. 2207, 8-8-96; Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 3003, 4-23-15)

8-9-17: TREE TOPPING: It shall be unlawful for any person to prune or top any public tree except in accordance with ANSI A300. (Ord. 2207, 8-8-96; Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08)

8-9-18: PUBLIC NUISANCE DECLARED:

(A) The City hereby declares the following actions, practices or objects to be a public nuisance:

- (1) Any living or standing private or public elm tree or part thereof infected with the Dutch elm disease fungus *Ceratocystis ulmi* (Buisman) or which harbors any of the elm bark beetles *Scolytus multistriatus* (Marsham) or *Hylurgopinus rufipes* (Eichhoff).
- (2) Any public or private dead elm tree or part thereof, including logs, branches, stumps, firewood or other elm material not buried, burned, sprayed with an effective elm bark beetle-destroying insecticide, or from which the bark has not been removed.

- (3) The cultivation, maintenance or allowing to grow of any private or public tree which harbors any insect, disease or infestation by any living creature which poses a threat to the health or safety of any other public or private tree within the City or which poses a health or safety threat to any person or property.
- (4) Any public or private tree infested by any insect, pest or disease which is determined by the City Forester to pose a threat to the health of any other public or private tree.
- (5) Any public or private tree, the roots of which are growing beneath a public sidewalk and which cause a public hazard to the safe and efficient pedestrian travel upon such sidewalk.
- (6) Any public tree planted, growing or maintained in violation of the provisions of this Chapter. (Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2877, 8-11-11; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-19: ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE:

(A) Any person who fails to commence the abatement of any nuisance defined by this Section within fifteen (15) days after receiving written notice from the City, or who fails to diligently prosecute and complete the abatement of such nuisance thirty (30) days after the delivery of such notice, shall be guilty of an infraction. Such notice shall be personally served upon any occupant, if any, by posting a notice conspicuously on the property, if a structure capable of being occupied exists on the property, wherein the nuisance is located, and by serving a copy of such notice by United States mail, postage prepaid, to the owner of the property at the address listed upon the real property assessment rolls of Bonneville County. Such notice shall be deemed to be delivered upon its physical delivery and deposit into the United States mail, as set forth above.

(B) If the owner or occupant given notice fails to abate the nuisance within the time specified in the notice, the City may order the abatement of the nuisance and cause a Notice of Special Assessment to be mailed to the owner of the property in the manner set forth in subsection (A) of this Section. The Notice of Special Assessment shall state the amount to be assessed on account of the costs of abating the nuisance, the name and record address of the owner of the property to be assessed, and the legal description of such property. Such notice shall also state that, if the assessment is not paid within thirty (30) days, the assessment will be placed on the real property tax rolls and will become a lien against the property, in accordance with Idaho Code. (Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2877, 8-11-11; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-20: INTERFERENCE WITH CITY FORESTER: It shall be unlawful for any person to prevent, delay or interfere with the City Forester, or his or her agents while they are planting, cultivating, mulching, pruning, spraying or removing any street trees, park trees, or trees on public property, as authorized in this Chapter. (Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-21: ADOPTION OF ANSI A300 and ANSI Z133.1:

(A)(1) There is hereby adopted as an official code for the maintenance of trees, shrubs and other woody plants that certain standard maintenance practice as published in ANSI Standard A300 (Part I)-2001, as published by the American National Standards Institute, Inc. and approved on May 22, 2001. (2) There is hereby adopted as an official code, that certain safety standard for planting and maintenance of trees in proximity to utility lines, known as ANSI Z133.1, as published by the American National Standards Institute, Inc., May 22, 2001 Edition. (3) One (1) copy of ANSI A300 and of ANSI Z133.1 shall be filed with and maintained in the office of the City Clerk, for use and examination by the public. (Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2892, 02-02-12; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-22: It shall be unlawful for any person or licensed tree company to perform maintenance of trees not in accordance with ANSI A300. (Ord. 2486, 3-27-03; Ord. 2738, 2-14-08; Ord. 2892, 02-02-12; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)

8-9-23: PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS: Any person, entity or licensed tree company who violates any portion of this Chapter shall be guilty of an infraction, with each violation subject to an infraction fine in an amount set from time to time by Resolution of Council. Each tree that is maintained not in accordance with ANSI A300 shall constitute a separate violation of this Chapter, punishable by an infraction. (Ord. 2964, 8-14-14; Ord. 2968, 9-10-14)