

NeighborWoods FAQs

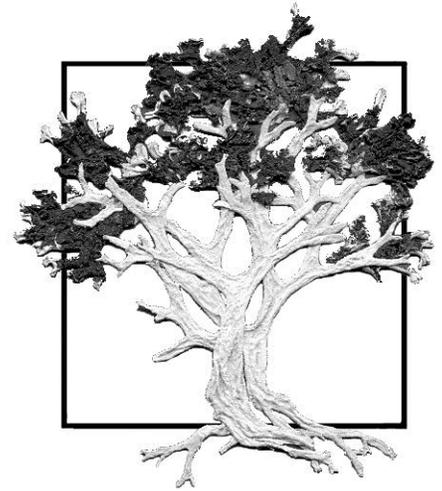
What is the Neighbor Woods program?

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; The property owner agrees to care for the tree for three years until it is established.

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.



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 6th 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 500 trees being planted with the participation of about 225 home owners (as of spring 2013).

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!