



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION
DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL, 710 E Mullan Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
208-769-2252 FAX: 208-769-2383

Urban Forestry Committee Draft Minutes Friday, November 21st, 2025 – 8:05am City Hall – Conference Room 6

Members Present:

John Schwandt
Bob Hallock
JD Reeves
Gina Davis
Gabriel Hynes (Student Representative)
Steve Bloedel

Members Absent:

Bruce Martinek

Staff Present:

Monte McCully Trees/Trails
Kris Beyer Admin Assistant

Guests Present:

John Burke
Phil Messick
Jennifer Reiner

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:12 AM by John Schwandt.

MINUTES

Motion to approve September 19, 2025, minutes by Gina Davis, seconded by Bob Hallock; all in favor, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Burke- introduced himself, gave some of his life background, and stated he has been living in this area for four years now and is interested in learning more about what is going on with trees and the issues in this area.

FORESTERS REPORT

**See attached report by Monte McCully.

Re-leaf Program- Only about half of the trees were planted in the spring, due to being short-staffed, and the other half had to wait until fall. The trees were watered, but several of them did not make it. City staff were able to plant most of them, but approximately 5 people didn't get trees this year. They have been added to the list for next year. Monte will be looking into



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when trees need to be ordered by for next year, as well as what species. He will also start working on the Arbor Day project.

Monte- Haven't done any major tree work other than the grant mitigation. We have contracted out to Bluebird and Bartlett for a couple of the larger trees we had removed along the dyke road with the bark beetle infestation. There is one tree scheduled to be removed by the U of I Centennial Trail. There are also approximately 20-25 beetle-infested trees along the Prairie Trail by Ramsey Park, and city staff will work on those in-house in December. There is a large dead tree from beetle infestation on an adjacent property that is leaning over the Prairie Trail, and Monte will send a letter out to the homeowner to address this issue and have it removed by March 2026 to try to keep the infestation from spreading. In Winton Park, there are several dead trees in the natural area that will have to be contracted out to remove. The dead trees in Forest Cemetery have been removed due to beetle infestation. It was suggested to keep an eye on the trees there to make sure no other trees show signs of infestation.

URBAN FORESTRY IDEAS

Committee members mentioned discussions with Nick Goodwin in the past regarding a lot of interest in a city arboretum down along the Riverstone Park area. The committee would like to see trees planted from the city tree list with labels stating the species as examples to encourage citizens to plant free trees. That area is slated to be worked on this winter, and there is hope that maybe work can start on the arboretum idea in that area. Monte stated that another arboretum was proposed at Veterans Centennial Park many years ago, but there is some pushback from neighbors on the parking lot and trails. The parking lot and trails will be gravel.

INSPECTION REQUESTS

- 7358 N Aaron Street – Healthy Ash Removal Request.
 - This tree is not dead or dying but is an Ash tree. It also has some serious surface roots lifting.

Discussion:

****See attached report from Bartlett Tree Service by Nick Goodwin**

The report from Bartlett Tree Service was read by JD Reeves. JD Reeves stated there are structural issues, but the tree is otherwise healthy. The deciding factor was the imminent arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer and the likely death of Ash trees because of it. The committee suggested a large tree needs to be planted in its place.

Motion by Gina Davis to allow removal due to species and structural issues, but needs to be replaced by a large tree species, seconded by JD Reeves, all in favor. Motion passed unanimously.



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- 324 S 16th Street – Silver Maple with die-off

Discussion:

****See attached report from Bartlett Tree Care.**

The Silver Maple tree was assessed by Bartlett Tree Care and has been in decline for the last three growing seasons. The area the tree is in has a large right-of-way and is right on the line. The committee suggested replanting it with a medium or small tree.

Motion by JD Reeves to remove and replace the Silver Maple tree, seconded by Bob Hallock, all in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

- Grand Mill Town Homes – Repeal of 2024 Denial with New Info

Discussion:

****See attached report from Bartlett Tree Service.**

Both trees were found to be in fair health and condition with minimal site conflicts, although there is a noticeable lean. Also, there are concerns of possible damage if the tree were to fall over and hit adjacent structures. This was a ground-level health and condition assessment only.

**** See attached report from arborists hired by owners Jennifer Reiner and Phil Massick.**

The committee members did not receive the report from the arborists hired by Jennifer Reiner & Phil Massick.

JD Reeves moved to table the decision to allow/not allow the removal of two trees to the December 19th, 2025, meeting, seconded by Gina Davis, all in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Monte: Bartlett has been contracted by the city, since Monte is not certified yet, to do assessments. Bartlett will provide a packet containing photos and a report recommendation.

Follow-Up Discussions:

Gina Davis gave notice that she is stepping down from the committee effective this month. She will follow up and give her report regarding the inspection request for Grand Mill Town Homes. Gina suggested contacting Hannah Hollowell, an entomologist, but she wasn't sure if she would be interested or not.

Monte shared upcoming tree issues.

- Montana & 9th St. The area is small, and tree size suggestions are needed as the sidewalk has buckling issues. Monte mentioned there are now three different types of sidewalk repair options available to city homeowners.



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- Area near Seltice and I-90 construction area- looking to partner with the city to plant trees to block sound from the interstate.
- Gina Davis mentioned Bluegrass area subdivision and Nick Goodwin possibly discussing with the HOA manager about doing a sample area of sidewalk alterations for buckling in the right-of-way areas, with the overall goal of keeping trees, but exploring alternative sidewalk systems. Also, exploring the possibility of this being a cost share to use as a demonstration for others in a similar situation.
- John Schwandt mentioned the area up near Lake City High School, the street with cherry trees, and asked if they had been removed yet. Gabriel Hynes added that all the cherry trees had been removed, as he lives in that area and passes by them. The cherry trees had been replanted, but he was unsure what species were planted.
- Bob Hallock and Gina Davis discussed tree planting in the Shoreview Lane area. Monte stated he would like to redo part of the trail there to join the sidewalk to create more of a swale to create more room for trees. He is working on an agreement with owners where the city still owns, but they will provide irrigation, trees, grass, and mow the area. The city should still be able to ask them to plant trees there.
- 2002 Coeur D Alene Ave- Monte wanted to share that the owners do not want to put sidewalks in, although they are required to. City is looking to do a different type of scenario with the sidewalk to be able to go around the tree and not dig down and possibly killing the tree roots.
- John Schwandt inquired about the Urban Forester position and if it will be filled. Monte shared the different possibilities the city is looking at.
- Monte shared that he is looking at software options for a user-friendly program to help streamline inquiries regarding trees.

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting December 19th, 2025.

Motion by Steve Bloedel to adjourn, seconded by Gina Davis, all in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 9:39 AM.

**The draft minutes will become part of the official record after being voted on for accuracy during the next scheduled meeting.*

**Urban Forester's
Report
November 21 2025**

Requests Received:

187 Requests from abutting property owners

53 Remove
28 Prune
15 Health
87 Plant

60 Reports/Request from others

15 Obstructions
2 Damaged
85 Dead trees

Info Requests:

23 Plan Review
7 Ordinances.

Requests/Reports since the last meeting: 47 **Total** so far in 2025: **294**

Residential Street Tree Requirement (RSTR):

Requests for refunds in 2025: 29

Total trees planted & accepted 2025: 18. RSTR trees planted by the city to date: 1,903

Cost Share Program to date: 880 trees have been pruned, and 611 poor condition trees have been removed at single-family residential locations (*other approved work pending completion*). City cost share amount = \$202,469.33 (Since 2015). **Several CS files are open.**

Parks department tree work: Re-leaf Program- Only about half of the trees were planted in the spring, due to being short-staffed, and the other half had to wait until fall. The trees were put in water, but several of them did not make it. City staff were able to plant most of them, but approximately 5 people didn't get trees this year. They have been added to the list for next year. Monte will be looking into when trees need to be ordered for next year, as well as what species. He will also start working on the Arbor Day project.

Grant Work: The Tubbs Hill, as well as the Canfield/Cancourse, Fuel Mitigation work has been completed.

Contracted Work: The City has contracted out to Bluebird and Bartlett for a couple of larger trees to be removed along the dyke road with the bark beetle infestation. One tree has been removed by the U of I Centennial Trail, as well as 2 in City Park. There are also approximately 20-25 beetle-infested trees along the Prairie Trail by Ramsey Park, and city staff will work on those in-house in December. There is a large dead tree from beetle infestation on an adjacent property that is leaning over the Prairie Trail, and Monte will send a letter out to the homeowner to address this issue and have it removed by March 2026 to try to keep the infestation from spreading. In Winton Park, there are several dead trees in the natural area that will have to be contracted out to remove. The dead trees in Forest Cemetery have been removed due to beetle infestation. It was suggested to keep an eye on the trees there to make sure no other trees show signs of infestation.

Monte McCully
Interim Urban Forester
City of Coeur d'Alene

City of Coeur d'Alene

Tree Inspection Request / Permit Application

Requested by (name): (Philip Messick) Company: DR Horton

Email Address: pfmessick@drhorton.com

Physical Address: 1050 N Argonne Road Suite 200 Spokane Valley, WA 99212

Telephone: 509.818.2120

Referred by (name): Philip Messick

Date: 10/21/2025

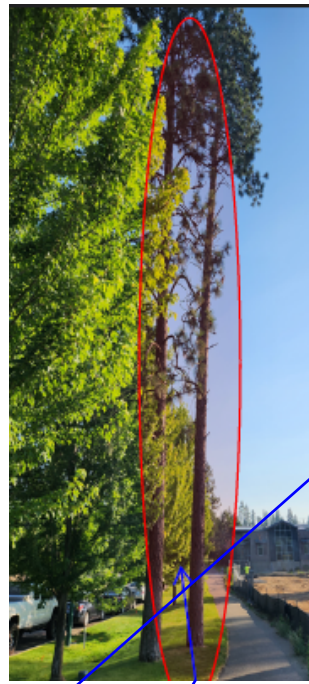
Nature of Request:

Permit for: *Pruning* ☐ *Removal* ☒ *Planting* ☐

Complaint of: *Obstruction* ☐ *Safety Concern* ☒ *Other* ☒

Description, including exact location:

See attached letter.



Two trees referenced
in this request.



Tree Assessment Report – Grandmill Townhomes HOA

Assessed 9/16/2025 by Elizabeth Wilson (Hill) PN-8734A

Subject Trees:

Two (2) Ponderosa pines (*Pinus ponderosa*) located in the turf swale on the E side of N Grandmill Lane on the northbound side of the boulevard between the road and the asphalt pathway in the block between W Shoreview Ln to the south and Saw Blade Ln to the north. There are inventory tag numbers present on both trees but at the time of the assessment they were unable to be read. For the purposes of this report, the trees have been assigned numbers – tree #1 is the northernmost tree and tree #2 is the southernmost. The trees both measure approximately 24" DBH. The trees are located 18" and 3' from the edge of the asphalt path, respectively, and they are spaced approximately 5 feet apart. Tree #1 is approximately 150' in height, and tree #2 approximately 125' in height. The client communicated that there is some concern regarding the health of the trees and future maintenance needs, but primarily assessing the potential risk of failure and resulting effects on the newly-built townhomes on the opposite side of the path that are soon to be occupied.

Methods:

The primary assessment method used is visual, with additional inspection of specific areas of concern done with a probe, sounding with a mallet, and tissue evaluation using a sharp knife. A diameter tape was used to determine DBH (diameter at breast height). Risk assessment is made using ISA's TRAQ (Tree Risk Assessment Qualification) methodology, the results of which are summarized here. Findings and recommendations in this report are valid for 1 year from the date of assessment and does not account for the possibility of future damage or changes.

Targets:

Pedestrian and vehicle traffic along Grandmill Ln present potential targets, with occupancy rates varying from occasional to frequent, but the primary targets of concern are the buildings and parking lot of the new townhomes being constructed, and the future occupants. Once finished, they are expected to have constant occupancy, and are located completely within the target zone of 1x the tree height. (Figure 1)

Findings:

Mower Damage- Both trees show some signs of mower damage at the base, but being thick-barked trees, this damage appears minimal with small areas of exposed wood visible at the base of both trees.

Lean- Both trees exhibit slight lean. Tree #1 is estimated to have approximately 5° of lean in a slightly ESE direction, while tree #2 is estimated to lean approximately 2.5° to the East. No obvious root heaving or soil disturbance is visible as a result of the lean but note comments on lack of trunk flare below. (Figure 2)

Root Zone/Trunk Taper- Both trees are in a turf swale that is irrigated multiple times per week, and mushroom fruiting bodies were visible in the grass around the base of tree #2 at the time of inspection. It is possible that the mushrooms originate from the roots of one of the maple trees also present in the swale, or from other buried woody debris decomposing, though no mushrooms were found elsewhere in the swale to support this. The mushrooms may be a sign of root rot in one or both trees. Ponderosa pines typically have minimal trunk taper, but even compared to other ponderosas, both trees have poor taper as well as no visible root collar/flare. Ponderosa pines tend to prefer somewhat drier soil conditions, but the swale had new sod installed this year, and the soil is perpetually saturated to maintain the turf, and may have been raised slightly around the trunks, increasing the potential for future decay. (Figure 3)

Canopy Thinning/Dieback- Both trees exhibit dieback of the lower branches, with many stubs visible on tree #1 from old branch failures, and visible stubs plus several dead branches on tree #2. Tree #1 has approximately 30% canopy to height ratio, and tree #2 about 50%. Most of the remaining branches on tree #2 are concentrated on the

SSW side of the tree, leading to an unbalanced canopy and uneven loading, which would be particularly pronounced during high wind events. The attached dead branches on tree #2 present a falling hazard that may impact vehicle or pedestrian traffic with potentially significant consequences, resulting in a moderate risk rating. (Figure 4)

Site Changes- There have been multiple significant recent site disturbances impacting the root zone of both trees – excavation for utility work and development of the adjacent townhomes has disturbed and damaged the roots to an unknown extent. The damage to the roots appears to be primarily on the E side of the trees, in the direction of the townhomes.

Recommendations:

Overall, both trees receive a “Moderate” risk rating per the ISA TRAQ assessment methodology. The condition of the root collar and base of the trees, degree of lean, potential for- and consequences of failure are the primary contributing factors to this rating.

The trees at first glance appear to be in decent health, but the combination of recent substantial disturbance and damage to the roots from site changes, minor damage to the trunks from mowers, constantly saturated soils, and the small percentage of living canopy in relation to overall tree size indicates that they are likely less healthy than they look. Due to these health concerns combined with the existing lean, complete failure of the trees at the base within the 1 year time frame of this assessment has been assessed to be of a “Possible” likelihood – loading on the trunks could exceed limits and cause failure during extreme weather conditions but is not expected during normal weather conditions.

There are mitigation efforts that can be undertaken to improve the health of the trees but considering the existing degree of lean and the potential consequences of failure, mitigation efforts are not likely to contribute substantially to reducing the overall risk within the specified time frame. The lack of trunk taper and root flare and potential root damage or decay do not give strong confidence in the ability of these two trees to resist abnormal loading. Removal may be considered to eliminate the risk to the structures and their occupants.

If removal is not planned, continued re-assessment of these trees on an annual basis is a must. Continue to measure lean and to monitor trunk flare and canopy density as indicators of overall vigor. Maintenance must support overall tree health and promote the tree’s natural ability to structurally compensate for the existing lean. Recommended maintenance changes include a reduction in irrigation frequency and amount, the addition of tree rings to exclude grass against the trunks and prevent mower and trimmer damage, and supplemental fertilizer to promote healthy root growth and to introduce beneficial microbes. Root collar excavation is also highly recommended to expose any existing root collar area and reduce the likelihood of decay. Specifically relating to the hazard of dead branches on tree #2, mitigation by pruning out the dead branches would immediately reduce the risk related to falling branches and is highly recommended if whole tree removal is not planned in the immediate future.



Elizabeth Wilson (Hill) - ISA Certified Arborist, ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified PN-8734A

September 24, 2025



Figure 1- Target zone of 1x the height of tree #1, the tallest of the two trees.



Figure 2- Angle of lean viewed from the South (left) and the East (right). Also note the lower proportions of canopy size vs height.



Figure 3- Lack of trunk flare on tree #1 (left) and tree #2 (right). Mower damage also visible on both trees (circled in blue), and mushrooms near the base of tree #2 (circled in red).



Figure 4- Attached dead branches visible on tree #2, of varying age.



City of Coeur d'Alene

Attn: Urban Forestry Committee

710 E Mullan Ave

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

On November 17, 2025, I conducted an inspection of an approximately 38-inch DBH Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) located in the public right-of-way at 324 S. 16th Street, using the City of Coeur d'Alene Public Tree Inspection Form. Based on this assessment, the tree was determined to be in poor health and condition, with minimal site conflicts. The primary concern identified was the ongoing decline of the tree.

Historical records, Google Earth imagery, and observations of current apical growth indicate that the tree has been in steady decline over the past three growing seasons. The tree has also undergone significant pruning, with minimal wound wood development and limited evidence of compartmentalization. Structurally, the tree exhibits a forked trunk with multiple co-dominant stems and included bark. Additionally, underground utilities are present within approximately 10 feet of the root zone.

Given the current health and structural condition, retrenchment pruning or removal and replacement are the recommended mitigation options. In my professional opinion, removal and replacement represents the most prudent course of action currently. This recommendation is submitted for committee review and discussion.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss these inspection findings further.

Kind regards,

Nick Goodwin

Arborist Representative, Bartlett Tree Experts

Ngoodwin@bartlett.com

(208) 660-8954



City of Coeur d'Alene

Attn: Urban Forestry Committee

710 E Mullan Ave

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

On November 17, 2025, I conducted an inspection of an approximately 12-inch DBH Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) located in the public right-of-way at 7358 N Aaron Street. The inspection was completed using the City of Coeur d'Alene Public Tree Inspection Form.

Based on this assessment, the tree was determined to be in fair health and condition, with minimal site conflicts. The primary concern identified was surface rooting.

During the inspection, significant surface rooting was observed, creating tripping hazards within the right-of-way swale. Some roots are currently infiltrating the adjacent sidewalk, though only minimal damage has occurred. The tree has multiple co-dominant stems with minimal bark inclusion. Clearance obstructions were noted over Aaron Street, where prior improper pruning has resulted in stub cuts.

Fraxinus pennsylvanica is susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer, which poses a current threat to the Pacific Northwest. There is no established timeline for the arrival of Emerald Ash Borer in the North Idaho area. Additionally, underground utilities are located within approximately 10 feet of the root zone.

Given the current health and structural condition, along with the surface rooting issue, recommended mitigation options include air-spade excavation with root pruning or full tree removal. Considering the potential threat of Emerald Ash Borer, removal represents the most prudent course of action at this time.

This recommendation is submitted for committee review and discussion.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss these inspection findings further.

Kind regards,

Nick Goodwin

Arborist Representative, Bartlett Tree Experts

Ngoodwin@bartlett.com

(208) 660-8954



City of Coeur d'Alene

Attn: Urban Forestry Committee

710 E Mullan Ave

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

On November 17, 2025, I conducted an inspection of two Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) trees, each approximately 24-inch DBH, located in the public right-of-way at the Grand Mill Townhomes. The inspection was completed using the City of Coeur d'Alene Public Tree Inspection Form. Both trees were found to be in fair health and condition, with minimal site conflicts. The primary concern noted was the potential risk posed by the trees due to their proximity to adjacent structures.

This inspection was limited to a ground-level health and condition assessment, and I am not assigning a formal risk level to either tree. However, I have reviewed the risk assessment submitted with the removal request and found it consistent with industry standards. I believe this assessment provides sufficient information for committee review and discussion.

Observations of the trees revealed corrective leans (sweep) and unbalanced crowns. The southernmost tree has a canopy predominantly on the south side, while the northernmost tree exhibits a "lion-tailed" appearance, with foliage largely confined to the top quarter of the tree. Due to the unbalanced nature of these canopies, load-reduction pruning is not recommended as a mitigation measure for their directional growth toward structures.

Given the current health, structural characteristics, and proximity to nearby structures, there are limited mitigation options. Removal of one tree without the other would increase wind exposure and is therefore not recommended. Based on these factors, I recommend the removal and replacement of both trees.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss these inspection findings further.

Kind regards,

Nick Goodwin

Arborist Representative, Bartlett Tree Experts

Ngoodwin@bartlett.com

(208) 660-8954