

Thanks to the support of the Durango City Council and the Citizens of Durango, the City has been recognized as a Tree City USA since 1980 and through working with the Public Works Department to minimize damage to trees during construction projects, landscape review with the Planning & Community Development Department, and the Christmas Tree Recycling Programs, the City of Durango also has received the Growth Award since 1993.

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PARKS/FORESTRY/CEMETERY OFFICE

Greenmount Cemetery - 900 Cemetery Road - Phone: 970.375.7380

PARKS & RECREATION ADMINISTRATION

2700 Main Avenue (Durango Community Recreation Center)
949 E. 2nd Avenue (Mailing Address)
Durango, Colorado 81301
Phone: 970.375.7300 Fax: 970.375.7337

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS : Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Dear Citizens of Durango:

The Management of our urban forest is the responsibility of public and private owners. It involves a combination of property owners, City Forestry Division, private tree care firms, tree nursery providers and others. Optimum management, however, requires a system that considers both the needs of individual trees and the forest as a whole. The Parks and Recreation Director and the City Arborist are given the responsibility for coordinating the management of the urban forest.

Benefits of Community Forest Programs

The urban forest serves a wide variety of functions that promote the health, safety, and general welfare of residents. These functions include:

- Conserving energy, by providing shade and evaporative cooling through transpiration;
- Reducing local and global air pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide and ozone, absorbing particulate matter and producing oxygen;
- Reducing wind speed and directing air flow;
- Providing habitat for birds, small mammals and other wildlife;
- Reducing runoff and the potential for soil erosion;
- Increasing real property values;
- Enhancing visual and aesthetic qualities that attract visitors and businesses and serve as a source of community image and pride; and
- Recreation and relaxation.

All these benefits increase as canopy cover increases. By establishing and maintaining maximum tree cover, the community is able to realize the maximum benefits the urban forest can provide.

In keeping with one of the priorities of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is to convey to the citizens of Durango the importance of proper tree pruning and care and also to make them aware of the City's landscape and pruning ordinances, we provide this Tree and Shrub Guide.

We are proud of our urban forest and we want you to be too. Please use this guide as a reference to some of the most used and recommended varieties for the City of Durango. There are many more selections within each variety worth exploring. Please check with your local nursery on other selections available. Feel free to call the City Arborist at 375-7383 if we can answer any of your questions about trees, shrubs or perennials.

Cathy Metz
Parks & Recreation Director

Ron Stoner
City Arborist

THE HISTORY OF ARBOR DAY

The idea for Arbor Day originally came from Nebraska. A visit to Nebraska today wouldn't disclose that the state was once a treeless plain. Yet it was the lack of trees that led to the founding of Arbor Day in the 1800's.

Among pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory in 1854 was J. Sterling Morton from Detroit. He and his wife were lovers of nature and the home they established in Nebraska was quickly planted with trees, shrubs and flowers.

Morton was a journalist and soon became editor of Nebraska's first newspaper. Given that forum, he spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees to an equally enthusiastic audience. His fellow pioneers missed their trees. But more importantly, trees were needed as windbreaks to keep soil from blowing and for fuel and building materials, as well as shade from the hot sun.

Morton not only advocated tree planting by individuals in his articles and editorials, but he also encouraged civic organizations and groups of every kind to join in. His prominence in the area increased and he became secretary of the Nebraska Territory, which provided another opportunity to stress the value of trees.

On January 4, 1872, Morton first proposed a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture. The date was set for April 10, 1872. Prizes were offered to counties and individuals for planting properly the largest number of trees on that day. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

Arbor Day was officially proclaimed by the young state's Governor Robert W. Furnas on March 12, 1874 and the day itself was observed April 8, 1874. In 1885, Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska.

During the 1870's, other states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day and the tradition began in schools in 1882.

Today, the most common date for the state observances is the last Friday in April and several U.S. Presidents have proclaimed a national

Arbor Day on that date. But a number of state Arbor Days are at other times to coincide with the best tree-planting weather, from January and February in the south to May in the far north.

Arbor Day has now spread beyond the United States and is observed in many countries of the world. In some countries it is the king and queen who lead the national celebration and in many countries exotic trees not suited to North America are planted in commemoration of the day.

J. Sterling Morton was proud of the success of Arbor Day and noted, "other holidays repose upon the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future." He thought trees are much superior to cold marble as a memorial to persons or events. "How much more enduring are the animated trees of our own planting," he said.

TREE CITY USA

The National Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and participating Foresters of the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes towns and cities all over America who meet the standards of the Tree City USA program and are effectively managing their tree resources.

Durango, Colorado has met those standards and has been duly recognized annually since 1980.

Each year, typically on the first Friday in May, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board celebrates Arbor Day with a tree planting ceremony and participation from area schools. During this ceremony, Durango receives its Tree City USA recognition and recognizes those who have planted Memorial or Honorary trees. If you are interested in Durango's Arbor Day celebration, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 375-7300.



TREE & SHRUB ORDINANCE

The following is a summation of the major points included in the Tree and Shrub Ordinance, primarily as they relate to private citizens. A copy of the complete ordinance may be obtained at the Parks and Recreation Department or Planning and Community Development Department.

Purpose

This ordinance provides for the care of trees and shrubs on public right-of ways and aids in the proper growth of a landscape program to enhance the beauty of the City. Voluntary compliance is sought as the prime means of enforcement of certain provisions if the objective of City beautifications are to be met.

The ordinance provides for a controlled, planned and consistent tree care program on public right-of-ways which will provide a demonstration of proper tree and shrub care.

Major Provisions

1. License, examination and certification is required for any person, firm or corporation engaged in tree trimming. The license is issued from the City Clerk and examination and licensing are the responsibility of the Director of Parks and Recreation and the City Arborist.
2. Specialty license fees are payable in addition to the general business license fee. Tree trimmers' fees are \$75 per year. Before any license may be issued, the applicant shall be examined for the purpose of licensing. Corporations may submit applications for licensing for more than one employee. Prior to licensing, proof of insurance for personal injury and property damage, including damage to trees, must be filed with the City Clerk in the amounts of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each person, fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) property damage and aggregate limits of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for each incident or occurrence. The City shall be named as an additional insured on any such policies and the licensee shall agree to indemnify the City against any loss, liability, or damage resulting from the operations of the licensee.
3. The Director of Parks and Recreation and the City Arborist are responsible for the safety of the public in connection with the manner of operation of tree trimmers. Rules and regulations pertaining to licensed Arborists are subject to review by the Parks and Recreation

Advisory Board and approval by City Council.

4. The Director of Parks and Recreation and the City Arborist are the enforcing authority for planting, location and replacing all trees on public streets and other public property, as well as their trimming and removal. The Parks and Recreation Board serves in an advisory capacity.
5. All trees in the public parks and all trees along the public streets have been inventoried as to location, species and condition.
6. Hedges and shrubs within 10' of curb at a corner must be trimmed and stand no higher than 36" above sidewalk.
7. Any property within the city limits may be inspected for diseased plant material. The Director of Parks and Recreation or the City Arborist will notify the property holder in writing to correct the situation. If there is no compliance, the City will correct the situation and assess the property owner.
8. Trees on private property should not provide a menace to public travel and must be trimmed for 14' clearance above streets and 8' clearance above sidewalks. Tree roots may not cause upraised sidewalk slabs. Any tree causing a hindrance or endangering the public may be declared a public nuisance by the Director of Parks and Recreation and/or the City Arborist. If the condition is not corrected by the owner following written notification, the Director of Parks and Recreation and the City Arborist will see that the nuisance is corrected and the owner billed for the cost.
9. Appeals are filed with the City Clerk and heard by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

