



Town of Springdale Tree Management Plan

Springdale, Utah

2025





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Chapter 1: Vision and Statement of Purpose

Vision

Using the right tree in the right place to promote the beauty of Springdale and enhance the community's quality of life.

Statement of Purpose

The Town of Springdale Tree Management Plan (STMP) will prioritize and help to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the local tree population that will benefit residents, visitors and wildlife in the canyon. The Plan will promote the following:

- *The Town's village character and unique sense of place as outlined in the General Plan*
- *The Town's unique setting adjacent to Zion National Park through the use of native tree species*
- *Vegetation that contributes to a healthier, cleaner environment*
- *Water conservation*
- *Shaded areas*
- *Heat island reduction*
- *Aesthetics and beauty*
- *Biodiversity among the tree population*

Applicability

This plan provides direction for those trees located on Town-owned properties and trees in public rights-of-way. Private property owners may reference and use this plan as a guide as desired, but are under no obligation to adhere to the principles herein.



Figure 1: Deodar Cedar at Town Park

Chapter 2: The Existing Urban Canopy

Tree Inventory

The Springdale Parks and Recreation Department will conduct a full tree inventory of trees located in all public parks, in all public rights-of-way, and on Town-owned property (this may not include natural, undisturbed areas). This inventory may be updated periodically using ArcGIS software, with a full inventory conducted every 5 years. This inventory will be utilized in tree planting, maintenance and replacement decisions.

The inventory will include the following information:

- *Tree species*
- *GPS location*
- *Approximate height and trunk circumference at breast height*
- *Relative tree health (including any problem areas)*
- *Photographs*
- *Year planted*

Maintenance of Town-Owned Trees

Town staff will maintain all Town-owned trees, including pruning, irrigating, leaf cleanup, etc. Town staff will regularly request budgeted funds to pay for professional tree work on a yearly basis. Large scale limb pruning and hazard tree removal will be contracted.

Standard of Care of Existing Trees

Town staff will take measures to ensure the protection and care of existing Town-owned trees. This shall include the following:

- *Work with professional arborists to conduct regular needs-assessments*
- *Avoid soil compaction under trees by keeping equipment and vehicles from underneath trees*
- *Explore possibilities of transplanting trees (as opposed to removal) when trees must be relocated due to construction activities*
- *Require contractors to submit a tree protection plan for projects conducted on Town-owned property and rights-of-way*
- *Take care to reduce tree contact from string edgers and mowers*

Tree Removal

Town-owned trees may need to be removed on a case-by-case basis. In accordance with Town Code (10-18-5), staff will work to minimize the removal of live trees. The following may be grounds for tree removal from Town-owned properties:

- *The state and location of the tree presents a safety hazard*
- *The location of the tree prevents other necessary functions to take place*
- *Removal of tree may stop the spread of harmful conditions to other trees*
- *In manicured areas, the state of the tree makes it unattractive*
- *The tree is in overall poor health*
- *Extensive damage has been done to the tree*

At any point a Town-owned tree is removed, a new tree of similar species shall be planted in the vicinity to take its place. Trees that die in natural areas should be left to decay inasmuch as the location of the tree does not create a safety hazard.

Risk Assessment

With the help of a community forester, the Tree Board will conduct a yearly risk assessment for all trees on Town-owned properties (this does not include natural areas).

Invasive Species

Town staff will work to identify and remove all invasive and nuisance tree species as identified in the Town's Approved Plant List on all Town-owned property.



Figure 2: The Russian Olive is a common invasive tree

Chapter 3: The Future of Springdale's Trees

Planting Plan

To further the vision and goals of this Plan, the Town of Springdale will plant new trees every year. The Tree Board (see Chapter 4) in conjunction with parks staff will determine the location, type, and number of trees planted one year in advance. This plan will be determined with the help of a professional community forester every April. The Parks and Recreation Department will budget for annual tree planting based on the annual planting plan.

The trees planted according to this plan are in addition to any trees that may be planted in association with a Town-sponsored construction project. Trees planted with those projects should be directed by the principles of this plan, but they are not part of the annual tree planting plan established by the Tree Board.

The following areas have been identified as priority areas for future tree planting and will be assessed by the Tree Board and parks staff for more detailed planning and determination of tree viability:

- *The Jolley-Gifford Cemetery*
- *Riparian areas along the Virgin River*
- *The Springdale Town Park (specifically the area formerly known as the ball field)*

Infrastructure to Support Trees

Irrigation improvements and other infrastructure necessary to support the planting plan will be included in the Town's annual capital priority planning.

Tree Diversity

In an effort to ensure the viability and sustainability of Springdale's urban forest, Town staff will work to establish a biodiverse tree palette in the Town parks and around Town facilities. In natural areas, only native species shall be planted. In manicured areas, a mixture of native and non-native trees may be planted and will follow the 10-20-30 rule (no more than 10 percent of any one species, 20 percent of any one genus, or 30 percent of any family) whenever possible. Trees should be water-conserving where practical, including in areas covered by turf.

Approved Plant List

Town staff will update and utilize the Town's approved plant list in determining the use of approved tree species on Town-owned properties.

Planting Best Practices

To help ensure the long-term health of newly planted trees, the following best-practices will be observed:

- *Ensure that the newly planted trees are accounted for in the tree care plan and are receiving adequate attention and irrigation until established*
- *A mulch ring with a minimum diameter of 4 feet shall be created around the base of newly planted trees in a turf environment*
- *Unless otherwise impracticable, new trees shall be caged to protect from grazing or browsing wildlife*
- *Temporary or permanent irrigation will be placed at drip line of the tree to adequately water root systems*



Figure 3: Fremont Cottonwoods are a great example of native trees found around town

Chapter 4: Public Relations and Education

Tree Board

As part of the Springdale Tree Management Plan, a Town Tree Board will be established and shall include the following:

- *Member of Springdale Town Council*
- *Town Manager*
- *Director of Community Development or appointed designee*
- *Director of Parks and Recreation or appointed designee*
- *Public Works Superintendent or appointed designee*
- *Optional member at large from the community (selected by the members of the tree board)*

Arbor Day Proclamation

The Springdale Town Council will issue an Arbor Day proclamation in the April Town Council meeting. This proclamation will be signed by the mayor.

Forestry Event with Springdale Elementary

To celebrate Arbor Day, the Springdale Parks and Recreation Department will hold a tree-planting event with Springdale Elementary every April. The Parks and Recreation Department will budget annually for this event.

Tree City USA

Town of Springdale staff will track tree-related time, expenses and activities throughout the year in order to participate in the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City Program.



Figure 4: Students from Springdale Elementary participate in tree planting at the Springdale Town Park

Outreach Events

In an effort to promote tree education and community outreach, Town of Springdale staff will conduct a community outreach event every April.

Newsletter Articles

Town of Springdale staff will dedicate time to craft a tree-related newsletter article for April's Town Newsletter.

Partnerships and Funding Opportunities

Town staff will look to identify partners, resources, and funding opportunities for forestry related education, events, and infrastructure.