

North Temple Tree Replacement Plan

This document provides detailed information about the herbicide application occurrence, our current situation, and next steps.



Public Lands is working to address the dead and dying trees along the west side of North Temple through a holistic landscape design approach.

Though there are various landscaping options, we acknowledge several critical limitations the community should be aware of that will inform the landscape design decisions for the corridor.

1. Industry experts have recommended a three year rest period before in-ground tree plantings proceed. Public Lands will begin planting in-ground in Fall 2026.
2. Trees replaced along the corridor will be re-planted in the ground once soil tests are approved.
3. Several landscaping styles are found along the corridor, and each one can accommodate different planting features. The corridor cannot accommodate a one-size-fits-all approach, so each area will receive a specialized landscape design approach.

Future Planting Efforts

Many trees will be replaced along the North Temple Corridor. Additionally, the department is committed to replanting two trees for every tree lost due to unintentional herbicide use. Public Lands staff are identifying suitable new planting areas in the North Temple area and will update the community as soon as these new locations are determined.

What Happened

Last fall, a Parks Division maintenance worker did not follow the correct herbicide application protocols, leading to the poisoning of many mature trees along North Temple Street. The herbicide is typically used to kill shrubs and trees without harming grass. However, it was mistakenly applied near the base of trees to kill weeds.

As a result, 219 trees have died. Industry specialists have advised us to wait three years before replanting new trees to prevent any remaining active herbicide in the soil from negatively impacting future tree plantings.

Response

Only trained and licensed staff are permitted to spray certain chemicals. Public Lands added additional measures to prevent future incidents. A new double-safe procedure requires licensed staff to get approval from a supervisor and a trained warehouse technician before they can check out herbicides. Public Lands will include training for these new controls in the park maintenance procedures and the annual training for the spraying season.