

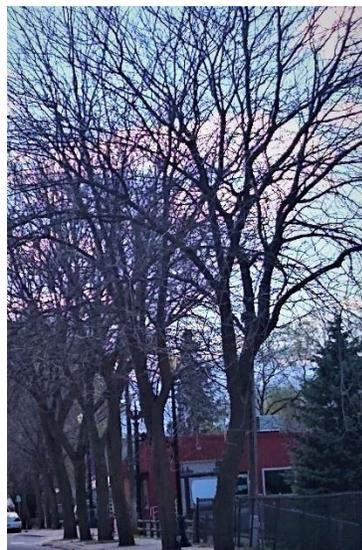
City of Colville Master Street Tree Plan Implementation

The City of Colville has received a Small Community Forestry Assistance Grant administered by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. This grant has made it possible for the City to begin implementation of the Master Street Tree Plan. The goal of this project is to start structural and clearance pruning of trees lining the City's streets and to provide growth stability.

During the summer of 2019, volunteers from the community with the help of the local Boy Scouts began removing the rock landscaping from around the base of the trees in the street bulb outs. The street department was then able to haul the rocks away and mulch was placed at the base of the trees. Future plans include removing sections of sidewalk to allow more room for root growth, providing better tree health. Several dead trees were removed and some trees, ill-suited to their street side location, were relocated to City parks. With financial assistance from Avista, trees more appropriate to the street side location were then planted.

Another issue with the health of the City's street trees involved the metal grates surrounding many of the tree bases. The street department worked to remove over 40 problem grates from around the trees. This will alleviate some of the issues pertaining to the tree growth and health. The tree bases were then filled with bark to keep the weeds down and help maintain moisture in the soil.

In February of 2020, a certified arborist began the pruning of approximately 30 trees along Wynne Street. Due to the issue of tree growth throughout powerlines, the pruning began on the North end of the street. This has not only improved the health of the trees, the visibility of businesses and facilities along the street increased and it will aid in protecting some of Colville's historical facilities from damage. Below are photos showing the difference proper pruning can make in the overall appearance and beauty of our local trees.





The trees at the library were also pruned to increase their health and to mitigate concerns of falling branches. Future pruning includes the trees by City Hall and the remaining Wynne Street trees. Further training on tree health and maintenance for city staff is also planned.



Funds for this project were provided by the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program, administered through the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.