

MEMO

DATE: March 5, 2010
TO: Mariel Platt, Planner
FROM: Hailey Tree Committee
RE: **Hailey Rodeo Park Landscaping Design Review**

The Hailey Tree Committee reviewed the Hailey Rodeo Park Landscaping Design at a Special Meeting held Thursday, March 4, and had the following comments:

1. Landscaping Design, in general

The city's goals for low-maintenance and low-water landscaping are not being met with this plan. However, the Tree Committee is not comfortable recommending specific species that would accomplish those goals, and feels that it is the responsibility of the applicant's representative to demonstrate how the proposed plan meets the standards. As this is a city project, and all trees will be public trees, the landscaping should be a demonstration of how to meet the following goals:

- Low maintenance
- No mowing
- No bark beds
- Trees should provide shade for passive users
- No invasive roots
- Drought-tolerant species
- Species should be selected that are appropriate to the site constraints, such as limited and narrow planting beds
- Species should be selected that are appropriate as street trees at the entrance

The Tree Committee also asserted that the application of watering or irrigation is more important than the species used; irrigation should be a drip system to minimize evaporation. Proper maintenance and proper water-conserving irrigation are both crucial to the long-term success of the project.

2. Street Trees and Plantings

While the Committee is not recommending specific species, they did have concerns that the Linden trees proposed will require regular maintenance for aphids. Rather than have all the trees framing the entrance and the north side of the skatepark be the same species, provide a mix of species to reduce the spread of pests or disease.

A tree that would be a little smaller at maturity might work best on the east side of the entrance in order to keep the Snow Bunny visible from Main Street.

All street trees should be of non-littering species that are appropriate to their location adjacent to sidewalks and travel lanes. The turf depicted on the street and parking side of these trees should be the same no-mow grasses used everywhere else.

3. Skatepark Trees and Plantings

The Tree Committee was aware that the proposed skatepark design is only conceptual, and would like to review the landscaping plan for the final skatepark design when it is available. However, a suggestion was made to combine the prefab restrooms at the skatepark with the restrooms on the south wall of the rink in order to provide a larger and more usable green space for the skatepark.

4. Ice Rink Screenings

While the Tree Committee appreciates the desire to provide some year-round green to the parking lot with the six columnar evergreens depicted in front of the ice rink, they do not support lodgepole pines in that location, and would prefer columnar deciduous trees, such as buckthorne, Swedish aspen or columnar maple.

The Tree Committee felt that existing plantings on the Blaine Manor property will adequately screen the massive west wall of the rink. Because that area is likely to be attractive to “lurking” (for lack of a better term), reducing the number of trees and pushing the remaining to the northwest and southwest corners of the rink would help deter access between the west wall of the building and the fence. Wild roses might be a great deterrent that would likely take over the area between the building and the fence.

5. Arena Plantings

The Tree Committee thought that the green wall of a vine on structural cables to screen the south wall of the arena was an interesting idea and worth exploring further.

6. Tree Removal Plan

The Tree Committee felt that aspens are usually not worth the effort of relocation. However, the other trees indicated for removal will need to be individually evaluated by a professional arborist for health, vigor, and compatibility with utilities before removal. It would be easiest and most cost-effective to relocate the trees on site, if possible. Otherwise, the trees could be relocated to Balmoral Park.