

Special Areas or Sites

Conditions

Historic Places

Sandpoint features a number of remnants and legacies from the logging and natural resource economy of the 19th and 20th centuries. Many downtown buildings, homes, and residential neighborhoods built during Sandpoint's early days still exist, and a few are included on the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally there are sites that are important to the history of Sandpoint such as the Humbird Mill site east of Sand Creek, the Dry Press Brick Company site on West Pine Street, the old Farmin School site at Second and Main, and Lakeview Cemetery on South Division. .

The older established neighborhoods of Sandpoint have a distinctive charm that endears them to residents and visitors alike. Many Sandpoint residents wish to preserve the character and respect the history of the city as seen in the old neighborhoods. Throughout the planning process, participants expressed appreciation for these neighborhoods, for their downtown buildings, and for the natural heritage; as a result, this plan contains policies to help highlight, maintain, preserve and revitalize the city's historic gems.



Figure 11.1 - Numerous historic structures grace areas of downtown, within neighborhoods, and in the case of this mill structure, the City's skyline. (Image source: Studio Cascade, Inc.)

Urban Forest

A "community forest" includes all privately owned trees, public trees in the parks and on government property and the trees in the public rights of way. The city has supervisory and regulatory power over just the public trees or what people commonly refer to as the city's urban forest.

Sandpoint has a vision for its community forest, composed of healthy, safe, well-maintained trees of mixed ages and considerable species diversity. There will be no inappropriate trees under power lines, and costs of continued maintenance will be kept low. In the parks, there will be trees for shade

and some for people to enjoy. In the downtown area, there will be a focus on aesthetics.

Arts and Culture

The City of Sandpoint places a high value on attracting, encouraging and developing arts and culture. Sandpoint aspires to be one of the nation's best small arts towns by encouraging local artists, preserving cultural heritage, nurturing creativity, inspiring original expression, and cultivating art appreciation.

Plan Concept

Historic Places

Sandpoint has a great collection of special features – historic buildings, homes and neighborhoods, significant ecological assets, wildlife, and breathtaking scenery. This comprehensive plan intends to preserve these special areas and sites. Sandpoint's history is something Sandpoint residents are very proud of, and wish to protect and enhance.

Urban Forest

The City of Sandpoint intends to protect and enhance our urban forest. The plan seeks to enhance citizen interest in the urban forest.

Arts and Culture

The plan seeks to weave arts and culture into the fabric of the community. This is done by including elements of arts and culture into urban design, commerce, community events, neighborhood life and public-sector institutions.

Goal SA-1: Preservation

Identify, preserve, protect, and enhance areas of special interest, historic value and scenic beauty in Sandpoint.

Policies

- A** Encourage owners of historic structures to go through the process to be listed on the Register.
- B** Encourage neighborhood associations in mature neighborhoods to form historic districts that will help protect and preserve the unique appeal of older neighborhoods
- C** Protect the residential character of existing neighborhoods by providing for transitional boundaries between residential, commercial and industrial uses
- D** Identify and recognize sites of historic significance to Sandpoint.

Goal SA-2: Urban Forest

Work to increase the tree canopy in the residential and downtown public areas.

Policies

- A** Develop a program to provide free ROW trees to encourage diversity of maturity and to expand the urban forest.
- B** Enhance existing land use laws to ensure that new housing and commercial developments must include significant tree plantings and or tree preservation as part of their development agreements with the city.
- C** Look for opportunities to remove inappropriately sized trees under power lines and replace with appropriate trees.
- D** Actively work on correcting poor planting practices from the past.
- E** Encourage best, new practices of planting trees in urban areas.
- F** Maintain inventory of ROW trees, including basic information of species, health and conditions.
- G** Encourage tree plantings to improve stormwater management.

Goal SA-3: Arts Culture

Value arts and culture as an economic generator and integral part of the City.

Policies

- A** Encourage community arts and events such as fairs, festivals, art tours, performances and films.
- B** Explore a percent for art program in the development of new City-funded projects.
- C** Consider City-owned facilities to be used as arts and culture venues.
- D** Consider the development of arts districts within Sandpoint to support diverse arts and culture activities.