

August 25, 2020

Garden City Development Services
6015 N Glenwood Street
Garden City, ID 83714

To Garden City Development Services:

My name is Brian Jorgenson, I am the owner of Legacy des Bois LLC. I am an independent consulting arborist and a certified arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture (certification # PN-1478AM).

I was asked by Mr. Josh Rennaker, a landscape architect with Baer Design Group to assess multiple trees at a proposed development (Application #DSRFY2020-14) on the northwest corner of West Adams Street and N 43rd Avenue for health and relative safety. This letter is required by Title 8, section 8-4I-7 (Tree Preservation Provisions) of Garden City Municipal Code.

Garden City Municipal Code (Title 8, Section 8-4I-7) requires mitigation for all existing trees four-inch (4") caliper or greater that are removed or damaged from the site. Further, this code states:

- a. Mitigation is required for all such trees removed within eighteen (18) months prior to issuance of the building permit for construction on the site or damaged during construction.*
- b. Mitigation shall be replacement of the total calipers lost on site up to an amount of one hundred percent (100%) replacement. (Example: Two 10-inch caliper trees removed may be mitigated with four 5-inch caliper trees, five 4-inch caliper trees, or seven 3-inch caliper trees.)*
- c. Mitigation trees are in addition to all other landscaping required by this article.*
- d. No mitigation is required in the following: 1) existing prohibited trees as specified in the "Garden City Design And Construction Guide" within the street*

buffer or parking lot; 2) existing dead, dying, or hazard trees certified prior to removal by a certified arborist; 3) trees that are required to be removed by another governmental agency having jurisdiction over the project.

On August 14th, I visited the site to identify, measure and assess the health and safety of the 34 trees having a trunk diameter greater than 4 inches. I was able to identify all species and measure those I could approach. A complete listing of trees is included on Attachment A.

I was unable to locate the “Garden City Design and Construction Guide” referred to in item “d” above, and therefore had no list of prohibited trees to reference. However, the majority of trees on the site (22) are Siberian elm, black locust, native black cottonwood or tree of heaven. Though they contribute to site canopy and provide environmental services, these species are generally considered to be “nuisance” and are undesirable in most formal landscapes. Therefore, regardless of their health, I omitted these trees from consideration for mitigation. If this is an incorrect assumption, please let me know and I will correct my findings.

Of the remainder of the trees on the site, most (8) are in poor condition, most likely due to general neglect and lack of regular irrigation. On many, significant dieback of the tree crown was evident. On others, decay or poor structure may create potential for risk in the near term.

The last 4 trees I found to be in fair or good health, with little or no evidence of immediate risk of failure. Minor structural issues such as low branching, minor crown dieback or minor pest infestations could be easily repaired through pruning or other treatment. In my opinion, these trees may be considered by Garden City for mitigation. They are as follows:

Species	Trunk Diameter	Condition	Notes
Catalpa	31	good	Good health/structure
Catalpa	18	fair	Low scaffold branch
Ponderosa Pine	23	fair	
Scotch Pine	22	fair	Low scaffold branch
Total diameter	94		

I have included photographs of each of these trees on Attachment B. If you require further clarification, please contact me. Thank you.

Regards,

Brian Jorgenson, Consulting Arborist
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Attachment A – List of Assessed Trees

Species Common Name	Trunk Diameter	Condition	Notes	Mitigation Required?
Scotch pine	22	fair	low branch growth adjacent to trunk	Yes
Ponderosa pine	23	fair		Yes
catalpa	31	good	good health and structure	Yes
catalpa	18	fair	scaffold branch growing from base of tree	Yes
tree of heaven	28	fair		No
tree of heaven	15	fair		No
tree of heaven	10	fair		No
silver maple	28	poor	crown dieback, some decay	No
silver maple	14	poor		No
Siberian elm	24	poor		No
Siberian elm	24	poor		No
Siberian elm	18	poor		No
Siberian elm	14	poor		No
Siberian elm	14	poor		No
Siberian elm	10	poor		No
Siberian elm	10	poor		No
Siberian elm	10	fair		No
Siberian elm	8	poor		No
Ponderosa pine	24	poor	suppressed on east side by volunteer elm	No
flowering plum	10	poor	crown dieback, poor structure	No
English hawthorn	10	poor	poor structure	No
crabapple	6	poor	poor structure	No
catalpa	12	poor		No
catalpa	12	poor		No
black walnut	25	poor	significant crown dieback	No
black locust	10	poor	borers	No
black locust	6	poor		No
black locust	5	poor		No
black cottonwood	50	poor	crown dieback, decay	No
black cottonwood	50	poor	crown dieback, decay	No
black cottonwood	50	poor	crown dieback, decay	No
Black cottonwood	24	fair		No
black cottonwood	9	fair		No
black cottonwood	8	poor		No

Attachment B – Photographs



Figure 1 - 31" Catalpa



Figure 2 - 18" Catalpa



Figure 3 - 23" Ponderosa Pine (left) and 22" Scotch Pine (right)