

Trees as a part of the downtown landscape.

When planning for the Walnut Street redesign, the City along with the newly formed Meridian District, brought to town the Design South Dakota group. As a part of the Design South Dakota meetings with community stakeholders, it was made clear that the designs needed to include an enhanced downtown landscape including trees. When architectural students from South Dakota State University were invited to visit the downtown and provide input, they complimented the downtown area on the historic buildings and beautiful architecture. They were quick to discuss the large overgrown trees that were a part of the Walnut Street landscape and how the trees were taking away from the beautiful architecture. With the new design, the City was able to remove 44 trees and replace them with 47 deciduous trees (varieties of Maple, Gingko, Locust, and Elm) along with adding 6 ornamental Amur Maples. The tree types planted are better suited to the downtown area and will complement the architecture found on Walnut. The Welcome to Walnut celebration commemorates the important community investment in a public space aimed at making the downtown a really great experience for citizens and visitors.