

Up-lighting on the trees.

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 noted that design efforts should take into account past efforts to decorate the downtown trees and buildings with lights. With the larger landscape beds designed, it was determined that the best way to have some decorative lighting of the trees was to include up-lights that can have their color changed depending on the season of the year or events that may be taking place downtown. The up-lights remove the issue of having cords unplugged, having those cords cut through by vandals, and continuously wrapping and unwrapping decorative light cords from the trunks of the trees or in the upper branches. These up-lights also give the corridor a clean and more uniform design. The decorative nighttime lighting is important because the space is a walkable and social gathering area for the community. 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.