



Free Mulch at Howelsen Ice Complex

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-March 27, 2019-A week into spring and with plenty of bright, warm sunshine this week, many people may already be thinking about landscaping and planning their home gardens for the summer. For those looking to get an early start, the freshly chipped mulch generated through the city's Christmas tree recycling program is now available to the public.

Parks & Recreation staff chipped nearly 2,000 Christmas trees dropped off this winter as part of the program. The freshly chipped mulch is located to the right of the entrance to the Howelsen Ice Complex (285 Howelsen Parkway).

Participants will have to load their own vehicles, and the mulch will be available on a first come, first served basis. The city asks that only residents and homeowners participate, ***please no contractors or commercial operations.***

There are many advantages to adding mulch to a garden or accompanying a newly planted tree besides just looking nice. The [Arbor Day Foundation](#) provides the following benefits of using mulch:

- Insulates the soil helping to provide a buffer from heat and cold temperatures
- Retains water helping to keep roots moist
- Keeps weeds out to help prevent root competition.
- Prevents soil compaction.
- Reduces lawn mower and/or trimmer damage.



Steamboat Springs was recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA community for the 28th consecutive year. The program has been greening up cities and towns across America since 1976. More than 3,400 communities have made the commitment to becoming a Tree City USA by meeting four core standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day.

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