

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You
Can Use

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A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND THE IDAHO COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

*How do community trees pay off?
See David's column below.*

Coordinator's Column

Urban Tree Canopy – Real Savings, Healthier Communities

Last fall we began a project to map, measure and model the urban forest and related resources within a 118 square mile area in north Idaho, including the cities of Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, Post Falls and Rathdrum (see article in the spring 2008 newsletter). This area overlies the only "sensitive resource" aquifer in the state, which is the sole source of drinking water for more than a half million people. Our goal was to determine how canopy can help cities meet stormwater and water quality regulations, while also quantifying how trees benefit air quality, carbon mitigation and energy conservation. The study looked at all lands—public and private—within the study area. The analysis is still in progress, but here are some of the things we have found out so far.

One of the key statistics we look at is the percent canopy cover over the area. For the cities, this figure ranged from 6% in Post Falls and Rathdrum, 7% in Hayden, to 14% in Coeur d'Alene. The canopy goal set by the community partners involved in the study for their cities is 30%, so we have a lot of trees to plant before we reach that. Indeed, the study found that in these four cities there is room for nearly 400,000 more trees. An additional 330,000 planting sites are available in the unincorporated areas of the study area (excluding agricultural fields).

If these empty planting sites had trees, about 76,000 would have a direct impact on energy use, determined by their distance and direction from buildings. This would mean \$98 million in reduced natural gas and electricity use over a 40-year period (at current

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Debbie Cook

Community Forestry Assistant Gerry Bates introduces Jillian Orr, this year's poster contest winner, at the Arbor Day celebration in Boise. Governor Butch Otter and Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna stand on both sides of Jillian's poster.

Arbor Day Celebration in Boise

Capitol Park in Boise was the site of an expanded Arbor Day celebration last April. Boise and the surrounding cities of Caldwell, Eagle, Garden City, Kuna, Meridian and Nampa were represented at the big event and Governor Otter enthusiastically participated. Jillian Orr, this year's state Arbor Day poster contest winner, was the center of attention. Jillian is from Gate City Elementary School in Pocatello and her poster can be viewed at arborday.org/kids/postercontest/winners.cfm.

Other highlights of the celebration included the presentation by Governor Otter of a check for nearly \$30 million to Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna. The money is to help support education in the state and comes from Idaho's endowment forest lands that are managed by the Idaho Department of Lands. George Bacon, director of IDL, presented Tree City USA awards to representatives of each city represented, including Boise's 31st year designation and Caldwell's 30th. Boise has the distinction of being the state's longest-running Tree City USA recipient. A poetry recital by students from Taft Elementary in Boise added to the festivities, as did remarks from Gerry Bates, community forestry assistant for southern Idaho.

Boise's celebration was planned through collaboration by the Idaho Department of Lands' Idaho Community Forestry Program, Idaho Forest Products Commission, USDA Forest Service, Idaho State Controllors Office and the City of Boise. Arbor Day in Idaho is celebrated each year on the last Friday in April.

2009 Advisory Council Field Tour

The Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council visited several completed tree-installation projects June 30 in the southeast region. Project funds were provided by the Idaho Transportation Department as Community Transportation Enhancement (CTE) Grants in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Lands Community Forestry Program.



Emily Hone of the Morning News covered the Council's visit to Jensen Grove Park in Blackfoot where diverse plantings have been made to replace ailing cottonwoods. Gary Eckhardt (by tree) has been an outspoken advocate for trees and tree care in Blackfoot, illustrating the importance of having a core group of citizens with vision to ensure trees for the future.



Tree committee members Nadine Ball (left) and Betty Smith credit each other for leadership in Ucon's (pop. 943) major planting project using CTE funds. It took the cooperation of several community groups and four property owners to line a 1/2-mile stretch of entrance highway with seven species of new trees.

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Pocatello has become a showcase for the use of 'structural soil' beneath new sidewalks. The innovative soil and crushed rock mixture meets engineering standards and provides a larger and more hospitable environment for root growth. The result is healthier, longer-lived trees and fewer sidewalk problems. Inspecting some of the trees that were part of the city's downtown revitalization project are, from left, Gerry Bates, southern Idaho community forestry assistant; Brett Hewatt, city forester; and Tera King, northern Idaho community forestry assistant.



Photos by James R. Fazio

New trees at Shelley's Flag Park was the purpose of the stop at Shelley, but tree board member Heather DePriest soon impressed the visitors with the many other activities in her community. These include completing a tree inventory using i-Tree software, conducting a poster contest in the school, and implementing a 'Yard of the Year' contest to highlight the use of trees in landscaping.



Sugar City, with a population of only 1,200, took advantage of CTE funding to change an unsightly field next to a major highway intersection into the start of a community park. Cooperation of an adjoining land owner made it possible to run irrigation lines to water the new trees. Sugar City made an admirable come-back after being nearly completely destroyed by the Teton Dam flood of 1976 and Rayo Budge (back to camera), chair of the tree committee, is proud of his city's accomplishments.

Idaho Falls was another stop on the tour (no photo). City forester Delbert Lloyd used a CTE grant to plant 318 trees on 2 ½ miles of a main entrance into the city. Large-maturing species were planted on the side of the street with no power lines, whereas smaller trees will enhance the side with existing overhead wires. Delbert also pointed out the importance of using mulch and said he has observed that mulched trees grow about 30% faster than those that have to compete with grass and weeds.

Upcoming Certified Arborist (CA), Municipal Arborist (MA), Utility Arborist (UA), and Certified Tree Worker (CTW) written Exams

- August 20—Orem, UT (CA, MA, UA)¹
- September 26—Pocatello, ID (Zoo Education Building—CA, MA, UA)²
- November 6—Salt Lake City, UT (CA, MA, UA)¹

¹For information or to register, contact: Utah Chapter, ISA at (801) 446-8229 or email: Lisa_UCFC@yahoo.com.

²For information or to register, contact: Pacific Northwest Chapter, ISA at 503/874-8263 or 217-355-9411 or email: info@pnwisa.org

Calendar—Summer/Fall 2009

August 3-4

Hazard Trees (Day 1) & Tree Appraisal (Day 2), Ammon, ID. (Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture (PNW-ISA). Call 1-800-335-4391 or visit <http://id91appraisalammongaug3.eventbrite.com>)

September 4

Deadline for Community Transportation Enhancement (CTE) Grant Applications. (Information from community forestry assistants; see p.2 masthead)

October 4-7

Society of Municipal Arborists Annual Conference and Trade Show. Savannah, Georgia. (Visit <http://www.urban-forestry.com> for more information)

November 9-11

Partners in Community Forestry National Conference—Portland, OR. (More information at: arborday.org/programs/index.cfm)

Urban Natural Resources Institute Webcasts. These are free 1-hour seminars you can watch and participate in from your computer. Go to www.unri.org/webcasts for more information.

- August 15 – Streetscape Design Alternatives
- September 16 – Tree Risk Management: Latest Advances
- October 21 – Bacterial Leaf Scorch: Current Research Findings
- November 18 – Urban Forest Scientific Research Activities & Resources
- December 16 – IPED – Pest Detection Protocol

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rates). This assumes a 45% mortality rate. Current levels of energy savings are still being calculated.

The existing canopy is yielding significant benefits for air and water. Stormwater benefits are estimated at \$8.5 million per year. In addition, the tree canopy prevents more than 300 lbs. of contaminants from reaching our waterways. Air quality savings are also significant. 125,000 tons of air pollutants are removed annually by the existing trees, with ozone and particulates being decreased the most. This benefit is valued at nearly \$3 million per year!

We are still working on modeling future scenarios – the increased benefits if we achieve our canopy goals. Then, in partnership with the cities and the county, we'll develop a strategy for how best to use this information to assist with addressing issues about urban growth, air and water quality, stormwater management, and energy demands.

The trees in our communities can help solve many of the problems we face, and this study is intended to demonstrate the value of – and build support for – community trees. Stay tuned for more results!

– David Stephenson,
Community Forestry Coordinator



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Tree tip



What a Good Idea

According to a CNN news feature, newly married couples in Java, Indonesia, follow centuries-old traditions that involve planting trees. Government forestry officials encourage the traditions, in hopes of restoring trees on the island that has been devastated by overcutting. The way it works is that when a couple is married, they must plant 10 trees; if they divorce, they must plant 50 more!

Another Option for Tree Planting

Arbor Day Foundation makes available 'Gift Trees' – seedlings in plastic containers. A soil plug keeps the roots moist and labels can be customized to make the trees memorable gift items for wedding receptions, reunions, anniversaries and other special occasions. For information, visit: arborday.org/shopping/gifttrees. Trees are gifts that keep on giving!