

# Community Forestry Assistant



Northwest Management, Inc.

## Newsletter February 2008

### Update Your Community Forest Work Plan!

Community forestry, by the very nature of tree longevity, is a program of the future. Public trees need to be maintained on an established schedule. Decisions and recommendations of a tree committee need to be made with these goals in mind:

- Provide the City with a hazard free, healthy and aesthetically pleasing community forest.
- Provide the City with the most cost effective urban forestry program available within budget guidelines.
- Maximize the contribution that trees will make to the economic development potential of the community who owns them.



Therefore, your tree committee should identify the following annual and long term actions:

1. Define **Management Areas** such as:

- Municipal right of ways along water ways.
- Areas that interface with infrastructure.
- City parks, golf courses, and cemeteries.
- Downtown planting spaces.
- Street trees.
- City tree nurseries.
- Utility easements.

2. Complete and assess **Tree Inventories**. A current inventory will allow managers to assess species distribution, identify hazardous trees, and formulate work plans to assure the continued health of the community forest resource.

3. Produce an accurate **Data Summary**. Information from the inventory is useful to assess your program.

4. Define **Benchmarks** that allow you to measure the success of your program.

5. Develop **Action Strategies**. They will help you get where you want to go.

6. And most importantly, encourage **Citizen Involvement!** Public officials are influenced by public opinion.



If you would like more information, please contact your local Idaho Department of Lands supported North Idaho Community Forestry Assistant, Northwest Management, Inc. at 208-883-4488.