

Community Forestry Assistant



Newsletter February 2010

Ketchum, Idaho – A Sustainable Community Forestry Program

Ketchum’s Community Forestry Division is maintained through their Parks & Recreation Department. Created in 2003, the Community Forestry Division is intended to encourage the preservation, expansion, protection, and proper maintenance of the community forest of Ketchum.

Ketchum was awarded its first Tree City USA designation through the National Arbor Day Foundation in 2004. The Tree City USA program requires communities to pass a municipal Tree Ordinance (adopted in 2004), have a tree committee, hold an Arbor Day celebration (Ketchum’s is the first Friday in May), and spend at least \$2 per capita on tree care. Ketchum typically spends about \$20 per capita on tree care and related activities, which has resulted in a community forest resource valued at nearly \$2 million.

The Tree City USA program is available to any community that fulfills these requirements!!

Enhancing the beauty of the City, stimulating the planting and growing of desirable trees and shrubs by following guidelines set forth by the International Society of Arboriculture, providing for protection of public safety, and educating the public about the community forest are the primary goals of the Community Forestry Division.

Ketchum completed a CTE grant project in 2008 that made their 4th Street Heritage Corridor more pedestrian friendly through sidewalk widening and the planting of 22 new trees.



CTE Grants Awarded for 2010
Nine Idaho communities will benefit from Community Transportation Enhancement (CTE) grants provided by the IDL’s Community Forestry Program. Unfortunately, due to current economic conditions, this is the last year – at least for awhile – that these grants will be available. The funds are used for planting along streets, roads, and bikeways. Matching funds from the communities are shown in parentheses.

Boise	\$12,620	(\$5,469)
Coeur d’Alene	\$6,465	(\$5,952)
Donnelly	\$29,950	(\$21,774)
Garden City	\$22,165	(\$8,322)
Hailey	\$30,000	(\$55,102)
Idaho Falls	\$2,690	(\$2,261)
Marsing	\$27,350	(\$4,277)
New Meadows	\$4,675	(\$6,126)
Sandpoint	\$21,000	(\$58,107)

They also used the CTE funds to replace trees along another city block with species more appropriate for the site.

Ketchum will be celebrating Arbor Day on May 7th, 2010 by planting 4 new fruit trees in their Kids Education Garden, which is part of an after-school program supported by the City’s Community Forestry Division.

Jen Smith, the area’s only certified arborist, is the Superintendent of the Parks & Recreation Department and a proponent for enhancing community forestry programs regionally. Jen not only manages the Community Forestry Division in Ketchum, she also chairs the city of Hailey’s tree committee in an effort to improve urban forestry practices and education throughout the Sun Valley.

Citizens are encouraged to contact Jen regarding any tree concerns. Ketchum also offers citizens the ability to schedule an educational session for your neighborhood, homeowners’ association, community group or school regarding specific topics such as planting or pruning.