

# Community Forestry Assistant



## Newsletter July 2009

### CTE Grant Helps Launch Lewiston's Community Park

Lewiston, Idaho celebrated Arbor Day in 2006 by planting 66 trees in what had been recently dedicated as Community Park. A Community Transportation Enhancement (CTE) grant from the Idaho Transportation Department administered by the Idaho Department of Lands provided funding for trees and irrigation on both sides of the first three quarters of a mile of a walking path that will eventually circumnavigate a 310 acre site on the northern edge of the Lewiston Orchards.

Joggers and hikers on the Community Park pathway enjoy beautiful vistas of the Lewiston hill in the distance to the north.



Wildlife, including mule deer, hawks, pheasants and coyotes can often be seen in a steep canyon containing a tributary of Lindsey Creek that borders the path on the

east. Visitors often comment on how well the sunset maples, chokecherries, yellow wood, bur oak, Austrian pine, and Vanderwolf pine, planted with CTE dollars, are doing. Baseball diamonds, soccer fields, playgrounds, an amphitheater, and many other features will eventually complete the Community Park on the land west of the pathway, but actual construction is on hold until additional funding sources can be located.

Despite the fact that the undeveloped section of Lewiston's Community Park is currently planted with wheat, a recreation program is planned in the area this fall. Five acres of corn will be planted as soon as the wheat is harvested. Lewiston Parks and Recreation will invite visitors to experi-

ence a corn maze at Community Park this Halloween in cooperation with local landowners and the University of Idaho Agriculture Department. The University's agriculture program has volunteered to design the maze, irrigate the corn, and operate the entrance gate for two weekends.

Until funding can be located for playfields and other features, the partners are building infrastructure for the complex. Funding from an Idaho Parks Department Trail Grant extended the pathway 3,000 feet north and built a 10 space parking lot with permeable surface in 2008. City crews are working now to extend Park Avenue, sidewalks, and the water main one quarter mile into Community Park and the future high school site. These improvements were possible through funding from a congressional appropriation. Additional federal funds have been received to build a new sewer line into the canyon to intercept an existing sewer line. Lewiston's Community Park is already a major success story for the city; however, additional grants or funding will be the key to further improvements at Community Park.

Furthermore, CTE grants have provided seed money to complete two other projects in Lewiston. In 2002, the CTE program funded the planting of more than 125 trees as well as an irrigation system to help beautify the north entrance to Lewiston. A 2004 CTE grant added 77 more trees to the north entrance and modified irrigation at the junction of US 95 and Highway 12. The CTE program as well as the dedication of many of Lewiston's staff and volunteers has helped improve and beautify Lewiston's public areas with trees that will provide untold benefits for decades to come.

All Idaho cities, counties, and tribal governments interested in developing or improving a sustainable community forestry program are eligible CTE grant applicants. Successful applicants must have or agree to form a tree committee and develop a program work plan to be implemented during the grant project period. In the past, applicants were required to contribute a minimum 10% cash match of the total grant funds received. If you are interested in applying for a 2009-2010 CTE grant; contact your local community forestry assistant immediately for more information on deadlines and requirements.

If you have questions about this newsletter or the Community Forestry Assistance Program, please contact Tera King with Northwest Management, Inc. at 208-883-4488 ext. 133.