

Community Forestry Assistant



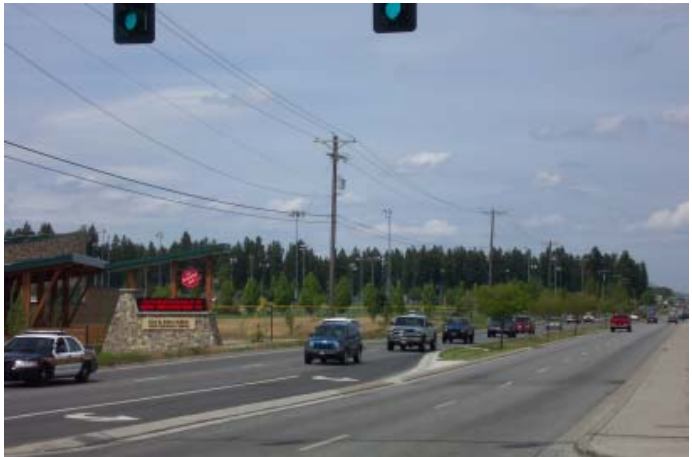
Newsletter June 2009

CTE Grant Enhances the Coeur d'Alene Kroc Center!

The new Ray & Joan Kroc Center is a dream come true for Coeur d'Alene and the surrounding communities. The Center, which officially opened on May 11, includes an aquatic center with a competition lap pool and leisure pool; a multi-purpose gymnasium that can accommodate basketball, soccer and volleyball; a fitness center; an indoor running track; a rock climbing wall; an aerobics studio; a community room; and a chapel and performing arts center.

The Center has incorporated several "green" elements into the facility and surrounding grounds. The site was formerly used as a landfill and gravel pit. Green open space areas surround the facility and several species of trees and shrubs have been planted. As these trees grow and mature, they will provide dust control, reduce noise, help abate stormwater runoff, and reduce energy costs for heating and cooling the facility. Engineered grassy swales are present throughout the open space, which will filter stormwater runoff and reduce pollution to the water table.

In 2007, the City of Coeur d'Alene applied for and received a Community Transportation Enhancement (CTE) grant for tree planting in the Ramsey Road medians, which borders the east side of the Kroc Center. The CTE grant program is funded through the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho Department of Lands with the purpose of enhancing transportation corridors through the planting of trees and shrubs. The program also educates, stimulates interest in, and assists with the development of sustainable urban forestry programs in communities throughout Idaho.



The Ramsey Road CTE project involved planting 48 shade trees and 8 flowering trees in the Ramsey Road medians along a two-mile stretch from Appleway to Hanley Avenue. The project enhances the beauty of the medians—which also serve as stormwater swales; improves public safety by further dividing lanes of opposing traffic; shades sidewalks and bike paths; improves air quality; and provides supplemental environmental and aesthetic enhancements for the Kroc Center and other public and private entities located along the Ramsey Road corridor. The project was completed in 2008.

Tree planting and beautification efforts along Ramsey Road, including the CTE grant project, provide an added value beyond aesthetics not just to the new Kroc Center, but also for Ramsey Park, the transfer station, the fire station, and Lake City High School. The new trees and other landscaping elements form the backbone of a green infrastructure network along one of Coeur d'Alene's primary transportation corridors.

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 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.