

Community Forestry Assistant



Newsletter June 2010

North Idaho Communities Recognized for Exemplary Community Forestry Programs

Each year a number of communities in north Idaho are recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the Idaho Department of Lands for demonstrating significant improvements and/or growth in their community forestry programs.



These communities are honored by receiving a "Growth Award" along with their Tree City USA participant recognition.

In order to receive a "Growth Award", a community must first participate in the Tree City USA program and second, must have spent at least as many dollars on their community forestry program this year as they did last year. Communities must also explain the activities or projects they have completed within the year that have contributed to the growth of their program. There are all kinds of activities that qualify including improvements to community education or public relations campaigns, development of partnerships with other entities, enhancements to the program's planning and management capabilities, and improvements to tree planting and maintenance activities.

As examples, here are the 2009 activities north Idaho communities received "Growth Awards" for in 2010.

Coeur d'Alene developed a weekly "Bloom Report" talking about trees around the community that were in bloom that week. The "Bloom Report" was aired as a PSA on cable and was also available on the city's website. In addition, the city implemented a "Volunteers in Pruning" program through the Community Canopy organization and planted 129 trees in the new Landings Park development.

Kellogg created and distributed educational door hangers about summer tree care and pruning tips. The city also obtained external funding to hire a crew to trim trees on public land and within the publically-owned rights-of-way.

Moscow initiated two literature outreach programs. The Tree Commission members worked with the city forester and an Americorps volunteer to design and distribute double-sided

flyers that offered tree planting and care tips. The Commission also set up an information table at the weekly Farmer's Market. Additionally, the city used a recently collected tree inventory data and i-Tree Stratum software to generate reports on the environmental benefits of Moscow's trees.

Post Falls also participated in the "Volunteers in Pruning" program with Community Canopy to train citizens to properly prune young trees in public spaces. The city also made an amendment to the "Landscaping" section of their zoning ordinance to help increase parking lot shade coverage.

Sandpoint produced a 36-page booklet called the "Outstanding Trees of Sandpoint". The booklet was used as a tree appreciation marketing tool with 4,000 copies distributed throughout the community. The city initiated a tree planting program called "Neighbor Woods". As part of the program, trees are purchased and planted by the city in rights-of-way of residential areas with an agreement from homeowners to not only participate in a 2 hour workshop, but also to care for the trees for at least 3 years. Sandpoint also sponsored a spring and fall tree care/tree planting workshop for residents participating in the Neighbor Woods program as well as the general public.

Hayden also participated in the "Volunteers in Pruning" program with Community Canopy to train citizens to properly prune young trees in public spaces. The city also developed an in-depth risk tree management program using street tree inventory data.



Hayden providing some public education during their 2010 Arbor Day festivities!

Communities that have received "Growth Awards" in the past include Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, Kamiah, Kellogg, Lapwai, Lewiston, Moscow, Orofino, Post Falls, and Sandpoint.

Post Falls was designated as a Sterling Tree City USA for achieving growth recognition for 10 years!