

Tree Talk



Spring 2008 - CONTR

A PARTNERSHIP WORKING TOWARD
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FORESTS

Community Canopy Has A New Partner

The Spokane County Conservation District (SCCD) has recently joined Community Canopy. SCCD is a political sub-division of Washington State government, dedicated to providing natural resource information, education, and technical assistance to the citizens of Spokane County.

The mission of the SCCD is "To promote the sustainable use of natural resources within Spokane County." In an effort to include the regions' urban forests SCCD has united with Community Canopy in their efforts to educate people that care for the region's community trees.

SCCD is working with all of the communities within the county to advance their urban forestry programs. If you would like to become involved in your community please contact us.

You can learn more about the SCCD, and how you can help your urban forest by surfing our website www.sccd.org, visiting the office at 210 N. Havana, or call 509-535-7274 and ask for Garth.

TTL Conference

It was great seeing you at the Turf, Tree and Landscape Conference! If you didn't see us there, you missed our booth and an abundance of educational information. We also sought out new contacts. Welcome to those we had the pleasure of meeting and hope to see you soon at one of our workshops!

Don't forget, we do complimentary tailgate sessions educating crews on our three major messages: planting properly, providing adequate water, and keeping maintenance equipment from damaging trees. Request just one topic or all three. Remember knowledge is power and we can provide this to your people in sessions from 15-30 minutes-FREE!!

Tree Planting

An optimistic investment in the future!

By Sharon Vore, Avista Utilities

Most trees can outlive those who plant them! But a tree can also get "too big" and "outgrow" its space. We all enjoy the large, tall trees that grace our neighborhoods and communities - they help make our outdoor spaces more livable and attractive. Yet we need to balance those benefits with the need for overhead power lines and the comforts and conveniences that electricity brings to our quality of life.

Electric power outages are commonly caused by trees falling onto - or growing into - overhead power lines. High winds or heavy snow can cause tree branches to hit overhead power lines, resulting in power outages or even downed energized lines. These power outages affect public safety by interrupting service. Here's what you can do to help prevent power outages: *plant the right tree in the right place.*

Power lines in our area are about 25 feet off the ground. When planting under power lines, it's best to select small, compact trees. There are many ornamental tree species that are less than that height when fully mature.

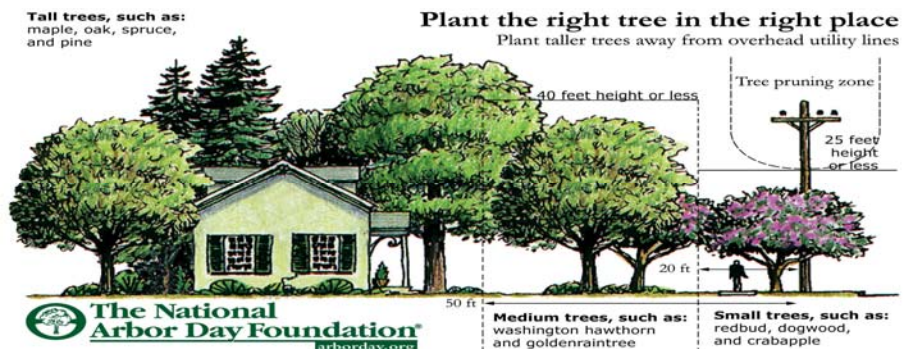
Also consider the placement of trees near power lines. Only plant low growing compatible trees within 20 feet on either side of the wires. Taller trees can be planted more than 20-feet from the wires. Always remember to allow room for branches to grow, both vertically and horizontally.

Some tree species to plant within 25 feet of power lines are crabapples, flowering cherries, redbud, flowering dogwood, kousa dogwood, amur maackia, goldenchain tree, serviceberry, viburnums, and parrotia.

Tree species to plant farther than 25 feet from power lines include maples, oaks, ash, linden, London plane, honey locust, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine and other conifers.

Trees to never, ever plant near power lines include box elder, cottonwoods, aspens, poplars, black locust; and Siberian elm.

By selecting the right tree for the space, and considering the mature size of the tree, you can make a positive impact on the environment. For further information, species recommendations, or advice before planting contact Avista Utilities at 1-800-727-9170.





Contact Us at:

Coeur d'Alene 208-769-2266

Post Falls 208-773-8147

Hayden 208-772-4411

Spokane County Conservation

Dist.—509-535-7274

OR

E-mail: karenh@caid.org

Write: c/o Urban Forestry, City of Cd'A

710 E. Mullan Avenue

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Landscape of Excellence Award

Community Canopy announces its *Landscape of Excellence* recognition program.

We will be giving public recognition to commercial, retail, church and subdivision 'commons' properties that have done an excellent job of landscaping and tree stewardship.

If you would like to nominate a business, church or subdivision landscape area that has exemplified quality landscaping, please contact your Community Canopy representative.



Tree Planting DVD

Community Canopy has a 12 minute DVD that highlights good tree planting practices. It can be played on a regular DVD/TV set-up, or on a computer that has DVD capability.

If you would like a free copy, contact Katie at 208/415-0415.

Upcoming Events

March 14 – Tree Care Workshop “Winter Recovery” at Coeur d’Alene Library, 702 E. Front Avenue, Coeur d’Alene

March 21 – Tree Care Workshop “Girdling Roots & Root Collar Excavation” at Spokane County Conservation District, 210 N. Havana, Spokane

Public Tree Planting Workshops

March 24, 12:00 noon & March 25, 6:00pm– Post Falls Library

March 27, 12:00 noon & March 27, 7:00pm– Coeur d’Alene Library Community Room

March 28, 12:00 noon & March 29, 10:00am– Hayden Library

Arbor Day Dates:

April 5–Post Falls Arbor Day

April 9–Washington’s Arbor Day

April 25–Idaho’s Arbor Day (The last Friday in April is also the National Arbor Day date)

Tree Care Workshops

Community Canopy is sponsoring two spring workshops.

“Winter Recovery” is about ways to mitigate damage to trees from snow-loading and other damage caused by winter weather. Attendees will learn the basics of restorative pruning as well as tree cabling and bracing. The workshop is scheduled on Friday, March 14th, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The location is Coeur d’Alene City Hall at 710 E. Mullan Avenue.

“Stem Girdling Roots & Root Collar Excavation” deals with the problem of trees that have been planted too deeply. This can cause stem girdling roots and other problems that can affect tree health and stability. Attendees will learn about these problems, how to recognize trees planted too deeply, and what to do to mitigate the problem with trees already planted. The workshop is scheduled for Friday, March 21st, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The location is the Spokane County Conservation District office at 210 N. Havana in Spokane.

Both workshops require pre-registration. There is a \$5 per workshop fee to cover snacks and materials. A pre-registration form is enclosed with this newsletter. Or go to the Community Canopy website at http://www.plrcd.org/community_canopy/index.html.

Restoration Pruning Pruning Winter Damaged Trees

Last Fall, the Community Canopy newsletter talked about preparing your trees and shrubs for the winter. Did your trees and shrubs suffer damage from the heavy winter snows? Did the snow removal company bury your prize Japanese maple? All hope is not lost. Using techniques of restorative pruning, damaged trees and shrubs can be salvaged.

The first step is to assess the extent of the damage. Where is the damage located? Will the damage affect the long-term health and structure of the plant? Once the assessment is complete, develop a plan to restore the canopy. The work may be done in one season, or could take many years to correct.

Once you have a plan, begin to prune the tree or shrub. Follow the normal concepts for “target pruning”, that is using the natural branch collars as your guide. Under normal conditions, the parent limb to lateral limb ratio is 2:1; the minimum lateral limb for a one-inch parent limb would be one-half inch. In restoration pruning, the ratio may be reduced to as much as 4:1. In some instances, you may have to prune back to a bud. Remember, restoration pruning can take many years to complete.

In subsequent years, sprouts from the pruning cut may need to be thinned. Trees and shrubs typically send out multiple shoots after severe pruning. This is a normal response. Select those shoots that are of the best form. Remove the rest. Repeat this process in subsequent years.

If you are interested in learning more about restoration pruning, come to the Community Canopy workshop on March 14, 2008.