

Stakeholder Connection

Your news source on the Institute for Environmental Solutions projects and progress



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Please donate to IES on (or before) Colorado Gives Day, December 5, 2017!

Donate now to IES by credit card at: www.ColoradoGives.org/i4es. Schedule your donation for Colorado Gives Day, Tuesday, December 5, 2017 and help IES win cash prizes, thanks to your donation, from the Community First Foundation. Your donation at www.coloradogives.org/i4es is safe, secure, and tax-deductible.

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Please support IES so that we can continue implementing effective and affordable environmental solutions. Our mission is cleaner air, purer water, and healthier lives. We are a volunteer based non-profit that depends on your financial support. Please contribute to our efforts to create more environmentally sound and healthy communities by donating today.

- Fifty dollars will bring the Communities for Clean Water message to a new neighborhood.
- A \$250 donation will teach a class of students about ways to improve local water quality.
- A \$500 donation will purchase, plant and maintain two additional native trees to reduce storm water runoff and mitigate global climate disruption.
- A \$1,500 donation will support and train one graduate intern for one academic quarter.

Please donate to IES now. IES is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

- Mail a check to: IES, 761 Newport Street, Denver, CO 80220.
- Become a Tree Steward or Water Steward! Sign up at www.ColoradoGives.org/i4es to donate \$10, \$25, or \$50 a month.
- Be a Giving Champion! Schedule your credit card donation at www.ColoradoGives.org/i4es for Colorado Gives Day, Tuesday, December 5.

Sheridan Quincy Trail - Fort Logan Northgate: Students improve their community



On October 12, Leadership students from Fort Logan Northgate 3-8 School in Sheridan (Colorado) planted 140 shrubs, and spread grass and wildflower seeds along the Sheridan Quincy Trail. The plants were carefully selected native, low rooting shrubs that will improve the soil and control storm water runoff into the South Platte River. Thirty students and seven IES team members and volunteers accomplished the ambitious planting effort. Students worked hard and did a wonderful job staying motivated in the warm sunny weather.

This project is supported by the City of Sheridan, Sheridan School District No. 2, South Suburban Parks and Recreation District, and Xcel Energy. The first classroom workshop in September included tree planting techniques, safety, and the types of plants native to this area. It prepared Leadership students for planting day through hands on science activities. The second workshop in November included project evaluation, community banner preparation, and storm water control.

IES and the Fort Logan Northgate Leadership students are planning a community space along the trail with initial construction in spring 2018. It will be a destination space where people can gather and enjoy the newly developed Sheridan Quincy trail and the beautiful Colorado weather. More information, Patti Venneman, Patti@i4es.org or Kate Brayton, Kate@i4es.org.

Benefits of native shrubs along the Sheridan Quincy Trail

On October 12, students from the Fort Logan Northgate Leadership Class and IES Associates planted a variety of native shrub species along the Sheridan Quincy Trail to improve the trail, air quality, water quality, and storm water control. Native species of shrubs, grasses, and flowers provide multiple environmental and ecological benefits. Roots from the plants intercept water during rainstorms, reduce erosion by retaining soils, and provide much needed organic material. Native plants are well adapted to the arid mountain climate in Colorado as they are more drought tolerant and have life cycles that take advantage of changes in sunlight and weather in the region, synchronizing their leafing out, flowering, and seeding with the changing of the seasons. Here are some unique attributes of some of the plants used along the Sheridan Quincy Trail in IES's trail improvement project.

Silvery leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*): These small shrubs add nitrogen to the soil, which helps other plants growing nearby. This is important for soils along the Quincy Trail, which are compacted and lack many nutrients. Leadplants have deep purple to magenta flowers that attract many spring pollinators, while providing a nice burst of color.



Western snowberry (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*):

Western snowberry is tolerant of many different environments, growing in gulches, foothills, and grassy slopes. In spring, it produces small pink bell-shaped flowers, which turn into white berries. These berries can be an important food source for animals during the winter.

tolerant and able to grow in poor soils. A unique attribute is the light salty coating it produces on its leaves, which provides important minerals for many foraging animals.

Fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*): This shrub is ubiquitous in the Four Corners region, as it is drought



More information: Sabrina Kleinman, sabrina@i4es.org.

IES wants YOU to host a Reduce Your Chemical Footprint workshop!



The Chemical Footprint Project is ready to kick off the Communities for Clean Water Initiative with a community workshop. The pilot Reduce Your Chemical Footprint workshop will teach community members about the toxic chemicals found in many personal care and household products that pollute our water and jeopardize the health of our families and environment. The workshop will explain how to prevent future contamination of our water cheaply and effectively with tips on how to easily avoid harmful contaminants in common personal care and cleaning products. Participants will get to make and take home their own products using natural ingredients.

Would YOUR community (school, library, religious group, community center, parent organization, neighborhood club) be interested in hosting this local pilot event? Please email IES at: Solutions@i4es.org. For more information about our workshops, please go to: www.i4es.org/community-workshops. Let's work together to prevent water pollution, protect our health, and safeguard the environment. More information: Mike Smith, Mike@i4es.org

IES thanks all our terrific Tree Stewards!

The IES Tree Stewards have worked hard all summer and into the fall to care for trees and shrubs planted by the IES Tree Project. Tree Stewards visit planting sites once or twice a week to water, mulch, and weed around plants. They are dedicated volunteers from the local community and are trained by IES to manage planting sites. Their jobs are almost done for the 2017 season. IES Tree Stewards work at three sites in Sheridan and fifteen sites in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, caring for well over 500 native trees and shrubs. Their hard work is responsible for the continued success of our planting projects, raising average tree survival rates from 20% to over 80% over one to five years.



IES thanks our Tree Stewards for all their hard work! This work is essential to help the Tree Project achieve its urban forestry goals. Without them, IES plants would not receive the care they need to survive. The IES Tree Stewards are managed by Tree Steward Coordinator, Don Mangus, who works tirelessly to ensure our sites get the best care possible. Don will retire from this position in January. IES is looking for new Tree Steward Coordinators. If you would like to volunteer to be a Tree Steward or are interested in learning about the Tree Steward Coordinator position, please email IES at solutions@i4es.org. More information: John Kelly, john@i4es.org.

FDA regulates harmful antibacterial chemical, triclosan, finally!



Many common household products have antibacterial components to ward off germs and prevent illness. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has found growing evidence that some of these antibacterial chemicals are not protecting the health of our families and may increase our risk of exposure to diseases. One of these chemicals of concern is triclosan.

Originally created in the late 1960s for use in pesticides, triclosan has become a commonly used antibacterial chemical in many household products such as soaps, toothpastes, clothing, and even toys. The FDA generally regarded triclosan as safe until 2013 when mounting scientific research showed that continued exposure to triclosan was linked to hormone disruption and the occurrence of skin allergies in children. Research from the FDA proved that soaps and washes containing antibacterial agents do not perform any better than standard soap in keeping away germs and bacteria. In light of such evidence, triclosan and

several other antibacterial chemicals have come under extreme scrutiny by the FDA. In September 2016 the FDA passed a final rule banning the use of triclosan and 17 other antibacterial chemicals in all over-the-counter hand and body soaps. Manufacturing companies were given one year to remove the listed ingredients or to remove the products from the market. The rule went into effect in September 2017.

While the FDA's final rule is helpful in keeping the public safe, other products containing triclosan such as toothpastes and hand sanitizers are not yet regulated. When purchasing household and personal care

Drug Facts	
Active ingredient Triclosan 0.46%.....	Purpose Antibacterial
Use For handwashing to decrease bacteria on the skin.	

products, read labels and check active ingredients to be sure triclosan, or its cousin triclocarban, are not listed, or opt for products using an alcohol-based antibacterial agent as a safer option. More information: Kelsey Householder, Kelsey@i4es.org.

2017 IES Sheridan Xcel Energy Day of Service a success!

On September 9, IES hosted community volunteers from Xcel Energy for the annual Xcel Energy Day of Service to prepare the Quincy trail for the October planting day. Volunteers spent the morning preparing the trail for the 2017 - 2018 IES Sheridan Quincy Trail Project, picking up trash, pulling weeds, and mulching around the previous year's plantings. These activities are critical to prepare the shrubs for the cooler winter months. Volunteers assisted IES Associates in measuring and marking the site for this year's planting project, to help the planting day run smoothly for the students from Fort Logan Northgate.



The Xcel Energy Day of Service is held annually to honor the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks. The 2017 Day involved more than 3,600 volunteers working on 70 projects statewide. This year was the second consecutive year that IES hosted Xcel volunteers. IES is grateful for Xcel Energy's continued support of our projects. More information, Patti Venneman, Patti@i4es.org.

IES Institute News

The IES Chemical Footprint Project team welcomes two new Associates. Gaëlle Blanvillain has an MS in Marine Biology from the College of Charleston and an MS in Natural Resource Management from the Catholic University of Angers (France). She is a remote project coordinator for the Theoretical and Experimental Ecology Station (SETE) at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Moulis, France.

Kelsey Householder recently returned to the US from Ghana where she was Health, Water & Sanitation Outreach Coordinator for EDSAM Social Network NGO. She served in the Peace Corps in Ghana. Kelsey has a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois.

The IES Tree Project team welcomes Ann Robertson, graduate of University of Colorado Boulder with a major in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Anna Marcel joined the Tree Project to complete an Environmental Biology Externship as part of her MS program at Regis University. Anna has a BS in Ecology and Evolution from the University of Pittsburgh.

The new 2017 IES sticker is now available! Email Solutions@i4es.org before December 31 for a free sticker!

IES Opportunities

IES is seeking motivated **volunteers and graduate interns** who are passionate about protecting the environment to join our project teams. We have openings for project, development, social media, and fundraising volunteers and interns. Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Solutions@i4es.org.

IES is looking for an energetic professional who wants to ensure the application of sound scientific solutions to our pressing environmental challenges to join the IES **Board of Directors**. Please contact IES at Solutions@i4es.org for a position description and application.



We need a **Tree Steward Coordinator** to organize our team of dedication tree stewards to care for our trees in Wheat Ridge and Sheridan. This position is very flexible and comes with lots of free outdoor exercise. Please email Solutions@i4es.org if you are interested.

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