



# Enterprise

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## City greening up civic center area

Study will look at economic, environmental benefits of trees planted near library, North Metro headquarters, Pg. A3

### Will trees register more cash at future civic center?

Study will eye economic, environmental impacts of planting

By Joe Rubino  
Enterprise Staff Writer

Broomfield city staff and researchers from the Denver-based Institute for Environmental Solutions have noticed something missing on some of the undeveloped space in Broomfield's emerging civic center area near the center of town — trees. And they are looking for volunteers to help them address the situation.

April 14, city staff and researchers from the institute will team with community volunteers to plant 44 trees between North Metro Fire Rescue District headquarters and the parking lot of Mamie



Photo by David R. Jennings / Broomfield Enterprise

**▲ PREPPING FOR THE PLANTING:** Miguel Arriola, with Bee Line Sprinklers, covers electric lines for the photovoltaic system that will power sprinklers to water 44 trees that will be planted April 14 between North Metro Fire Rescue District headquarters and Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library.

Doud Eisenhower Public Library. The space, on the west side of Lamar Street across from the Community Park ball fields, is part of the civic center area that centers around the George Di Ciero City and County Building, an area city

officials have master planned to become the city's community center.

The tree-planting event, "Trees for a Healthy Community and Economy," will be a pilot program for the Institute for Environmental Solutions to

**IF YOU GO**

**What:** Trees for a Healthy Community and Economy tree planting event

**When:** 9 a.m. to noon April 14

**Where:** The field between the North Metro Fire Rescue District headquarters and Mamie Eisenhower Public Library, 3 Community Park Road. Registration in the library parking lot.

**To participate:** Volunteers are asked to pre-register for this event by the end of the day today. To register, e-mail Amory Ledyard at Amory.Ledyard@i4es.org or Kathy Schnoor at kschnoor@broomfield.org or call 303-388-5211. As part of the project, the Institute for Environmental Solutions is conducting a community survey on the economic benefits of trees in business districts. To fill it out, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/s/BroomfieldTreeSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BroomfieldTreeSurvey).

**Information:** [www.i4es.org](http://www.i4es.org) or [www.broomfield.org/news/newsdetail.asp?ArticleID=1210](http://www.broomfield.org/news/newsdetail.asp?ArticleID=1210).

measure the environmental and economic impacts a tree canopy can have on a developing urban area. The nonprofit organization is dedicated to finding efficient solutions to

complex environmental and health problems.

"Broomfield is just the ideal location for this pilot program, because they have a central area and some unplanted areas slated for (economic) development," institute executive director Carol Lyons said. "As we test the benefits and the costs of trees, we can work with Broomfield to really develop the best planting plan for the whole area."

Broomfield Environmental Services superintendent Kathy Schnoor said the tree planting is consistent with the master plan for the civic center area, and research she has seen indicates trees could help make the area more attractive to shoppers as more development moves into the area.

"Research ... shows that consumers will travel farther, more frequently and spend more money in areas with full  
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shade and a nice tree canopy," Schnoor said. "It's just more aesthetically pleasing."

City Forester Tom Wells is leading the tree planting efforts for Broomfield. He said he is excited about the 10 species of deciduous and evergreen trees that will soon inhabit the area, and is hoping between 30 and 40 people register to help at the planting event, so he can teach them a thing or two about tree planting.

"For starters, we can show (volunteers) how to properly plant a tree. That's the most important step in the life of trees," Wells said. "And it's just kind of fun hanging around, planting trees."

Volunteers are being asked to pre-register by the end of the day today, and to wear closed-toed shoes, a hat and

long pants to the planting event. They should bring sunscreen and gardening gloves. A rake and shovel — labeled for identification — are optional.

All registered volunteers will receive T-shirts signifying their participation, and free pizza lunch provided by event co-sponsor, Old Chicago in Broomfield. Other local sponsors include the Broomfield Community Foundation, North Metro Fire Rescue District, the Colorado State Forest Service and Rocky Mountain Tire & Auto.

The Xcel Energy Foundation, as part of its 2011 community grants, donated primary funding for the event — \$15,000.

Amory Ledyard, a research associate the Institute for Environmental Solutions, will be

at the April 14 planting and is heading up the organization's accompanying study of the area where the planting will occur.

"The tree planting is just one part of the project, the other part is an in-depth scientific analysis of those trees," Ledyard said. "We're basing a big project on what impact these trees have in a business area."

The institute also is conducting an online survey, in which it will gauge Broomfield residents' feelings on the economic impact of trees. Institute director Lyons is hoping volunteers will see the many positive community impacts the project could have.

"It's not just trees for the city center, but it's an investment in the both the economic and environmental health of the community," Lyons said.

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