

## **Tree Project 2017 Plan**

February 20, 2017

### Mission

We improve Colorado cities using tree science. Through multi-disciplinary partnerships and urban forestry programs, we:

- Improve the environment, community health and the economy
- Educate children and adults to become environmental stewards
- Engage community members to rehabilitate, improve, and maintain urban natural resources

### Goals

- Improve the urban environment, solve urban environmental problems, enhance community health, and bolster the economy through scientific tree planting and urban forestry.
- Partner with municipalities and actively promote collaboration among community groups and individuals to solve urban environmental challenges
- Promote the value of urban trees and green infrastructure through community awareness and understanding
- Establish IES as the source for optimized, science-based tree planting capability on Colorado's Front Range
- Build replicable educational programs targeted at multiple age groups

### Objectives

1. 2017 Greenbelt Restoration and Environmental Education Network (GREEN): Improve a new trail section in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt. Develop a related replicable science curriculum.
  - A. Plan and implement hands-on science workshops for Kullerstrand Elementary TRAILS (Teaching Responsibility And Independence with Learning Supports) students
  - B. Plan and implement an ecological improvement plan with Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department and to use trees and give students two hands-on planting days
  - C. Plan and implement a business outreach program to recruit volunteer and financial support for GREEN
  - F. Evaluate the program and publish a final report and project video
  - G. Fulfill the requirements for the National Fish and Wildlife grant
2. 2017 Sheridan Quincy Trail Project: Plan and implement an improvement project along the Quincy Trail that will support the last two years of planting and improve a new area of the trail.
  - A. Plan second year of the Sheridan Quincy Trail planting plan (third year of the Sheridan program)
  - B. Continue to strengthen partnerships with City of Sheridan, South Suburban Parks and Recreation, Fort Logan Northgate 3-8 School, and Sheridan School District No. 2.
  - C. Continue leadership education and development program with Fort Logan Northgate 3-8 School's Leadership Class and teacher, Sharena Del Brocco
  - D. Plan and implement a planting day fall 2017; facilitate student site visits fall 2017 and spring 2018 to care for all three sites along the trail section
  - E. Evaluate the program and publish a final report and project video
3. 2016 Sheridan Quincy Trail Project

- A. Continue maintenance program with students until the end of their school year
  - B. Plan and implement a summer maintenance program that includes students, community members, and IES Associates
  - C. Monitor the site for signs of plant damage or vandalism
4. Tree Stewardship
- A. Establish a plan for Tree Stewards in Wheat Ridge and Sheridan (recruiting, training, scheduling and communication, equipment support, funding)
  - B. Analyze sites and create a maintenance plan for the planting site involving Tree Stewards.
  - C. Streamline the monitoring and documentation of Tree Stewards' effort
  - D. Plan and implement spring and fall Tree Stewards social events. Update and distribute revised Tree Stewards Manual
5. Evaluate Prior IES Tree Project Planting Programs
- A. Evaluate and analyze all planting sites (2011 to present); create GIS site maps
  - B. Report out recommendations for improving each year of planting and maintenance
6. Funding and Budgeting
- A. Prepare a budget for each program, including cost tracking methods
  - B. Research and apply for new grants for current or new projects or for Tree Project capacity building
  - C. Support IES Board initiatives for fundraisers
  - D. Research opportunities to fundraise with local businesses
  - E. Restructure grant files to make information more accessible to grant writers.
7. Outreach, Social Media, Networking
- A. Evaluate and improve community outreach programs
  - B. Evaluate and improve social media communications across all platforms
8. Tree Project Program Development
- A. Identify new communities or partnerships
  - B. Develop a program for green infrastructure, e.g., restoring damaged or declining sites, preventing storm water runoff, or controlling other pollution
  - B. Demonstrate the value of *prevention* over treatment or remediation for storm water, water quality, soil stabilization, ecological health and integrity
  - C. Demonstrate to new stakeholders what makes IES projects unique and important
    - i. Tree planting is based in original research that is multidisciplinary, practical, and targets optimal solutions for real communities
    - ii. Stakeholder and community involvement creates institutional and human capital for the future
    - iii. Science-based action through detailed monitoring, evaluation and reporting
    - iv. Tested approaches to sustainability projects that motivate stakeholders and avoid the pitfalls of cost, time, and apathy
    - v. Experienced staff committed to project success through responsibility for problem solving, research, planning, and communication

John Kelly, Tree Project Manager