KULLERSTRAND GREEN www.i4es.org

2018 Wheat Ridge Greenbelt Restoration and Environmental Education Network (GREEN)

GREEN Project Introduction

The Institute for Environmental Solutions (IES) 2018 Greenbelt Restoration and Environmental Education Network Project (GREEN) is the third year of an innovative program to enrich education for students, provide outdoor volunteer opportunities for children and community members, and improve the ecological health of the Greenbelt in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. Wheat Ridge elementary students will learn to plant and care for trees, and experience hands-on science in their community's open space. Wheat Ridge summer campers will care for the new plants through the summer and learn about the Greenbelt's ecology. The project will improve an important open space for the Wheat Ridge community through the planting and care of native trees and shrubs that will improve air quality, reduce water pollution, and preserve species diversity in a cherished open space area.

GREEN: Helping Kids, Helping Your Environment

The 2018 GREEN project's goal is to improve the Wheat Ridge community's health and environment through tree planting, environmental education, and volunteer support. IES will complete classroom and field workshops, host planting days with local students and community members, and implement a volunteer maintenance and care program with Wheat Ridge children and adults.

The 2018 GREEN project will accomplish the following objectives:

1. Forty students from Kullerstrand Elementary School will complete two classroom workshops with science lessons about Colorado's ecology and how to improve the Greenbelt, with the opportunity to socialize with their peers and community.

2. Students and community members will plant over 120 native trees and shrubs along a new trail section in the Wheat Ridge.

3. Thirty-five children from the Wheat Ridge Summer Sun Camp will care for the site and learn about their environment during summer 2018.

4. IES Tree Stewards will care for the site for two more years to ensure a plant survival rate over 70%.

5. IES will produce a project report and a project video to document the project and to distribute to all project stakeholders and volunteers.

IES projects succeed with the support of the local community. Thanks to grants from corporate and community foundations, and the support of the City of Wheat Ridge and Kullerstrand Elementary School, IES completed the first two years of the GREEN program. Kullerstrand Elementary School students completed workshops and planted over 300 shrubs and trees with the help of dedicated community volunteers in 2016 and 2017. Following planting, IES Tree Stewards and Wheat Ridge Summer Sun Campers cared for the planting sites by watering, weeding, and mulching. Kullerstrand Elementary School and Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department staff members provide guidance on project materials and support the students and summer camp children.

GREEN: Children & Community Members Build a Better Wheat Ridge

GREEN provides exciting hands-on ecology science opportunities in the classroom and outdoors. IES will teach kindergarten through sixth grade students in Kullerstrand Elementary School's Teaching Responsibilities and Independence Through Learning Supports (TRAILS) Program about Colorado's ecology, how to plant, and the importance of environmental improvement projects. TRAILS students, who are often academically disadvantaged, will take two trips to the Greenbelt to see their classroom lessons come to life by planting native trees and shrubs. Students work in small groups, under the supervision of IES, Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation, and community volunteers. Through this approach, students enjoy a connection to the project as they name the trees and shrubs they plant.

Children at the Wheat Ridge Summer Sun Camp become young naturalists when they visit the new planting site. The children water, mulch, and weed twice a week. Twice a month, under the guidance of the Wheat Ridge Environmental Interpreter, Susan Bennett, these kids will have exciting ecology lessons such as tree measuring and animal identification, while creating their own personalized Greenbelt handbook. The handbook will be a special reminder to each camper about their time in the Greenbelt, documenting their experience with drawings, leaf pressings, and scientific journal entries.

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt

The Wheat Ridge Greenbelt is a cherished 300-acre open space, owned and managed by the City of Wheat Ridge. The Greenbelt is used by thousands of community members throughout the year for recreation including hiking, biking, running, walking, picnicking, and birding.

Native Plants Used By IES	Invasive Species to Be Removed
Plains cottonwood	Siberian elm
Peachleaf willow	Russian olive
Thinleaf alder	Mullein
American plum	Scotch thistle
Wax and golden currant	
Threeleaf sumac	
Red osier dogwood	
Chokecherry	

The Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department does not have the necessary funds to complete all the restoration that the Greenbelt needs. Many areas need canopy and habitat restoration, and stormwater management and erosion control along Clear Creek. Planting projects, like GREEN, increase the ecological health of the Greenbelt, which benefits the entire community through improved air and water quality.

GREEN will complete a three-year planting partnership to redevelop the new walking trail between the Kipling and Moore Street entrances of the Greenbelt. This new trail section was installed by Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department in 2015. Many mature shrubs and trees had to be removed. IES developed a three-year planting program to revegetate the areas near the trail, which has resulted in the planting of nearly 400 native trees, shrubs, and flowers since the spring of 2016. 2018 GREEN will complete the trail planting and restoration, starting near the Moore Street entrance and continuing east along the trail to the 2016 planting site.

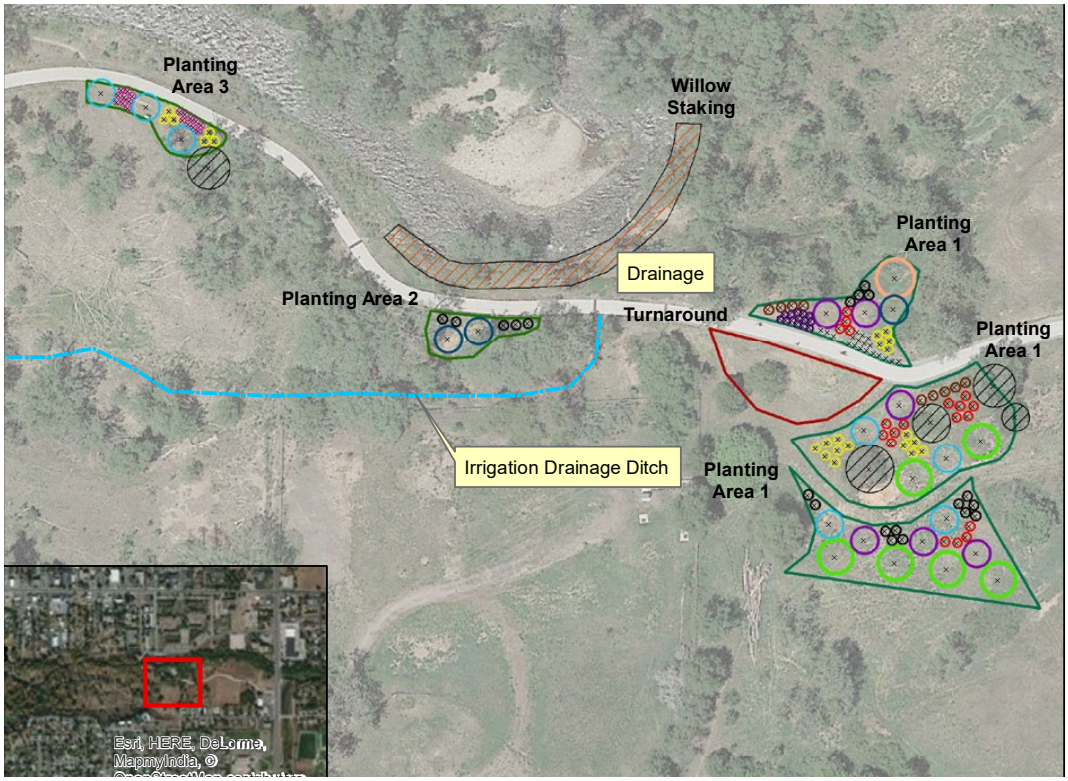
For more information, please visit the IES website at www.i4es.org to find final reports on the past two years of the GREEN project.

Be a GREEN Supporter

GREEN is supported through generous donations of funds, materials and time from the community. The project, from the classroom workshops to planting and maintenance, relies on dedicated volunteers and public institutions. Your support will help your environment and the next generation of environmental stewards. You can make a real difference by donating funds and by volunteering to support the field work.

You can make a tax-deductible donation with your credit card at www.givingfirst.org/i4es.org or via check to IES at:

Institute for Environmental Solutions, 761 Newport Street, Denver, CO 80220



Your Donation at Work

- $50 donation buys 5 trees.
- $100 donation helps produce and print workbooks for Wheat Ridge students.
- $200 donation buys 20 trees.
- $500 donation buys t-shirts for TRAILS students and planting-day volunteers.
- $1,000 donation buys 2 275-gallon water tanks to help volunteers water the planting site.

Institute for Environmental Solutions

Please visit the IES website at www.i4es.org. If you would like information about becoming a Tree Steward in the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, please email us at solutions@i4es.org.

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