

Stakeholder Connection

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



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New trees and shrubs need your help: It's time to start watering!

The IES Tree Project team is preparing another summer of watering at our planting sites in Sheridan and Wheat Ridge. The newly-planted trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and native grasses are cared for by IES Tree Stewards, a group of terrific community volunteers who go to the trail sites once or twice a week to water, weed, and mulch the plants. These dedicated volunteers are an important part of the success of IES projects. With their help, the Tree Project increased plant survival rates at our project sites from around 25% to over 75%.



We are looking for new volunteers for our Tree Stewards team.

Volunteers receive hands-on training and are provided all materials needed to care for plants. Tree Stewards can create their own site visit schedules as an individual volunteer or in a group of volunteers. Stewards also help with our planting programs. **Become a terrific Tree Steward!** All ages are welcome. We would be happy to welcome you to the team! More information, please contact: John Kelly, Tree Project Manager, john@ies.org.

iPie Gives Day: Monday, July 16, 11 am to 9 pm. Eat pizza, support IES!

Mark your calendar! iPie Pizza, 5807 West 38th Avenue, Wheat Ridge (at Fenton Street), is hosting a fantastic fundraiser for IES on Monday, July 16, all day. Please plan to come over for a pizza lunch, pizza supper, or pizza snack. You can order online at <http://infinitepie.com/menu/>. This is a great deal. You get pizza(s) at the regular price; iPIE donates OVER THIRTY PERCENT of SALES to IES! iPIE believes a great pizza is a custom pie with great sauce and topping choices, hot out of the oven. IES believes we can save the environment, one slice at a time. See you on IES iPie pizza day, July 16.



Communities for Clean Water Initiative pilot workshop at Red Rocks Community College



The Chemical Footprint Project team hosted the Communities for Clean Water Initiative pilot workshop at Red Rocks Community College Lakewood Campus on April 18. IES team members presented the harm posed to human and environmental health from exposure to contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) found in common personal care and household products, while providing helpful tips on how to avoid them. Workshop participants enjoyed making their own affordable, safe, and effective household products such as all-purpose cleaner, body scrub, hand sanitizer, and bug repellent. Everyone took part in activities to learn how easy it is to avoid and reduce CEC exposure. Immediately after the workshop, participants joined with like-minded people around the world in IES's 30-Day Challenge to reduce household and family exposure to contaminants. Participants reported that the 30-Day Challenge, product label reading activities, and

demonstrations on product scanning phone apps like Think Dirty and Environmental Working Group's Healthy Living were all valuable tools that participants planned to use to reduce their chemical footprints. The Chemical Footprint Project team is now compiling a comprehensive report detailing all aspects of the Communities for Clean Water Initiative, the steps involved in making the pilot workshop a reality, and a summary of observations and participant feedback. Following this success, team members are excited to begin planning the next stage of the Communities for Clean Water Initiative. More information: Mike Smith, Mike@i4es.org.

2018 Earth Day Celebration at The Wild Animal Sanctuary

IES returned to the Wild Animal Sanctuary in Keenesburg, CO on April 22 for the Wild Earth Day 2018 celebration. It was another successful Earth Day event, with members from the IES Chemical Footprint Project and the Tree Project teams in attendance. The Chemical Footprint Project team taught visitors how to make an all-purpose cleaner and hand sanitizer, demonstrating how easy, effective, and affordable homemade products free of harmful chemicals can be. The Tree Project invited visitors to make their own radish terrarium necklaces, which can be transferred to a backyard garden after sprouting for some fresh, delicious radishes. Kids came for the terrarium necklace, and adults stayed for the do-it-yourself products; everyone was happy this Earth Day! IES team members informed about two hundred visitors about the dangers of contaminants of emerging concern, the importance of prevention over treatment for sustaining clean water, the plethora of benefits from urban forestry, and most importantly, how anyone can get involved in our projects. Thank you to the Wild Animal Sanctuary for celebrating with us. More information: Grace Helgager, grace@i4es.org.



Building Community and Leadership at the Sheridan Quincy Trail



Leadership students from Fort Logan Northgate 3-8 School in Sheridan, Colorado worked hard this spring to design and build a community space along the Quincy Trail. The spring workshops and Community Space Building Day were part of the multi-year IES Sheridan Quincy Trail Program, adding to previous successful planting projects along the trail. The space is located next to the tree grove students and IES planted in 2015 and features a kindness rock garden, houses for native bees and bats, a short walking trail, and new native trees and shrubs. Students completed two classroom workshops with stakeholders from Sheridan School District No. 2, the City of Sheridan, and South Suburban Parks and Recreation District to learn about planning, community leadership, and working with diverse teams. During workshops, students helped select different design elements for the community space and learned about project budgeting.

On May 18, students and IES associates worked together to start to build the community space. We installed light fixtures, built the rock garden frames, installed posts for the bee houses, mulched a new community path, and planted trees, shrubs, and flowers. Over time, the Sheridan Quincy Trail Project will expand to include additional community elements along the Quincy Trail. These new features will invite Sheridan residents to enjoy the trail while encouraging the use of native plants to address environmental needs. For

more information, Sabrina Kleinman sabrina@i4es.org.

Big win for coral reefs: Hawaii to ban sunscreen containing harmful chemicals!

Hawaii is the first state to ban sunscreen containing harmful chemicals. A scientific study by the Haereticus Environmental Laboratory in Virginia published in the October 2015 Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology journal shows that common sunscreens containing harmful chemicals, such as oxybenzone and octinoxate, can cause serious DNA damage to coral reefs and an increased susceptibility to bleaching. The ban, passed by Hawaii's legislature in May, will take effect on January 1, 2021. Coral reefs are important!



They are one of the world's most productive ecosystems, supporting tourism, commercial and recreational fisheries, and protecting coastlines from storm surge. Hawaii may inspire other states and countries to follow in its footsteps to ban sunscreens containing harmful chemicals. Some worry that this ban will cause an increase in skin cancer, but there are plenty of effective sunscreens that are safe for coral. Avoid using sunscreen that contains oxybenzone, avobenzone or octinoxate. Use sunscreens with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide. Wear a hat, long sleeved shirts, and long pants to prevent sun damage. Stay in the shade, or avoid sun exposure from 11 am to 3 pm, when the UV rays are the strongest. More information: Tim Smith, Tim@i4es.org.

Exciting New Potential Plans for the Sheridan Quincy Trail

As part of the Master's Degree of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) at the University of Colorado at Denver (UCD), graduate student Julia Dullien created a new plan for the design and implementation of additional community space along the Quincy Trail in Sheridan, Colorado. This Capstone project will assist IES and stakeholders in Sheridan by recommending ways to improve the community value of the Sheridan Quincy Trail. It emphasizes enriching the trail's



drainage and water quality capacities, enhancing its connectivity and visibility to the surrounding neighborhood, and offering recreational amenities, as illustrated in the concept designs shown. By recommending designs in zones, IES can apply the designs by each zone or in phases, depending on capacity and priority. The design recommendations suggest a way forward for community space along the Sheridan Quincy Trail, but they may also inspire new design possibilities and initiatives. IES looks forward to continuing our multi-year collaboration with the Urban and Regional Planning Program at UCD. More information, John Kelly, John@i4es.org.

Kullerstrand Elementary School students complete three years of Greenbelt trail restoration

IES completed the third year of the Wheat Ridge Greenbelt Restoration and Environmental Education Network (GREEN) project this spring in collaboration with students and staff members at Kullerstrand Elementary School and the Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department (WRPRD). This program restored one mile of a new paved trail section west of Kipling Street. Students in grades K-6 participated in two workshops, attended two planting days, and planted more than 150 trees and shrubs in the Greenbelt! During the first workshop, students learned to record their observations as budding naturalists in their own nature journals provided by Susan Bennett of WRPRD. The first planting day got off to a cold, snowy start while students planted, mulched, and participated in a nature walk focusing on natural and human-caused erosion in the Greenbelt. The second planting day was warm and sunny. Students continued to plant while weeding, watering, and journaling about native plants, pollinators, and invasive





weeds. At the second workshop, students created artwork to thank the GREEN project sponsors, received their journals to take home for future nature observations, and learned to make a map. IES Tree Stewards and Wheat Ridge Summer Sun Campers will provide care for new GREEN plants during the IES Tree Ambassador program this summer. Thanks to our project sponsors: Patagonia Denver, Community First Foundation, and the City of Wheat Ridge! More information: Kelly O'Toole, IES Graduate Intern, Kelly@i4es.org.

IES Institute News

The IES Board welcomes its newest member, Kel Rayens, a Research Associate at BBC Research & Consulting in Denver. Kel has an MS in Forestry Social and Economic Sciences from the University of Kentucky and a BA in Political Anthropology and German from the College of Wooster. Kel's election to the Board continues a long tradition of service from employees at BBC Research & Consulting to IES.

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 flexible and comes with lots of free outdoor exercise. Please email Solutions@i4es.org if you are interested.

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