

2019 Sheridan Community Trail Improvement Project

Project Overview

The Institute for Environmental Solutions (IES) 2019 Sheridan Community Trail Improvement Project (CTIP) will provide sustainable environmental improvements along the Sheridan Quincy Trail (SQT) and develop the community space at the western trail entrance. These improvements include native shrubs and grasses and stormwater mitigation structures. IES will continue its partnership with the Fort Logan Northgate (FLN) School's Leadership Class with two workdays where students will plant native species and build the improvement structures. The class will visit the trail weekly to care for the new plants. IES will conduct two educational workshops with the class on local ecology, leadership in environmental issues, and using nature to create a space for the community to enjoy. Several community partners will collaborate with IES to make this project possible (see below). IES Tree Stewards, local volunteers, will help maintain the plants along the SQT. This environmental improvement project will provide hands-on environmental education to middle school leadership students and will improve a neglected urban trail with native plants to create an inviting walkway, improve the community space, and reduce stormwater runoff and erosion.



FLN students work together to improve the community space and trail using native plants and natural features.



Tree Project Manager Sabrina Kleinman and FLN students present the project banners for the trail to showcase their hard work to the community.

Sheridan Quincy Trail

Sheridan, Colorado is an urban community of 6,000 people southwest of Denver. The Sheridan Quincy Trail is a multi-use trail connecting the neighborhood on Irving Street, near Alice Terry Park, to Federal Boulevard. The trail is south of Sheridan High School football and baseball fields, separating school property from the local neighborhood. Recent IES projects include planting native vegetation along the existing path, creating an educational community space for local students and community members, and maintenance to ensure plant survival and project success. The eastern entrance of the SQT is currently affected by water drainage from surrounding properties, causing erosion and expansion of non-native plants. IES's project will address this end of the trail using a multi-disciplinary approach. Meetings with partners will identify issues and limitations at the project site. The project plan will include a planting design plan, workshop curriculum for the leadership students, and a three-year maintenance plan.



The SQT runs between the highlighted areas on the east and west sides, separating school property from the neighborhood.

Project Objectives

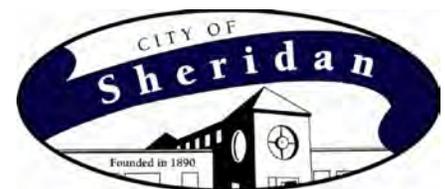
- Engage community stakeholders and develop a project plan and schedule
- Encourage use of the trail, by installing two trail signs, two benches, and a shade structure
- Plant approximately 80 native plants to intercept and slow water runoff and reduce erosion
- Install a Zuni bowl to mitigate the water drainage and erosion along the current drainage path
- Provide local students from FLN with opportunities to develop environmental leadership and civic skills during educational workshops and outdoor workdays
- Improve the trail corridor with a three-year maintenance plan involving planting native grasses, removing non-native trees, and pulling weeds
- Create a Final Report and video showcasing the project



IES team members and community volunteers participate in the Xcel Energy Day of Service along the SQT.

Sheridan CTIP Success Depends on Support from Our Partners:

- Fort Logan Northgate School
- Sheridan School District No. 2
- City of Sheridan
- South Suburban Parks and Recreation
- Mile High Youth Corps
- Colorado State Forest Service



And Our Project Funders:

- Xcel Energy Foundation
- Great Outdoors Colorado
- Colorado Health Foundation
- Outdoor Happiness Movement
- McKee Foods
- Target



The Colorado Health Foundation™



Donation and Volunteer Opportunities:

Donations and community support are important for sustaining all IES projects. Project donors are recognized for their contributions towards the Sheridan Community Trail Improvement Project. Flexible community volunteer opportunities as an IES Tree Steward are available. Tree Stewards provide essential care to all projects by watering, weeding, and mulching planted areas to help plants flourish. IES welcomes all interested community members to join the Tree Steward team to learn about tree care and to partner with us to improve the Sheridan Quincy Trail.

Please visit our website, www.i4es.org, to make a tax-deductible donation or to learn about how to become a volunteer Tree Steward in Sheridan. Contact IES by email or phone at solutions@i4es.com or (720) 295-4437.

Your Donation Helps!



Mile High Youth Corps participants pull weeds along the SQT.

Donation Amount	What it does for education and the environment
\$250	Plant 10 native plants along the Sheridan Quincy Trail
\$500	Supply reusable water bottles and project shirts for the FLN students working on the Quincy Trail
\$1,000	Provide educational workshop materials for middle school students on local ecology, ecological balance, community planning, and the importance of environmental stewardship
\$2,500	Plant 100 native shrubs along the Sheridan Quincy Trail and reduce pollution in Sheridan
\$5,000	Purchase planting materials for a new community space along the trail that FLN students will design. Materials include plants, mulch, tools, and soil

About IES

The Institute for Environmental Solutions is a Denver-based independent non-profit organization. IES delivers scientific solutions to improve our health and environment. Founded in 2004, IES strives to apply an innovative approach to environmental problems that emphasizes asking difficult questions, reaching out to all potentially affected stakeholders to involve them in project design and oversight, and a commitment to science. Since its conception, IES has planted over 1,200 native plants in high-need Denver-metro areas, in addition to implementing several successful educational projects. The IES Tree Project focuses on hands-on environmental projects that integrate community-based environmental education with the mission of improving Colorado cities using tree science. Collaborative partnerships allow IES to restore natural systems, educate children and adults, and improve community health and economy.



A hardworking FLN student prepares planters during a project workday.



Another hardworking FNL student carries buckets of mulch.