



City of Trees

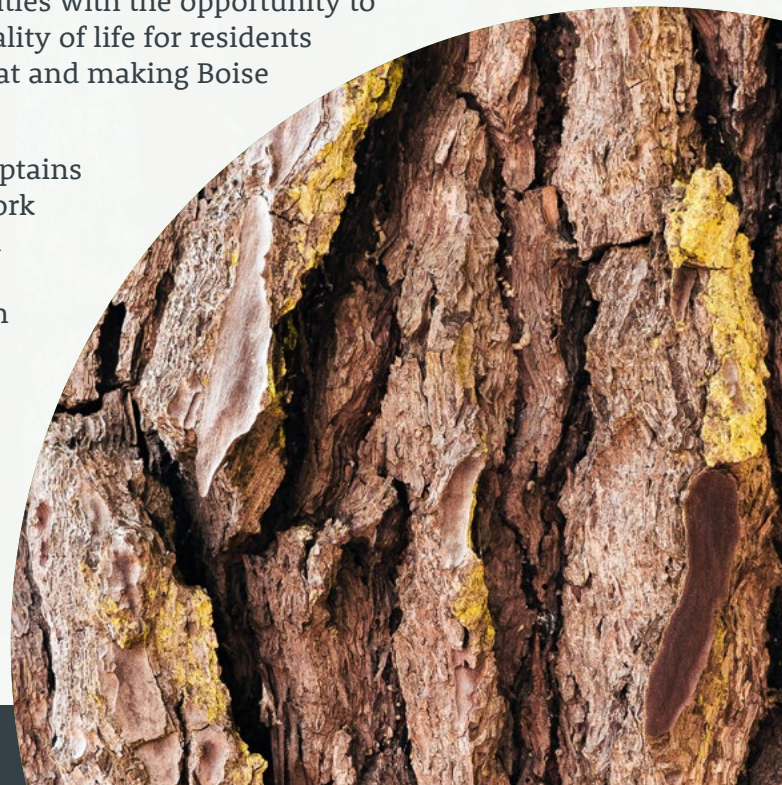
CHALLENGE

IMPACT REPORT ————— 2022

Launched on Arbor Day in 2020, the City of Trees Challenge is an ongoing story of community and collaboration to address climate change. The Challenge aims to plant an urban tree for every household in Boise, Idaho and a forest seedling for every resident by 2030— approximately 100,000 trees in the city and 235,000 seedlings in nearby forests. The City of Trees Challenge is a critical component of Boise’s Climate Action Roadmap. By providing communities with the opportunity to plant and grow trees, the Challenge will improve the quality of life for residents by improving air and water quality, mitigating urban heat and making Boise more resilient in the face of a changing climate.

In its third year, through the launch of the Boise Tree Captains Program, the City and the Treasure Valley Canopy Network successfully established a pathway for grassroots citizen climate action and a focus on improving tree canopy in neighborhoods of greatest need for trees to reduce urban heat, clean the air and improve health and resilience.

“By encouraging tree planting in neighborhoods with low canopy cover we can increase the health and wellbeing of the community as a whole. Our challenge as a community is to plant trees where they are needed the most to ensure that everyone can enjoy their benefits.” - Elaine Clegg, City of Boise Council President



2022 GROWTH:

Tree Captain Program

The City of Trees Challenge underwent a big transition in 2022. To better support Boise's communities the large tree giveaways that the Challenge held in the past have been abandoned in favor of more directed giveaways and plantings to areas that need trees the most. As part of this effort the Challenge also greatly increased the amount of planting assistance offered in 2022 with over 60 trees being planted by volunteers for tree recipients.

Community Investment

The Challenge also invested in Boise's Green Industry in 2022 with the launch of the Nursery Coupon Program. The coupon program provides reduced cost trees to Boise area residents. For this program the Challenge partnered with three local nurseries to offer discounted trees for residents to plant at their homes. The partner nurseries, Edwards Greenhouse, Franz Witte, and Zamzows, collectively sold 342 trees using this program resulting in over \$17,000 being put back into Boise's Green Industry.



GLOBAL IMPACT

The City of Trees Challenge is advancing on commitments to the 1t.org Trillion Trees pledge to plant, grow and maintain 335,000 trees by 2030. To date the Challenge has recorded over 14,000 urban tree planting in Boise and 149,000 seedling plantings in Idaho forests.



COMMUNITY ACTION

In 2022 the challenge renewed its commitment to community and equity with the establishment of the Boise Tree Captains program. Through the Boise Tree Captains the City of Trees Challenge recruits volunteers who are dedicated to increasing the tree canopy in their neighborhoods. They provide a direct connection with the communities that we serve and they help identify planting sites at homes and businesses in areas where Boise needs trees the most.

With funding provided by the US Forest Service and using data developed by the City of Boise's Climate Action Division and American Forests, the Boise Tree Captains connected with residents to start a dialog around the importance of trees. This led to over 160 trees being planted in areas identified as low-canopy regions.

LOCAL CLIMATE IMPACT

We are capturing the ecosystem service and economic benefits of trees planted through the Challenge. Based on the approximately 15,102 urban trees for the Challenge since 2020, we estimate the following ecosystem service benefits over the course of the next 50+ years*

**Estimates derived from iTree™ Design v7.0*



CUMULATIVE BENEFITS



39.8 Million Lbs
Carbon Removal
and Avoidance



312,000 Lbs
Air Pollutant
Removed



47.4 Million
kWh Energy
Conservation



121 Million Gallons
Stormwater Cap-
tured and Cleaned



\$4.0 Million
Increased
Property Values

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

The key successes of the first three years of the Challenge include:

- Using existing data resources to strategically target tree planting where it's needed most;
- Developing sound programs and community partnerships that are poised to grow – including nursery partnerships to support the green industry
- Boise Tree Captains which leverages local expertise and grassroots volunteer resources to plan for, plant and grow trees in neighborhoods of greatest need

UPCOMING IN 2023

In 2023 the City of Trees Challenge will focus on the following key areas to continue the success and growth of the program.

Boise Parks and Recreation Community Forestry staff will:

- Continue updating the city's existing tree inventory
- Continue to enhance tree planting efforts in neighborhoods of greatest need in partnership with Boise Tree Captains
- Bolster wood recycling efforts as part of Idaho's Urban Wood Network

Treasure Valley Canopy Network funding and staff will:

- Update Boise's tree canopy data & planning tools to address urban heat, equity and tree canopy needs
- Enhance the Boise State University Community Steward Internship Program
- Expand the Boise Tree Captains Program and scale-up number of trees planted, number of neighborhoods served and engagement of community volunteers in partnership with City of Good
- Grow green industry partnerships to plant more trees and ensure these trees are cared for by a robust industry workforce for the next generation
- Continue the forest seedling program in partnership with The Nature Conservancy in Idaho, Boise National Forest and Arbor Day Foundation

PARTNERS

Thanks to all our valuable partners who are committed to supporting the City of Trees Challenge!

LEADERS

City of Boise: Council President Elaine Clegg; Parks and Recreation Department; Climate Division

Treasure Valley Canopy Network

The Nature Conservancy in Idaho

STRATEGIC PARTNERS & FUNDERS

Jayker Nurseries Inc.

Boise State University

USDA Forest Service and Boise National Forest

Arbor Day Foundation

American Forests

GREEN INDUSTRY & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Edwards

Franz Witte

Zamzows

Timber Creek Recycling

Love Boise Parks

Boise Farmers Market

City of Good

Boise Tree Captains

To learn more, engage with us and join the Challenge, visit our website cityoftreeschallenge.org or contact us at cityoftreeschallenge@cityofboise.org.

