



## One Million Trees for One Million People Eagle Scout Projects

Designing and implementing a community tree planting project meets all the requirements of a successful Eagle Scout project. Here are some ideas and resources for creating your own tree project:

Fruit trees for health: community and senior centers in Salt Lake County serve lower-income neighborhoods and residents. Fruit trees planted at the center can provide low-cost nutritious produce and provide residents a long-lasting source of enjoyment.

- Contact cities and Salt Lake County ([www.slco.org](http://www.slco.org)) for senior and community centers
- Determine suitable fruit trees and planting time (spring is best) (<http://www.hort.usu.edu/html/fruits/treeFruit.htm>)
- Locate source for low-cost fruit trees (donations from nurseries, hold a fundraising activity, and secure donations)
- Organize a planting day with local residents
- Provide pruning and tree stewardship information

Shade trees for playgrounds: trees provide shade and cooling for children at playgrounds

- Contact community councils, parks, and other neighborhood groups to find a playground that could benefit from shade trees.
- Locate sources for large shade trees and conduct fundraising activities to raise money to purchase or secure donations from local garden centers
- Work with community groups and parents to organize a planting day that involves children and their parents
- Provide tree stewardship material to children and their parents to care for their trees

Trees for seniors: trees at low-income senior housing areas, at seniors' homes, or around senior centers provide a source of joy and shade.

- Contact senior centers, mobile home parks, apartments for seniors, and Salt Lake County Aging Services to determine good locations for trees
- Locate sources for large shade trees and conduct fundraising activities to raise money to purchase or secure donations from local garden centers
- Work with community groups to organize a planting day that involves the seniors
- Provide tree stewardship material to the seniors and senior centers to care for their trees

Schoolyard trees: many new schools in Salt Lake County don't have trees around their buildings to provide shade and wildlife habitat. School plantings are a great way to involve students, teachers, and parents. There are curriculum guides for use in classrooms on the benefits and wonders of trees ([www.milliontrees.slco.org](http://www.milliontrees.slco.org))

- Work with teachers and students to select trees and locations

- Locate sources for shade trees and conduct fundraising activities to raise money to purchase or secure donations from local garden centers
- Work with teachers to organize a planting day that involves the students
- Provide tree stewardship material to the children and teachers to care for their trees

## The Benefits of Trees

### • Energy Savings

Trees save energy by shading buildings and minimizing the need for air conditioning in the hot summer months. Trees cool entire neighborhoods by releasing moisture into the air and shading surfaces like parking lots and streets that hold heat in the sun. In the winter, trees can help reduce heating costs by slowing the wind. We can also save water on irrigation when there is a tree shading the lawns that we water.

- Save up to 30% of annual cooling costs
- Save 10-25% of energy used for heating

### • Water Quality

- Trees improve water quality by capturing, filtering, and absorbing rainwater, which reduces the need for storm water treatment.
- 100 mature trees catch about 250,000 gallons of rainwater per year

### • Air Quality

- Trees clean the air by absorbing and intercepting air pollutants.
- 100 trees remove five tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year
- 100 trees remove about 1000 lbs of pollutants per year, including: 400 lbs of ozone, 300 lbs of particulates

### • Commercial Benefits

Studies have shown that trees are good for business. Shops located in cool shopping districts realize the benefits of trees by

- More frequent shopping
- Longer shopping trips
- Shoppers spend more for parking
- Shoppers spend 12% more for goods

### • Community Benefits

Trees cast shade in the evenings, encouraging residents to come out and enjoy walks and bike rides in their neighborhoods. Trees slow drivers by making them feel enclosed in tree tunnels. Neighborhood tree plantings allow neighbors to participate in creating a common good and to form new relationships. They reduce crime and create more stable neighborhoods. Studies show that trees help us feel peaceful and secure as they bring a bit of nature into our urban environments.

- Trees reduce levels of domestic violence and foster safer, more sociable neighborhood environments (Sullivan and Kuo, 1996).
- Trees (along with other plants) absorb high-frequency noise which is the most distressing frequency range for humans (Miller, 1997).



**SALT LAKE  
COUNTY**

For more information on One Million Trees for One Million People contact Lorna Vogt at 801-468-3571 or [lvogt@slco.org](mailto:lvogt@slco.org). Learn more at [www.milliontrees.slco.org](http://www.milliontrees.slco.org)