



One Million Trees for One Million People Schoolyard Trees

Designing and implementing a schoolyard tree planting project provides students an opportunity to engage with nature, learn about science, develop organizing skills, and learn to care for their environment. Many teachers have used trees in their math, science, and reading curricula.

Trees in a schoolyard have different requirements and needs from trees in more protected areas. One of the best ways to protect trees on school grounds is to plant small groves of trees on slightly elevated berms where they will not be impacted by lawn maintenance equipment and rambunctious children! The best protection will come from the children

themselves who will love and protect the trees they plant.

Fundraising ideas:

- Contact local businesses for donations
- Contact local garden centers for tree donations
- Request trees through the National Arbor Day Foundation:
www.arborday.org/takeaction/homedepot2008/nominate.cfm
- Work with your city's urban forestry or parks department to help organize a planting project
- Contact TreeUtah for more ideas: www.treeutah.org

Resources for teachers:

- "A Tree for Every Child" project is a hands-on and flexible environmental education program that allows students to see how practical action can create a better world. The project allows you to teach your students the benefits and rewards of planting trees:
www.americanforests.org/resources/kids/a_tree_for_every_child/
- National Arbor Day Foundation provides a guide to incorporating trees in the curriculum:
www.arborday.org/kids/carly/.
- "The Forest Where We Live" is a six-part curriculum for older students that introduces them to urban forestry and trees around their homes, neighborhoods, and towns.
www.lpb.org/programs/forestseries/
- "Seeds to Seedlings" was developed by the Sacramento Tree Foundation to grow native California oaks and can be adapted for Utah's native Gambel Oak: www.sactree.com.
- Tree-Ecology was a project implemented by the Salt Lake Organizing Committee in conjunction with the 2000 Olympics: www.uen.org/treecology/html/class.html
- Utah Society for Environmental Education has an online database for environmental programs and curricula: www.usee.org/database.html

- A-Z Teacher Stuff resources on trees: <http://atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/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 CO₂ 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).

For more information on One Million Trees for One Million People contact Lorna Vogt at 801-468-3571 or lvogt@slco.org. Learn more at www.milliontrees.slco.org