



*LEADING STATEWIDE EFFORTS
TO PRESERVE, RENEW AND
ENHANCE COMMUNITY
FORESTS*

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(Monte Vista, CO) – The City of Monte Vista Tree Board has received a \$1,360 grant from the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) for the Marsh Park Tree Planting Project.

The City of Monte Vista is in the heart of the San Luis Valley in south-central Colorado with a population of approximately 4,400. In recent years, the city has made a concerted effort to revitalize its infrastructure and address the unmet needs of its citizens as expressed in several recent community assessments and a parks and recreation master planning process. Marsh Park tree planting is a continuation of a project to create a boulevard effect. The purpose of this grant is to improve existing City parks by providing the funds to plant appropriate trees which will maximize shade, aesthetic and windbreak value. The desired outcome is to increase use by adding to the comfort and beauty of these parks as recreational sites for each neighborhood.

The Marsh Park Tree Planting Project as an opportunity to educate its youth in hands-on environmental stewardship, such as it recently did at previous planting projects as part of the city's annual Arbor Day celebration. Invitations will be extended to Kids Connection and elementary schools to participate as their schedule allows. This project will include volunteers that will be educated on proper tree selection, design, planting, care, and maintenance practices espoused by the Colorado Tree Coalition, Colorado State Forest Service and Tree City USA program. The planting of trees is planned for April as part of Arbor Day, which will be covered by local newspapers and radio station.

The Colorado Tree Coalition awarded nearly \$35,000 to 11 organizations in 2017. Along with matching funds provided by the grant recipients this helped plant more than 360 trees in communities across Colorado. Each of these projects allowed residents the opportunity to make a difference in their community with a combined total of 3,117 hours of volunteer service. CTC grants are made possible through the support of the USDA Forest Service, the Colorado State Forest Service, Xcel Energy Foundation, Xcel Energy Vegetation Management, Colorado Public Radio and our Colorado Tree Coalition members and supporters. Since 1991 the Colorado Tree Coalition has awarded 512 grants totaling over \$878,000. These grants have been matched with over \$7.9 million in community money and/or time. As a result of these grants over 75,180 trees have been planted throughout the state.