



## City of Trees CHALLENGE

# 2020 IMPACT REPORT

The City of Trees Challenge was launched on Arbor Day 2020 by Boise City Council President Elaine Clegg in partnership with the Treasure Valley Canopy Network. The goal is to plant 100,000 trees across Boise (one for every household) and 235,000 seedlings in Idaho forests (one for every resident) over the next decade.

“The challenge allows every Boise resident a chance to act locally, in a way that is easy to understand and measure, to improve the livability, health and climate of our local community and have impact globally.” Elaine Clegg, Boise City Council President

On Arbor Day 2020, Council President Clegg and City Forester, Mike Andrews, unveiled the challenge to city residents, calling for all Boiseans to come together amidst a global pandemic and economic uncertainty to grow toward a more resilient future.



## LOCAL INVESTMENT WITH GLOBAL IMPACT

As the leader of the challenge, the City of Boise announced three key pillars of their commitment to local action; enhancing the health of our environment and quality of life for all Boiseans and addressing the impacts of climate change worldwide. Through planting, growing and maintaining healthy trees across the city, Boise has committed to the following:

### TREE CITY OF THE WORLD

In 2019, the city was recognized by Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as a Tree City of the World. Boise is among 68 cities across 17 countries recognized as exemplary stewards of their urban forest.

### IMPROVING EQUITY AND HUMAN HEALTH FOR ALL BOISEANS

Through the use of existing data and planning tools, the challenge strategically targets tree planting in areas where trees are needed most -- to reduce the impact of urban heat, increase tree canopy cover and improve the quality of life for all Boise residents.

### IT.ORG TRILLION TREES PLEDGE

The City of Boise, Treasure Valley Canopy Network and The Nature Conservancy in Idaho have pledged to plant 335,000 trees by 2030 as part of this worldwide effort to plant a trillion trees to mitigate climate change. Boise's pledge is estimated to sequester 154,124 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Boise residents registered  
**740 TREES** in 2020.

Next time you plant a tree  
make sure to register it  
and join the challenge!  
[cityoftreeschallenge.org](http://cityoftreeschallenge.org)



# ROOTED IN TREE PLANTING -- 2,000 TREES IN 2020!

Boise invests in planting trees across the city on public land in parks, schools and new developments and on private land by partnering with home and business owners. The City of Boise, Treasure Valley Canopy Network, The Nature Conservancy in Idaho, Boise Farmers Market, Jayker ReWholesale Nursery and Boise Neighborhood Associations, planted over 2,000 trees in 2020. All trees planted through the challenge will be certified through the **City Forest Credits Impact Certification**.

## PUBLIC PROPERTY

**400 TREES**

LOCATION: Parks and Streets

PARTNER: Boise Parks and Rec.

**200 TREES**

LOCATION: Schools

PARTNER: Boise Public Schools

## PRIVATE PROPERTY

**1000 TREES**

LOCATION: New residential development

PARTNER: Construction Industry

**100 TREES**

LOCATION: Areas in need\*

PARTNER: Boise Neighborhood Associations

**400 TREES**

LOCATION: Boise homes and businesses

PARTNER: Boise Farmers Market

## TOTAL

**2,100 TREES PLANTED**

## LOCAL CLIMATE IMPACT

The city is capturing the ecosystem service benefits - environmental, health and economic benefits - of their investment in the challenge. Based on the over 2,000 trees planted in 2020, we estimate the following ecosystem service benefits over the course of the next 50+ years\*\*

- **\$535,000** in increased property value for homeowners who have planted a Challenge tree
- **16 million gallons** of stormwater captured and cleaned by the tree canopy
- Conserve **6.3 million kWh** of energy by shading homes and reducing electricity use during summer months
- Remove **41,000 pounds** of air pollutants
- Reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by **5.3 million pounds** through carbon storage and reduced energy use

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

\*Urban heat, low tree canopy & equity

## PARTNERS

We would like to thank all the valuable partners who contributed to our first year of the challenge:

### LEADERS

- City of Boise  
- Council  
President Elaine Clegg; Parks and Recreation; Climate Action Division; Planning & Development Services - Energize Our Neighborhoods
- Treasure Valley Canopy Network
- The Nature Conservancy in Idaho

### VALUED PARTNERS

- Jayker Nurseries Inc.
- Boise Farmers Market



## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

We know that planting 100,000 urban trees and 235,000 forest seedlings is a big commitment, but just as important as planting these trees, is ensuring they grow to be large and healthy, returning benefits to our local community and climate. For this reason, we are forming lasting partnerships to help us meet our tree planting goals and ensure our urban forest is healthy and vibrant for generations.

- Over 4,800 existing trees were inventoried by our city forestry staff in 2020 (this represents over 15% increase in our city tree inventory). The city tree inventory helps ensure the health of trees across the city in our parks and along our streets.

In 2021:

- The city is partnering with the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association to help local nurseries join the challenge and help plant more trees at homes across Boise.
- The Nature Conservancy in Idaho and Treasure Valley Canopy Network secured funding from the Arbor Day Foundation to plant 37,000 forest seedlings in Boise National Forest this spring.
- We continue to build opportunities to: plant, grow and maintain a healthy urban forest and engage citizens in local action that invests in our green industry and improves quality of life for all.



## LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED

Visit [cityoftreeschallenge.org](http://cityoftreeschallenge.org) or contact us at [cityoftreeschallenge@cityofboise.org](mailto:cityoftreeschallenge@cityofboise.org).

