



# IDAHO

## Idaho Department of Lands

Idaho's Urban and Community Forestry program works with municipalities and partner agencies to leverage the benefits urban canopies provide to the physical and mental health of residents. Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) works with the Treasure Valley Canopy Network to promote the health and wellness benefits of Idaho's urban and community forests.

In 2013, a USDA Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grant funded an IDL Treasure Valley Urban Tree Canopy Assessment<sup>1</sup> (TV UTC Assessment) in partnership with The Keystone Concept and Plan-It Geo. This innovative and collaborative project produced tree canopy data and an i-Tree Eco assessment for nine communities within the Treasure Valley, Idaho's largest metropolitan area. The grant initially intended to spur strategic tree planting to mitigate air quality issues. This assessment resulted in the creation of the Treasure Valley Canopy Network (Network). The Network is now a self-sustained regional non-profit that brings together public, private and non-profit organizations to effectively manage the region's urban forest.

In collaboration with regional and national partners, the Network has built programs that are: reducing peak season energy use, investigating the impacts of urban heat on human health, recycling urban wood,

mitigating carbon impacts, and more.

In the arena of public and human health, the Network partners with local healthcare providers on a Walk With a Doc program and integrates tree canopy data into community health planning efforts. While the Walk With a Doc program slowed due to the impacts of COVID-19, urban tree canopy data is being integrated into local Health Impact Assessments (HIA). One example is a recent City of Boise Community Development Analysis<sup>2</sup>, completed by Ecosystem Sciences in partnership with Vitruvian Planning. By integrating tree canopy data with socioeconomic and health specific data, this analysis provides housing and community planning recommendations to guide the city's strategies for housing and development.

The Network continues to grow around its focus on the built environment's impact on human health. In Fall of 2020 the Network

will launch, in partnership with the city of Boise, the City of Trees Challenge. The plan is to plant over 100,000 trees to improve quality of life, human health and equity, and the impacts of climate in the region.

<sup>1</sup> [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53486aaae4b0bccee3075974/t/5f2d48093ee91f1309a5ef30/1596803089856/2013\\_Treasure\\_Valley\\_UTC\\_Project\\_Report-Final-appendices\\_%28101013%29\\_sm.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53486aaae4b0bccee3075974/t/5f2d48093ee91f1309a5ef30/1596803089856/2013_Treasure_Valley_UTC_Project_Report-Final-appendices_%28101013%29_sm.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.cityofboise.org/media/10283/boise\\_community\\_needs\\_assessment.pdf](https://www.cityofboise.org/media/10283/boise_community_needs_assessment.pdf)

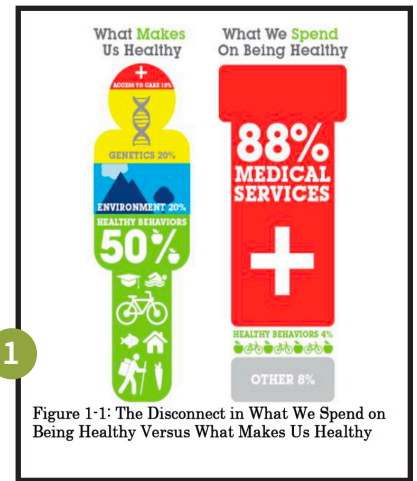


Figure 1-1: The Disconnect in What We Spend on Being Healthy Versus What Makes Us Healthy



**1.** City of Boise Community Development Analysis includes a focus on creating healthy communities through strategies that include enhancing tree canopy. Photo Credit: Vitruvian Planning, Ecosystem Sciences & PHR Consulting. **2.** Boise's City Forester, Mike Andrews, speaks with a local homeowner about her tree in Boise's North End neighborhood. Photo Credit: Guy Hand. **3.** Boise's Urban Heat Map informs multiple community health planning strategies. Photo Credit: Treasure Valley Canopy Network & Capa Heat Watch, LLC.

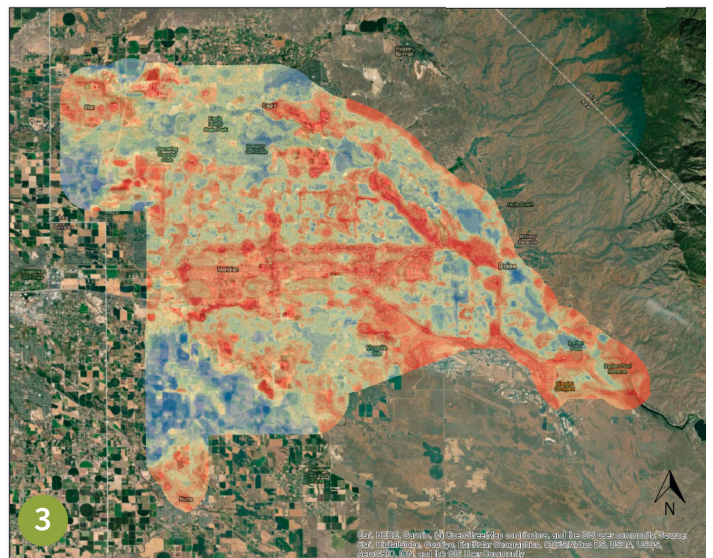


Figure 8: Boise 7-8PM Area-Wide Temperature (°F)

