

# WYOMING

## WYOMING STATE FORESTRY DIVISION

In many Wyoming communities, street trees planted in the 1880's are over mature and not being replaced when they die. This cycle has resulted in hundreds of vacant planting sites and treeless neighborhoods across Wyoming. In an effort to reverse this trend, the City of Cheyenne Urban Forestry Division partnered with the Wyoming State Forestry Division (WSFD) to embark on a large scale, organized, and sustainable planting program. In a little over a year, the program developed into a community wide initiative that is far more successful than organizers had ever imagined. The initiative continues to grow in both community and financial support and has become a positive example and inspiration for communities within Wyoming and other states.

In 2017, the City of Cheyenne Urban Forestry Division was awarded a \$10,000 grant from WSFD to develop a long-term cost share planting initiative for street trees. The grant provided for program administration costs and development of promotional materials as well as public education. Funding was also used for organizing an advisory board and recruiting volunteers.

A community wide naming contest was followed by an organizational meeting for "Rooted in Cheyenne" in March of 2017. The program soon had an active volunteer board and support from civic organizations, homeowners, local nurseries, and tree care companies. The first major corporate donation was \$25,000. Other financial contributors have included individuals, businesses, the local conservation district, and the Rotary Club. Various green industry businesses have donated staff time and equipment which has resulted in learning opportunities and unique professional relationships among private, public and nonprofit sectors of the community.

Public right-of-way trees were planted by teams of volunteers led by professional landscapers and arborists. Planting and watering for the first year was included with every tree. Trees cost homeowners \$50 each and a few no cost trees were provided to low income residents. Trees were purchased from wholesale nurseries that use modern growing methods to produce healthy root systems resulting in better survival and faster establishment.

The inaugural planting event included over fifty volunteers working with eight tree care companies and nurseries along with city arborists to plant 105 trees. In the program's second year, over 300 trees were planted during both a spring and fall event. Several varieties of species were offered to insure a healthier and more diverse urban forest.



Citizens, green industry representatives, and homeowners work together to plant new street trees in Cheyenne neighborhoods.

*Photo Credit: Rooted in Cheyenne.*

The average cost to plant and care for each tree was \$125 a year, whereas this traditionally would have cost at least \$300 – a 58% savings. Equally important is the involvement of numerous partners and the professional relationships, friendships, and sense of community that continue to develop.

"Rooted in Cheyenne" has become an active volunteer organization and an inspiration for other communities, all while improving the health of the city's urban forest and its residents.



*Photo Credit: Rooted in Cheyenne.*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wyoming State Forestry Division, Community Forestry Program  
<http://wsfd.wyo.gov/forestry-assistance-programs/community-forestry>