

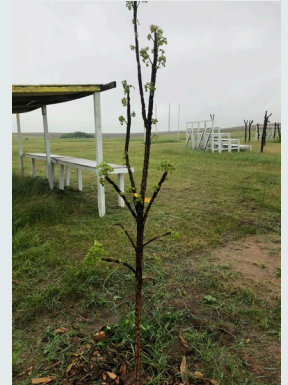
SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry

The state of South Dakota consists of communities from large to small. This piece highlights a tree planting grant that provided canopy cover for a very small community of around 600 people. This community is Parmelee, and it has a population that consists of mostly Native Americans. A local nonprofit, Bartlett Community Visions, saw the need for community improvement in the City of Parmelee and worked with them to submit a proposal for the Urban Forestry Challenge grant. Once the grant was awarded for \$1,000, Bartlett Community Visions partnered with the City of Parmelee and its residents to plant trees in hopes of enhancing recreational experiences and preserving the area for future generations.

In the spring of 2018, Bartlett Community Visions was awarded an Urban Forestry Challenge grant from the Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry. The award was for \$1,000 to be used for planting trees in the City of Parmelee. The Parmelee community put a plan together to add shade trees around their Pow Wow grounds and around their newly established baseball field. The community planned to provide match in the form of purchased trees and volunteer labor from the community. The community designated two individual volunteers, Jim Neiss and Mille Spotted Tail, to water the trees during the summer. The volunteers maintained the trees through daily watering for the first two weeks after planting and then weekly for the first year, in the absence of sufficient rainfall. The community will also be responsible for maintaining the trees year-round for moisture and to protect them from other hazards, such as lawn mowing, grasses, and wind concerns.

In the end, 12 trees were planted along the Pow Wow grounds and the new baseball field. The species planted included bur oak, oak leaf mountain ash, and Japanese tree lilac. In the near future, the community would like to add benches and a concrete walking path for the elders and children in the community to utilize for entertainment and health.



Tree planted right next to the Pow Wow grounds.
Photo Credit: Josh Larson



Trees planted around the new baseball field in Parmelee. *Photo Credit: Josh Larson*

The impact of this tree planting was best summarized by project contact, Cheryl Bartlett:

“I think the biggest thing the trees have brought to the Parmelee community is the visual possibilities that they could have: a park for the kids today and an even better park for future generations. Local people in the community were also saying that it will be great to camp around the Pow Wow grounds like they did when they were younger with their families. This would bring their families back together in their cultural events.”

In conclusion, Parmelee gained more than the 12 new trees in their community. They gained a more comfortable environment for their people to connect with their families and culture.



Volunteers in the community come together to plant trees around the Pow Wow grounds. *Photo Credit: Josh Larson*



Urban Forester, Josh Larson, worked with volunteers in the community to plant trees around the Pow Wow grounds. *Photo Credit: Josh Larson*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry
<https://sdda.sd.gov/conservation-forestry/urban-community-forestry/>