

'Think globally, act locally' volunteers plant trees

BY HEATH DRUZIN
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For environmental studies major Justin Jolley, planting trees is a way to use his education to improve his community.

"No matter what, putting a tree in the ground is going to have a positive impact," he said.

Jolley was one of dozens of volunteers who fanned out across Boise on Saturday morning, one day after Arbor Day, to plant trees in the City of Trees as part of the annual Reforest Boise Forestry Project. Several groups, including Boise State University students, Boy Scouts, and a church group, started about 9 a.m. and planted about 150 trees around the city.

Jolley, the president of BSU's Environmental Studies Association, led a group of five association members in planting 10 trees in southeast Boise and the East End. His group does about three projects a year and Jolley said the planting was a way for his group to put the motto "Think globally, act locally" into action.

"We feel good as environmental-studies majors to have a positive impact, and having made that impact in the Boise community," he said.

City forestry specialist Brian Jorgenson, who helped oversee the project, said the volunteers planted several species that have been successful in Boise, including honeylocusts, red oaks, river birches and Kentucky coffee trees. Jorgenson said trees provide shade and can beautify neighborhoods and save energy by keeping buildings cool.

"It's ultimately for aesthetics and keeping neighborhoods looking like some place where somebody would want to live," he said.

Tom Thorpe led nine Boy Scouts and Venture Scouts, ages 11 to 16, from Troop



Darrin Oswald / Idaho Statesman

93 in planting 20 trees in the North End. He said they got a lot of positive remarks from neighborhood residents.

"We want to instill in the scouts a sense of giving to the community, and also because planting trees is beneficial to everyone because they produce oxygen and beautify the city," Thorpe said.

Want to volunteer?

For more information on forestry projects in Boise, call the Department of Parks and Recreation Community Forestry Division at 384-4083.

Boise's Tree Stewards program, which offers volunteers the chance to learn about and help maintain the city's trees, will start in May, although the city has not set the schedule yet.

Follow the link to the parks department's volunteer program.

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Tim Hachigian, 16, left, Ian Thorpe, 16, right, and Matt Thorpe, 16, center, move a coffee tree into place Saturday morning near the corner of W. Jefferson and 19th Street N. in Boise. Members of Scout Troop 93 helped plant about 20 trees on streets in Boise on Saturday during the annual Reforest Boise Project, which kicked off at the Boise Community Forestry Center earlier in the day. Various volunteer groups planted about 150 trees.