

Putting Trees to Work



from the **TREE CITY USA®
BULLETIN**

As our world grows ever more competitive, shade and beauty alone are not enough to justify the planting and care of community trees. Trees must pay their way — and they can. Opportunities abound for putting trees to work and the results are cost savings and increased public safety as well as a more pleasant living environment.



James R. Fazio

Trees in this new housing development in southern Idaho provide practical benefits beyond beautification. Shielding homes and lawns from the wind, saving energy through cooling, buffering sounds, and calming the flow of traffic are just some of the ways trees can be put to work in our communities.

TAKE A LOOK – TREES WORKING!

Here are some of the municipalities identified by the U.S. Forest Service National Agroforestry Center as pioneering in the concept of Working Trees for Communities.

CONRAD, MONTANA

A windbreak around Prairie View School — designed and planted with the help of the kids — breaks the wind, decreases fuel costs, increases observable wildlife populations, and serves as an outdoor laboratory.

WOODWARD, IOWA

More than a mile of existing windbreak was expanded around Woodward State Hospital and School to improve wind protection and control drifting snow, thereby reducing fuel and snow removal costs and keeping emergency entrances open.

HARRISON, NEBRASKA

Tired of snow-blocked roads, the community planted an 11-row living snow fence to protect the main access road. The project is also a demonstration to encourage local ranchers to make similar plantings to protect livestock.

SUPERIOR, NEBRASKA

Trees and shrubs have been planted along Lost Creek in the city park to re-establish bird habitat, control streambank erosion, reduce silt in the park's fishing pond, and provide diversity for an interpretive trail.

FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

By surrounding the community ballfields with trees, irrigation costs related to wind-caused evaporation are reduced, wind-blown debris from a nearby wastewater storage facility is prevented, soil erosion is controlled, and a nearby waterway is buffered from the runoff of excess turf fertilizers and pesticides.

Working trees are planted in a specific place, in a specific design, for a specific, practical purpose. These trees have a job to do.

— *Jerry Bratton, Retired
National Agroforestry Center*

IN THIS ISSUE, ALSO LEARN ABOUT:

- How windbreaks function
- Living snow fences
- Streambank stabilization
- Visual screening
- Sound barriers
- And much more