



For Immediate Release

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DENVER COMMUNITY FORESTER PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN 2010

The Park People and Denver Parks and Recreation Proudly Announce a New Community Forester Training Program for Denverites

DENVER – In a coordinated effort to enhance and preserve Denver’s urban tree canopy, The Park People and Denver Parks and Recreation have teamed up to launch a new training program that empowers individuals to lead tree planting and tree care activities within the community.

The original Community Forester program was established in 2003 to educate residents on how to properly care for trees. This year, The Park People and the City have elevated the status of the program by expanding the training to a new level of depth and sophistication. Once trained, Community Foresters can lead and participate in tree planting and care projects in their neighborhoods as well as activities for The Park People, Denver’s Forestry Division, and the Mile High Million tree planting initiative. These new high-level volunteers will help ensure that Denver’s prized urban environment does not decline despite the economic challenges faced by many cities.

Community Foresters will serve as urban forestry advocates within the community by participating in tree distribution and planting events; canvassing neighborhoods for new tree planting opportunities; conducting tree health checks; performing young tree pruning; and serving as tree advocates in their neighborhoods.

The first Community Forester workshop, Trees 101, will be held March 13.

Schedule:

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| Trees 101 <i>prerequisite</i> | Sat, March 13, 8am-12pm |
| Tree Planting & Health | Sat, April 10, 8am-12pm |
| Tree Identification & Inventory | Sat, May 8, 9am-12pm |
| Tree Pruning | Sat, June 12, 9am-12pm |
| Volunteer Leadership & Management <i>optional</i> | Sat, July 10, 9am-12pm |

To become a Community Forester, participants must complete all sessions. However, individuals may take Trees 101 and at least one other class to become a Tree Steward. Visit www.theparkpeople.org for prices and more information.

The Park People

The Park People is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, enhancing and advocating for Denver’s parks, recreation resources, open space and urban forest. Through its *Denver Digs Trees* program, The Park People is responsible for adding more than 38,000 public trees to Denver’s streets, with hundreds more sold each spring to help raise funds for the organization’s public tree efforts. Visit www.theparkpeople.org for more information or call 303-722-6262.

Denver Parks and Recreation

Denver Forestry is the city agency responsible for trees and shrubs in public parks, parkways and around government buildings. Denver has been recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation

as a Tree City USA since 1986 for its excellence in programming and advocacy of the right tree in the right place. To learn more about Denver Forestry visit www.denvergov.org or call 3-1-1.

The Mile High Million serves as a regional champion for trees, convening community partners to plant and steward one million trees by 2025 in order to improve our environment, our economy and our quality of life. As an initiative of Greenprint Denver, The Mile High Million is a catalyst in the mission to create a legacy of environmental sustainability. Be *One in a Million* by planting a tree today, and then make your tree count by registering it www.milehighmillion.org!