20 APRIL 2023

ARBOR DAY EVENT

Tomorrow, April 21, is Colorado Arbor Day and TODAY we are holding our annual Arbor Day planting from 11 to 12 on the east side of the Lory Student Center—part of CSU's Earth Week celebrations.

The Outdoor Services Group within FM Operations will lead campus volunteers in planting five trees. We will plant two varieties of oak, 'Jack Maze' and Chinkapin, chosen for their climate readiness and resiliency in urban landscapes. Trees, green roofs, and vegetation can help reduce urban heat island effects by shading building surfaces, deflecting radiation from the sun, and releasing moisture into the atmosphere. Facilities Management has annually engaged in Arbor Day plantings since 2011. This effort is a collaboration among campus partners, including the Warner College of Natural Resources and Colorado State Forest Service, College of Agricultural Sciences, CSU Extension, and the CSU Bookstore.



Our commitment to the value of trees on campus is exhibited in our engagement with the Tree Campus Higher Education certification. To be a Tree Campus Higher Education site, we ensure the protection and maintenance of our campus urban forest, reduce hazardous tree risks to public safety, and maintain a sustainable campus forest through tree species diversity and best management practices. CSU joins more than 400 American colleges and universities recognized by the program.

Maintaining our level III ArbNet accreditation is an additional commitment to the legacy of trees in our community. Outdoor Services manages trees diverse in terms of age (from newly planted to over 140 years old), class, and species (approx. 300 species), distributed over three campuses (Main, South, and Foothills), comprising 2,400 acres of land. The largest trees have up to a 69 inches diameter at breast height (DBH), with an average trunk diameter of 10.65 inches. Facilities Management actively and intentionally works to establish better species diversity for CSU, so our overall campus forest will be more resilient to invasive pests, climate change, and severe weather events.

Get outside for Arbor Day! CSU has a self-guided tour of 15 trees and three notable tree collections. Check out the tour by visiting the CSU interactive map and choosing the Tours tab, or download a paper map. City of Fort Collins has a self-guided tree tour too.

Issue 176 – Did you learn something new about FM from this communication? Tell us yes or no here.