



Missoula Parks and Recreation 721-7275
Public Service Announcement
Contact: Recreation Specialist [Jason Pignanelli](#), 552-6271

For release March 1 through March 28, 2011

For more information about these programs, call 721-PARK.

19th Annual Run for the Trees Slated For April 2, 2011

Celebrate Arbor Month this April with a 5k walk or run along the Riverfront Trails beginning and ending at McCormick Park. Missoula Parks and Recreation's 19th annual Run for The Trees is Saturday, April 2, 2011 at 10 a.m. All runners and walkers receive a race t-shirt featuring the artwork of Missoula artist Monte Dolack and a free tree seedling to plant. Participants are also eligible to race awards and door prizes. The untimed 1-mile Fun Run for all ages begins at 9 a.m. and all 1-mile youth participants receive an award.

Over 700 kids and adults participated in last year's Run For The Trees. It's a fun event for the whole family, and \$6 of each entry fee goes directly to the Urban Forestry Program.

Registration is \$20 for adults and \$15 for youth, if registered by March 27. Late registration fees, March 28 through March 31, are \$25 for adults, \$20 for youth. Sorry, no race-day registrations accepted.

Register at Currents Aquatics Center, call 721-PARK for an entry form, download the form at www.runforthetrees.org, or register online at www.active.com.

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*Media, Please note: background on Parks and Recreation's Urban Forestry Program below.

Missoula Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry Program
Contact: Ben Carson City Forester, 552-6270

Parks and Recreation's Urban Forestry Division manages approximately 20,000 trees on city right-of-ways and parks, in addition to forestry operations on 3,200 acres of open space. Our urban forest is valued at over \$28 million, with a budget of less than 1 percent of the total urban forest value.

Missoula has been named a "Tree City, USA" for 19 years and has received the "Growth Award" the last 13 years from the National Arbor Day Foundation. For more information on Missoula's urban forest or caring for trees and shrubs in your neighborhood visit www.missoulaparks.org or call 552-6270.

Today's urban forest is made up of 84 percent Norway maples, with an average age of 68 years, so planting programs are of the utmost importance. Here are a few of our Urban Forestry programs:

Friends of Missoula's Urban Forest	Memorial Tree Program
Cost Share Tree Planting Program	Arbor Month School Tree Plantings
Run For the Trees	Selecting an Arborist
Christmas Evergreen	Firewood Giveaway

Benefits of The Urban Forest

From International Society of Arboriculture

- Trees keep our air supply fresh by absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen.
- In one year, an acre of trees can absorb as much carbon as is produced by a car driven up to 8700 miles.
- Trees provide shade and shelter, reducing yearly heating and cooling costs by \$2.1 billion dollars.
- Trees lower air temperature by evaporating water in their leaves.
- Trees cut down noise pollution by acting as sound barriers.
- Tree roots stabilize the soil and prevent erosion.
- Trees improve water quality by slowing and filtering rain water as well as protecting aquifers and watersheds.
- Trees provide food and shelter for wildlife.
- Trees located along streets act as a glare and reflection control.
- The death of one 70-year old tree would return over three tons of carbon to the atmosphere.
- Trees are the oldest form of life on earth.
- We literally could not live without trees--they take carbon dioxide from the air and replace it with oxygen.
- Wildlife needs trees for food and shelter.
- The annual oxygen produced by one tree is 260 pounds.
- Tree facts applied to house sales indicate that trees can increase the value of a house by 10%.
- Trees make water cleaner by filtering rain.
- Trees facts reveal that trees have psychological benefits. Both blood pressure and muscle tension drops when people are shown or placed in a tree environment.
- If you want to save on air conditioning costs, plant trees. They can cool a building by up to 20%.
- Trees evaporate water in their leaves which causes air cooling.
- The value of a full-grown, healthy tree can fall between \$1000 and \$10,000.
- Every year one single tree absorbs 10 lbs of pollutants.

