



Sheridan celebrates Arbor Day at Trail End

The Sheridan Press

By [Ryan Hanrahan](mailto:ryan.hanrahan@thesheridanpress.com) | ryan.hanrahan@thesheridanpress.com Jul 3, 2020

SHERIDAN – The city of Sheridan celebrated Arbor Day Thursday by planting trees at Trail End State Historic Site to replace ones killed by Dutch Elm Disease in the 1980s.

More than 30 people attended the celebration, including the mayor and members of city council, tree board and the state forestry office.

Sheridan city arborist Clark Van Hoosier said because Sheridan holds the Tree City USA designation, they are required to have an Arbor Day celebration, although that requirement was loosened nationwide this year due to COVID-19.

The celebration occurred at Trail End, which superintendent Sharie Shada said was the perfect location because of the site's significance to trees in Sheridan.

"The landscaping plans for Trail End are the first known landscaping plans prepared for any private residence in the state of Wyoming," she said. "Having trees along this street here really completes the vision that was originally planned for Trail End."

Van Hoosier said the planting was almost delayed before it began by the discovery of an old curb running through the middle of the digging area, but the city came out quickly to help them get it removed and keep the event on track.

He said they planted a variety of trees, which is important to do in the case of invasive species or diseases that kill trees coming to the area.

"We are putting Elms back in to replace those historic trees, and these are Dutch elm disease-resistant varieties," he said. "So we've got three different species of elm in here and then in between the Elms we have Hawthorns and then on the north side it's a little skinny section so we are doing Ivory Silk Tree Lilacs."

Following opening speeches, Van Hoosier read from the city's proclamation marking Thursday as this year's Arbor Day for Sheridan.

"I, Roger C. Miller, Mayor of Sheridan, do hereby proclaim July 2, 2020, Arbor Day in the city of Sheridan, Wyoming, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day to support the efforts to protect our trees and woodlands," he said.

Those in attendance then split up into groups to help Van Hoosier, his department's seasonal workers and other volunteers plant the remaining trees.

Mayor Roger Miller, city councilors Jacob Martin and Thayer Shafer and City Administrator Stuart McRae helped fill in dirt around one of the newly planted elms while Van Hoosier explained the planting process.

“When you’re planting a tree, what you’re looking for in your hole is want it to be about twice the size of your root ball,” he said. “When the roots are young, they have a hard time getting air, so if you plant them too deep, a lot of times, they’ll die.”

Van Hoosier told the crowd he was glad the celebration could occur this year in nice weather following rain the last couple of years. He made a special thanks to Trail End and the city for making trees a priority, and said he hoped planting trees like this could help make lasting memories for his young workers.

“My biggest thanks goes to our seasonal workers,” he said. “They’re our army, they’re here in the trenches, they’re cutting sod, digging dirt, pulling cement out of the holes, doing the mulch, the wire. I’m hoping in 20 years they come back and see these trees and show these trees to their kids.”







