

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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State Forestry Re-Leaf Grant to Plant Trees in Raton

SANTA FE, NM – The New Mexico State Forestry Division has awarded \$5,363 in grant funding to Colfax County, to plant trees in the downtown area to help boost economic development, according to State Timber Management Officer, Andrew Frederick.

“In an urban or community setting planting trees not only creates beauty and adds to quality of life, but can also aid in economic development,” said Frederick. “Trees provide shade and aesthetics, which can help attract and retain businesses.”

The trees will be planted along Park Ave. between First and Second Streets, and serve as a continuation of an earlier Re-Leaf Grant project as well as other nearby planting that was made possible through locally raised donations. This stage of the project will plant 13 trees and additional shrubs along areas of the street that currently have little or no vegetation.

“Our goal with the Re-Leaf and locally funded projects is to make shopping and doing business in downtown Raton more hospitable and addition to providing protection and shade at the facility, the project serves as an example to the community, regarding the role trees play in an urban setting,” said project coordinator David Stafford. “By working to establish a more attractive place to work and shop, we also hope to educate residents that trees are a vital part of our community.”

Awards for up to \$6,000 per community were made to projects in five communities across New Mexico. These funds, administered by New Mexico State Forestry Division, support valuable community tree planting efforts aimed at improving the environment, educating citizens, and beautifying public places. This year’s grant recipients include the communities of Las Vegas, Raton, Rio Rancho, Fort Sumner and Lordsburg.

New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf was established in 1990 to provide a tree-planting grant program for public entities such as public schools, cities, towns, counties, soil and water conservation districts, rural fire districts and others. New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf fills a budgetary void for these entities that lack tree-planting funds. Since its inception, New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf has awarded more than \$600,000 for tree-planting and education efforts.

New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf is solely funded through private donations from individuals, businesses and corporations. Donations can be made through a “New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf” check-off box on the New Mexico Individual Income Tax Form, Schedule D. There is also a donation check-off box on the Forestry Division’s Seedling sales order form. Donations can also be made online at nmforestry.com or by contacting the New Mexico State Forestry Division at (505) 476-3343 or at 1220 South St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505.

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