

## **La Veta Park & Tree Board 2022 Overview**

La Veta's Park & Tree Board continues to work diligently on adding to the visual impact of La Veta's greenery in the park, trails and along the streets. The Board's activities includes obtaining and fulfilling grants, requests for tree work, visual inspections and advice for the community. The Board members are also actively involved with the physical labor of pruning trees from the ground, planting trees and tree care such as watering and mulching new trees.

### **Colorado Tree Coalition Grant**

The Town of La Veta received a \$2,000 grant from the CO State Forest Service for a "Town of La Veta Tree Canopy Renewal Program" to plant additional trees and purchase pruning supplies. Nine trees were planted by seven volunteers. The varieties planted were 2 Spring Snow Crabapples, 3 Red Oaks, 2 Autumn Brilliance Serviceberries, and 2 Cleveland Pears. The trees were planted at the 300 block of E Ryus, Francisco Fort on W Francisco, 100 block of E Francisco, 200 block of E Field, 100 block of W Virginia, 100 block of E Virginia, 100 block of W Garland, and 600 block of S Main Street. Through the CTC Grant, the P&TB have been able to purchase pruning tools to maintain the tree canopy of La Veta's trees. The Park & Tree Board filed for a \$1,054 grant reimbursement request on August 31 and the check was received in early September. This activity completed the grant.

### **Town of La Veta Tree Survey**

No tree survey was conducted in 2022 as the 2021 survey was considered to be very extensive.

### **Tree Maintenance**

The Park & Tree Board continued watering trees planted in 2020 through 2022. The trees planted in 2020 and 2021 were watered once a week until summer when the trees planted in 2020 began to be watered twice a month. The trees planted in 2022 have been watered twice a week. The Park & Tree Board will reconsider water frequency in late 2022.

For the trees planted in 2022, wire fencing was installed when the trees were planted to protect the trees from injury by deer. These trees were also mulched to minimize water loss. The wire fencing was removed from trees planted in 2021 and black irrigation tubing was installed on the tree trunks to protect the trees from injury by deer.

The Park & Tree Board pruned 39 trees and removed 1 dead tree in five work sessions from April to November.

### **Tree City USA Application**

On May 27, the Park & Tree Board with one resident planted a Spring Snow Crabapple tree as the Town's Arbor Day Tree at 109 E Francisco. An educational training was conducted on tree selection and maintenance (watering, pruning, etc) for the public during the planting of this tree. The Mayor issued a proclamation announcing May 27 as Arbor Day.

In December, the Park & Tree Board will prepare the 2022 application for continued Tree City USA status. The application and signature form are sent to the Town Clerk for signature by the Town's Mayor in preparation for submitting the application by mid-December.

### **Town of La Veta Resident Education**

The Park & Tree Board maintains resident education by maintaining the following information to the Town of La Veta website in partnership with the Town's Clerk:

- Tree Selection
- Site Considerations
- Tree Considerations

- Trees to Avoid
- Selecting Trees at the Nursery
- CO State Forest Service Nursery – residents are able to order from a list of trees and shrubs once a year
- Tree Planting Tips
- Tree Watering
- Tree Pruning

The link to the page is <https://townoflaveta-co.gov/parks-trees/>

### **Park & Tree Board Membership**

The current Park & Tree Board member's term ends on the following dates

- Comer Crawford: April 20, 2023
- Keith Hauber: June 1, 2023
- Kelly Delia: August 1, 2023
- Linda Lacy: Sept 17, 2023
- George Orlowski: November 16, 2023

The Board will place recruitment articles in the World Journal and on the Town's website advertising the open Board position to residents of La Veta. The Board members will also focus on inviting residents who have volunteered to prune or water trees to join the Board in 2023.

### **Forecast of 2022 Activities**

The Park & Tree Board plans the following activities for 2023:

- recruit new Board members
- continue maintenance of Town of La Veta trees, including water new or relatively new trees until established (under the guidance of Town water restrictions), mulching trees as needed, and pruning existing trees for tree health and resident safety
- attempt to engage residents for pruning work sessions for educational purposes through one or more articles in the World Journal, the Huerfano Community Facebook page and the Town of La Veta website
- maintain the Tree City USA designation which will include planting an Arbor Day Tree, receiving an Arbor Day Proclamation from the Town and completing an Arbor Day Observance
- provide educational materials to the residents on the Town of La Veta website