



A Kansas Community Development NEWSLETTER



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Gene Grey and James Nighswonger, Extension Foresters at Kansas State University examine tree planting. A pleasing community appearance begins with the proper selection and planting of public trees.

PRIDE COMMITTEES MAY REQUEST TREE AND SHRUB PLANTING ASSISTANCE

State and Extension foresters at Kansas State University have a new program to help Kansas towns better their public tree environment. Called the "Community Forestry Program," it provides assistance to city governments in the development of comprehensive plans for the planting, care, and removal, if necessary, of street and park trees. This program is funded by the U. S. Forest Service, and is based on the realization that many Kansas towns share problems of over-aged and diseased trees and a heavy reliance on a single species.

In several towns, the PRIDE beautification committee has formed the local nucleus for this program. The foresters are called upon to conduct an inventory of public trees and help a local tree board define needs and assign priorities.

Technical assistance is also available to communities on a limited basis in planning for beauty and recreation. Extension Forestry can assist in improvements on: 1. community entrances, 2. streets and walks, 3. new or old city parks, 4. ball diamonds, 5. recreation fields, 6. nature trails, and 7. campgrounds. This technical help is available primarily to towns and cities that have community forestry programs or are entered in the PRIDE Program.

To date, 34 towns have started comprehensive forestry programs, and 44 others have requested assistance with small area planting projects within the towns.

PRIDE leaders may request information about these programs from the County Extension Agents. Their offices are located in county seat towns.

PRIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Stafford

A priorities committee was selected after a community survey was completed. They suggested 28 projects and listed persons who might help with studies or action. There were 100 people in attendance at a public meeting to hear a report on project priorities and progress.

Hiawatha

The Hiawatha Chamber of Commerce voted to endorse the PRIDE Program after taking a survey by those present at a regular Chamber meeting. The adequacy of the facilities and services of the city were rated.

Lincoln

The Lincoln Lions Club conducted a survey of Lions members regarding the adequacy of facilities and services of the city. Ron McCammon, County Extension Agricultural Agent, spoke on the planning and implementation underway in the community.

El Dorado

The El Dorado Chamber of Commerce and El Dorado Development Company sponsored a luncheon for 50 community leaders. Those in attendance discussed the merits of PRIDE in small discussion groups and reported that the program had potential for the city.

Colwich

A priorities committee was appointed after a community survey was tabulated. Forty projects for community improvement were listed. William Cox, County Extension Director, met with the steering committee to discuss resources available for assistance to the local task forces.

Gossett

A fund raising pancake and sausage feed attracted 200 people. Gossett has a population of 400 people. A meeting was held after the supper to present information about the PRIDE Program.

Dighton

A PRIDE week was held where merchants had special sales, Lions and Rotary Club conducted a community sale, and tree planting was promoted. Mrs. Paul Speer states "Community attitude is real good and we've had excellent cooperation."

Towanda

The "number one" project is the purchase of ten acres for a swimming pool, ball diamond, and picnic area. Paul Boyer reports "rapid progress and support for the project is beyond expectations at the early states."

McCune

City-wide cleanup week has encouraged citizens to dispose of trash; demolition of two business buildings are in progress; low

rental housing project is completed; and strip mining land is being reclaimed for recreational use.

Bushton

One old business building is being torn down and the library has been remodeled. Clubs and private individuals contributed money and time to refurbish the library. Becky Engelhardt reports "Enthusiasm has been generated and members in all areas of the community are anxious to help in creating a better Bushton." Virgil Biby, County Extension Director, showed a PRIDE movie and discussed the PRIDE program at a meeting in Bushton.

Quenemo

Concrete floor was poured in a log cabin that will be used for a museum. Articles for the museum will be collected soon. An old building will be painted and repaired. A chili supper was held and a PRIDE film was shown. Representatives from the planning department at Kansas State University will visit and give suggestions about restoring the town to the 1890 era. David Bradshaw and Helen Watts wrote, "Program is developing along with interest and enthusiasm for PRIDE."

KANSAS PRIDE COMMITTEE

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Vice-Chairman - Robert A. Bohannon, Cooperative Extension Service, K.S.U.
Vice-Chairman - Jack Lacy, Kansas Department of Economic Development.
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