

Hornaday Award Project Summary

Project Category: Forestry and Range Management

Spring Creek Tree Pruning and Debris Removal

PLAN: The project was to improve the forest cover through pruning and debris removal between the Spring Creek Bike Trail and Spring Creek for a distance of one quarter mile between Welch Drive and Lemay Avenue in Fort Collins, Colorado. The trees in this section of forest were overgrown with broken branches, undergrowth of varying species, tree debris washed in from upstream, and general trash. Permission had to be gained from the City of Fort Collins, and several land owners providing easements along parts of the trail. A survey of the area was conducted to determine what work actually would need to be done, and to see what equipment would be needed.

LEADERSHIP: I had to make the contacts with the city and land owners and recruit Scouts and adults from my troop to assist with the project. I organized the workers into two work crews with one each crew having an adult to oversee their work. One crew was in charge of removing large limbs, and this group had a certified chainsaw operator. The other crew removed smaller branches from trees, tree debris on the forest floor, and trash debris. As the project moved along it route the debris was hauled to waiting trucks for delivery to the city recycling center. An effort was also made to remove debris from the creek in an effort to improve the waterway for waterfowl and fish. Items that were recyclable, such as aluminum cans, were kept separate and delivered to the recycling center.

RESULT: The results of this project are visually apparent as the forest looks healthier, the creek is cleaner, it is a better area for wildlife, and the area along the bike trail is a safer route for cyclists. In doing this project again I would make it a point to check to see if other activities are planned for the work area as a bike race along the trail took over our parking area and added large numbers of traffic along the trail.

Date completed May 18, 2010

