



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Kim Yuan-Farrell, The Park People
303-722-6262, c 719-494-6684

**Free Trees Offered to All Denver Residents This Spring
Applications Due Feb. 15, 2012**

DENVER, CO – This spring only, **all** Denver residents are eligible for free trees regardless of where they live within the city. This rare opportunity is made possible by two tree distribution programs: The Park People’s annual *Denver Digs Trees* street tree program and the City’s *Mile High Million* tree planting initiative.

“We’re thrilled to be part of this exciting partnership that is sure to add thousands of trees Denver neighborhoods across the city,” says The Park People’s Paige Heydon. “The trees are being offered at no cost. It’s a win for the city’s urban forest and a win for Denver residents.”

Any resident of the City and County of Denver can apply for free trees to plant along the street in the public right-of-way. Additionally, those who have space for trees on the west side of their homes – whether in front, back, or side yards or along the street – are eligible to have trees delivered and planted for them.

“Trees planted on the west side of houses not only offer wonderful shade, they also reduce energy consumption,” says Sara Davis, the Program Manager for Denver Parks and Recreation’s *Mile High Million* Program. “With that in mind, we are happy to offer the trees and the planting free of charge.”

Availability will be limited, so apply no later than February 15, 2012. Visit www.theparkpeople.org or call 303-722-6262 for application information.

“Trees beautify neighborhoods, improve property values, provide environmental services, and support good health by encouraging people to spend time outdoors,” says Denver’s City Forester Rob Davis. “This is a great opportunity for Denver residents to enhance their neighborhoods.”

The Denver Digs Trees program is able to offer free street trees to *all* Denver residents this spring thanks to a partnership with Denver Parks and Recreation Forestry Division and the sponsorship of Xcel Energy Foundation and the City of Denver’s Office of Economic Development. The *Mile High Million’s* Trees for Energy Savings program is made possible with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Park People

The Park People is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, enhancing and advocating for Denver’s parks, recreation resources, open space and urban forest. Through its *Denver Digs Trees* program, The Park People is responsible for adding more than 43,000 trees to Denver’s neighborhoods, with hundreds more sold each fall and spring to help raise funds for the organization’s public tree efforts. Visit www.theparkpeople.org for more information.

Mile High Million

In 2006, Mayor John Hickenlooper (now Governor) announced an ambitious tree planting program with a goal of adding one million new trees in metropolitan Denver by the year 2025. The initiative aims to engage and motivate individuals to become life-long stewards of our natural environment through planting and caring for trees. The end result will be a healthier and more extensive urban forest, creating more inviting places to live, work and play. Visit milehighmillion.org for more information.

Denver Forestry

The Denver Parks and Recreation Forestry Office is the city agency responsible for trees and shrubs in public parks, parkways and around government buildings. They also are involved in programs that add trees to Denver neighborhoods. Trees are an extremely valuable resource that not only provide attractive landscapes, but also replenish oxygen in the atmosphere, cool us with shade in the summer and help clean the air. Denver is a

fortunate city with a broad tree canopy and public policies that recognize the value of trees through promotion programs and regulation. Visit www.denvergov.org/forestry for more information.

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