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### **Carlsbad celebrates Arbor Day with tree planting**

City of Carlsbad Parks & Recreation officials and volunteers celebrated Arbor Day on Saturday morning at Stagecoach Community Park by planting a dozen trees and learning how to care for them.

Parks Superintendent Kyle Lancaster said the annual tree planting not only aesthetically improves Stagecoach Community Park, located at 3420 Camino de los Coches, but also helps the City of Carlsbad retain its designation as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

"It's more of a community beautification project than just a tree planting," Lancaster said. "We think it provides a good benefit, and it is also important for the city's national recognition."

For the past eight years, Lancaster said the City of Carlsbad has been designated a Tree City USA, which acknowledges the city's ongoing commitment to sustainability.

Among other highlights of the day, Lancaster said representatives from Carlsbad's Parks and Recreation Department, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, West Coast Arborists, Davey Tree Expert Company, Davey Resource Group, and SDG&E's Vegetation Management Department were on hand to offer guidance on how to plant and care for trees.

In addition, SDG&E's Vegetation Management Department donated the trees for this event to the City of Carlsbad.

On Saturday, volunteers also received a sapling tree so they could take what they learned and apply it to their own backyards.

"We're looking to help people understand how to plant a tree in the first place," Lancaster said, adding that providing volunteers with expertise on how to grow their saplings will offer "the best opportunity for its growing success and maintaining it after."

Lancaster said officials taught volunteers about the five species of trees, including Camphor, Shamel Ash and Brisbane Box, that were being planted from 15-gallon nursery containers at the park.

He said the tree species were selected since they were consistent with the park's "palette," which was the original landscape design of Stagecoach Community Park when it was constructed more than 25 years ago.

Although Stagecoach Community Park was the site of this year's tree planting event, Lancaster said the other major parks throughout the City of Carlsbad are also well maintained, in accordance with the original landscape design.

"We plant trees throughout the year at our other parks," he said.

Lancaster said he believes trees are essential to the community, because they provide benefits like reducing the erosion of top soil, cutting heat and cooling costs, providing oxygen and offering habitat for wildlife.

As for the trees planted on Saturday, Lancaster said several of the species are non-deciduous, which will be green year-round, and will provide shade while not being "root invasive."

Volunteers also seemed to enjoy the event.

Aurven Murrell, a boy scout with Troop 709, said Saturday was the first time he had taken part in the City of Carlsbad's Arbor Day celebration.

While he said he had fun, Murrell believes the best part of the day was the benefits to his community.

"We need to think about the environment," he said. "So we are also trying to rebuild that by doing something that relates to it."

Takeshi Treadwell, a boy scout representing the Order of the Arrow, agreed.

He said he planted trees for Arbor Day to help improve the community he loves.

"Carlsbad is a really nice place," he said, adding "when we plant trees, they give us oxygen and they inhale our carbon dioxide."

San Diego resident Ben Weiss said he has enjoyed taking part in the Arbor Day event for the past four years.

Even though he is not a Carlsbad resident, Weiss said he loves having the opportunity to give back to the San Diego community.

"A tree planted is something that people will enjoy for generations," he said. "We hope more people will do it every year and more cities will get involved in doing it too. It's a great thing for the communities, and we really enjoy it."