

SUMMER 2011 DAILY HABITS SUMMER 2011

BY THE STUDENT ADVOCATES FOR VALUING THE ENVIRONMENT

THE VALUE OF A TREE BY JAMIE KIRBY

Our featured guest writer is Jamie Kirby, Urban Forestry Coordinator for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation out of Missoula!

“I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree.” Poet Joyce Kilmer wrote his poem *Trees* in 1913 and still today, it can’t be put into better words. Trees provide so many benefits; we cease to realize just how valuable they really are.



Broadwater Elementary Students helping plant a tree at Carroll College, Arbor Day, 2011

According to his biography on Wikipedia,¹ Kilmer may have found his inspiration from a large white oak, estimated to be around three hundred years old, on a nearby college campus. Let’s use this tree as an example for discovering the true benefits it gave throughout

its life.

Using the Tree Benefits Calculator, (a free online tool at www.treebenefits.com) we can learn about the values trees provide. In the prime of its life, Kilmer’s white oak provided overall benefits of **\$351** per year. Here are some of the other benefits:

- This tree could intercept **6,308 gallons** of storm water runoff in one year. This is an important feature in urban settings with impervious (hard) surfaces, where trees can slow the amount of rainfall reaching the ground and help infiltrate pollutants (oil, gasoline, etc.) that would otherwise wash away into city water systems.
- The **property value** increased because of the

...Continued on Page 2 “Trees Cont.”

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Another Earth Day has come and gone. Here are some of our accomplishments over the past year!



- S.A.V.E. helped pass two proactive bills in the 2011 legislature. HB 594 to use recycled content in highway construction and SB 265 to create a tax abatement for gray water reuse systems.
- Carroll College became a Tree Campus USA for their efforts in urban forestry.
- The second annual Montana Environmental Students Alliance Summit was held in March.
- Carroll College saw the first class of *Green Honors* students.
- 2000,000+ pounds of recycling collected at community events such as plastics and Trash for Trees!

ENERGY INTERN

This summer, students from campuses across Montana are working with organizations to learn first hand about our state’s potential for clean energy development. Through a partnership with the Governor’s Office of Economic Development and the Department of Commerce, Energy Promotion and Development division, students have access to developing Montana’s sustainable future. S.A.V.E. is hosting Mara Menahan, an Environmental Studies major from the University of Montana. She hopes to use the skills she learns this summer to improve sustainability on campus.

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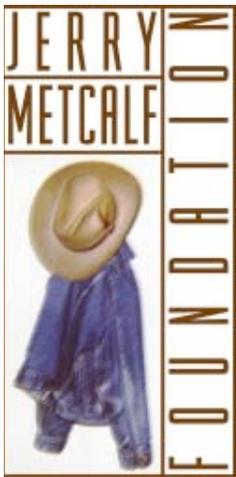


GRANTS UPDATE

Here at S.A.V.E. we've been working hard at applying for grants so that we can continue to provide community-recycling events and develop further opportunities for Montanans to be stewards of the environment. Thanks to all the foundations that help make our efforts possible!

We recently received our new Clear-Stream recycling bins from a grant provided by **Coca Cola and Keep America Beautiful**, so keep an eye out at Alive @ Five and other summer events to see our new bins. Let's thank our AmeriCorps VISTA, Eric Walliman, for writing that grant!

Our AmeriCorps VISTA member, Marie Phillips, recently applied for two grants and we received them both. Thanks Marie!



The **Jerry Metcalf Foundation** awarded us a grant to support our new project in affordable and environmentally friendly transportation. This project will coordinate regional transit systems to better serve low-income individuals that need transit to and within Helena for medical appointments and it will create a healthier community by developing better bike and pedestrian opportunities.

The **Cinnabar Foundation** awarded us a \$2,000 matching grant! This means that for every dollar we raise from our community, the Cinnabar foundation will match it dollar-for-dollar up to a maximum of \$2,000. S.A.V.E. Would like to reach this goal in one month, so please take this opportunity to support recycling in Helena and fill out our donation slip on the next page. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER WITH S.A.V.E.!

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities with S.A.V.E. this summer! We will be having a **Plastics Recycling Drive** July 8-11 and will need greeters for that. We would like help recycling at **Alive@Five** which will be happening on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer. We will also be recruiting volunteers to help recycle at the **Montana Folk Festival** in Butte on July 8-10, and the **Rockin' the Rivers** music festival August 12-14. Please contact our office at 449-6008 for more information.

...TREES CONT. FROM PG. 1

'curb appeal' of a mature landscape. This added value can be **up to 20%**, according to the International City/County Management Association.¹

- This mature white oak conserved **251 Kilowatt/hours** of electricity in a year. This is equivalent to running your personal computer for 627 hours, or as the U.S. Department of Agriculture points out, "The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day."
- **Pollutants** that affect air quality are absorbed by the tree's leaves. Even dust, ash, and smoke are filtered by the tree and in turn it releases clean air (oxygen) through photosynthesis.
- Reducing emissions: In one year, the white oak reduces atmospheric carbon by **1,841 pounds**. An average car generates about 11,000 pounds of CO2 every year. A flight from New York to Los Angeles adds 1,400 pounds of CO2 per passenger.
- This mighty oak is valued for **wood products** such as wine barrels, and high-end furniture. Its acorns provide food for various kinds of wildlife.

Now compound all the benefits by the number of trees in one city. The City of Helena, for example, has over 9,000



boulevard trees alone. That number doesn't count all of the trees in yards and private lands as well. What a huge impact trees have in our community! For Arbor Day this year, communities across the state planted over 200 trees. That number is still growing. Montanans value our trees because they are part of our lives. We understand how important they are.

Trees not only aid our daily life in the ways listed above, but for things like mental health. Studies indicate that trees help reduce stress. Trees give us shade, shelter, beauty, and fight global warming. They reduce erosion, improve business (it is shown that people are more likely to shop in places with trees located in front), and soften the view of hardscapes in urban settings.¹ As Kilmer observed, a tree is truly a poetic living thing.

WALK-ABILITY IN HELENA

BY: MARIE PHILLIPS

We've all been there, attempting to make a left turn onto Montana Avenue from Lyndale. It's simply not allowed. Drivers end up frustrated as they search for alternate routes. This intersection of three main Helena roads, commonly known as "Malfunction Junction," is a constant headache for Helena drivers, not to mention bicyclists and pedestrians.

Malfunction junction along with a variety of other areas in the MidTowne/Sixth Ward part of Helena was assessed as a part of a walking audit performed on May 28th, 2011. This audit was made possible by a US EPA grant to Helena for the *Sustainable Communities Building Blocks* program.



Dan Burden of the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute along with community members and city/county officials performed the walking audit. The audit addressed issues of traffic flow, connectivity, safety, aesthetics, street design and how these components contribute to the walk-ability of any given area.

Participants of the walking audit took turns rolling around town in a wheelchair to get a sense of what its like to roll around in Helena. Participants were surprised at how many intersections did not have wheelchair ramps or only had ramps on one side of the road. The American Disabilities Association (ADA) committee in Helena designated Helena Avenue as a priority area, and workshop participants poured over maps discussing ways to improve conditions there.

Afternoon workshop sessions went over how traditional street designs are more pedestrian friendly than conventional street designs, and how the addition of just a few trees along a roadway slows vehicles and improves walking conditions. Mr. Burden says, "it's not about speed, its about throughput." Improving connectivity and decreasing vehicle gestion will both enhance walk-ability.

Walk-ability is essential in any city to provide healthy and affordable habits for area residents. Walking for transportation to and from work or to the grocery store will reduce the amount spent on fuel and parking costs, and will create a healthier population by getting daily physical activity and reducing pollution from vehicles. In fact, the S.A.V.E. Foundation will be starting a new project this July to work on improving community health and recreation through more effective public transit and non-motorized transportation opportunities.

S.A.V.E. TIDBITS

- S.A.V.E. is currently working on an informational plastics recycling video for Helena Civic Television. Look for it in the coming weeks, as well as other fresh material from S.A.V.E.
- Our Energy Intern has developed a proposal to lease and run pedi-cabs at summer events.
- Helena High's Green Group had another successful year. They fundraised relentlessly to continue their annual donation to the Prickly Pear Land Trust, helping the City of Helena buy back Mount Ascension. They have also been hard at work writing grants to secure funding to install solar panels on school grounds.
- The Helena High School Gifted and Talented students are currently tracking how much energy Helena saves. Please take their energy survey at hsgtenergy.blogspot.com.
- S.A.V.E. provides full-service recycling to businesses, institutions, and special events. We collect glass, tin, aluminum, paper, cardboard, plastics and other items. **Call us at 449-6008 for details.**



Board member Caleb Cantwell-Frank driving a pedi-cab in the Helena Lights Parade

RECYCLING UPDATE

Our next plastic collection drive will be held on the second weekend of July: **July 8th -11th**, 8am to 6pm at 1100 N. Last Chance Gulch. We will be collecting the four types of plastic listed below, please sort to the best of your knowledge before arriving and remove all lids. Thanks!



SUMMER EVENTS

Summer Recycling

We will be providing recycling and tabling at events such as Alive@5, the Mount Helena Music Festival, Rock in the River and the Butte Folk Festival so come stop by and see what we've been up to. We are proud to offer bins and recycling assistance to community events.

Plastics Recycling

S.A.V.E.'s next plastics recycling drive will be **July 8th to the 11th**. The remaining 2011 drives will be held September 9th-12th and November 11th-14th. See you there!

Blackfoot River Brewing Community Monday

We will be hosting the **July 18th** Community Monday event at Blackfoot River Brewing. It will run from 5PM until 7PM. Blackfoot Brewing will donate \$1 from every pint sold so come out and have three pints for recycling!

Volunteer Opportunities

There are a number of volunteer opportunities with S.A.V.E. this summer including helping on the recycling route, at our plastics drive, recycling at events, and general office help. Contact us to learn more.



For up to the minute updates:



<http://twitter.com/SAVEFoundation>

Facebook group "Student Advocates for Valuing the Environment"

LETTER FROM S.A.V.E.

Dear SAVE Enthusiast,

It has been a very successful year. S.A.V.E. advanced proactive legislation in the 2011 Legislature, continued to improve the accessibility of recycling in Helena, and increased outreach to the community for daily habits to value Helena's environment and community. This issue, as with our spring issue shows the success of our efforts. We are a lead organization that gets things done.

As we look to this next year, we are planning for more frequent electronic recycling options, permanent and ongoing recycling of plastics collected at our current events, and working to improve non-motorized transportation (see "Walk-ability Audit in Helena" on page 3). Our efforts depend heavily on volunteers, but we need your support to sustain our success.

Please join us by making a matching donation to our Cinnabar grant and become a proud member of S.A.V.E.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Elsaesser, Executive Director
S.A.V.E. Recycling, 501(c)3
406.449.6008/Recycle@Savemobile.org

YOUR SUMMER DONATION MATCHED BY THE CINNABAR FOUNDATION!



THE S.A.V.E. FOUNDATION 501(C)(3)
SUPPORT S.A.V.E.!

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

Please include Check and Mail to:

S.A.V.E. Recycling
P.O. Box 1481
Helena, MT 59624

- OR -

I Would Like to receive updates ___ in the mail ___ by e-mail
Contact me about: ___ events ___ volunteering ___ gray water

Donate with your Credit Card

Card #: _____
Type: _____ Exp: DATE: ___/___
Security Code: _____

DONATION LEVELS:

___ \$25 Individual ___ \$50 Household ___ \$100 Gold
___ \$250 Platinum ___ \$500 GREEN \$_____ Other

*All Donations are tax-deductible. All information collected will not be shared with any third parties and will only be used for the stated purpose (e-mail list, event notifications, etc.) S.A.V.E.'s IRS Tax ID number is 03-0531826.

More information online at www.SAVEMOBILE.ORG