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NEWS

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More than 900 Trees Planted at Hughes Stadium

FORT COLLINS, Colo. – Colorado’s Green University is now a little greener.

Last week, with the help of student volunteers from Colorado State University and Front Range Community College, Colorado State Forest Service personnel in the Fort Collins District planted nearly 900 seedling trees at Hughes Stadium. The Colorado blue spruce, Rocky Mountain juniper, ponderosa pine, Scotch pine and various shrub seedlings, all grown at the CSFS Fort Collins Nursery, were planted on the stadium grounds as part of a larger CSU project intended to green-up the site.

“We wanted to improve the experience for our fans at Hughes by upgrading some of the landscaping and circulation around the stadium,” CSU President Tony Frank said. “As home to the Colorado State Forest Service, CSU was fortunate to be able to work with their outstanding nursery to plant more than a mile of seedling trees as part of the overall project. In the end, our goal is to create an environment that is welcoming for the community, complements surrounding neighborhoods, and better reflects our status as a major university.”

Mike Hughes, assistant district forester for the CSFS Fort Collins District, says a living snow fence of CSFS seedlings, planted in 1992 to limit the impact of blizzards on adjacent Overland Trail, has become a highly effective barrier that now is more than 15 feet tall in some places.

“CSU has been impressed at how our seedling trees in front of the stadium have thrived over the years, despite such a harsh site and little required maintenance,” Hughes said. “This was a great chance to get another generation of trees growing.”

CSU Facilities Management, which had irrigation installed and completed soil preparation work prior to the planting, approached the CSFS in March after President Frank provided the impetus to kick off the project to help green-up Hughes Stadium.

“Facilities and the CSFS have worked hand in hand,” said Fred Haberecht, Facilities Management assistant director. Haberecht says that in addition to the CSFS-planted seedlings, facilities has planted 60 larger Colorado blue spruce, Austrian pine and shade trees in the 4- to 8-foot range, with the intent to plant another 500 larger landscape trees by the end of summer.

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The CSFS has planted seedlings at the CSU Foothills Campus each of the last four years. More than 1 million seedlings grown annually at the CSFS Nursery are sold to landowners throughout Colorado; the seedlings are used for conservation purposes, including reforestation and livestock protection.

The CSFS, a service and outreach agency of the CSU Warner College of Natural Resources, provides technical forestry assistance to landowners throughout Colorado.

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