

## TREE PROGRAMS



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### **Tree programs:**

In collaboration with its partners, Salt Lake 2002 has helped plant more than 100,000 trees in Utah and about 15 million worldwide. Staff members and partners have carefully designed programs to improve air quality, prevent erosion and soil runoff and beautify the landscape for generations to come. Efforts range from educating Utah's schoolchildren about the benefits of planting trees to replanting trees on the war-torn hillsides of Sarajevo.

### **Cool Spaces 2002™:**

A collaboration of Salt Lake 2002, NASA and the Utah Energy Office, Cool Spaces 2002 is a multifaceted program that promotes urban forestry projects and encourages tree planting around the Salt Lake City area. As part of NASA's Urban Heat Island Project, aircraft equipped with high-definition infrared cameras that measure heat radiating from the landscape logged 22,000 miles flying above the Salt Lake Valley to take thermal photographs. Scientists then produced detailed heat maps showing areas where tree cover was adequate and "hot spots" where tree-planting or other heat reduction was needed. The maps are so detailed that they allow individual homeowners to pick out their block, and even their home, on the map. Utah Power, presenting sponsor of Cool Spaces 2002, has completed a number of demonstration projects, planting 500 trees to lower temperatures in several areas around Salt Lake City.

### **Tree-cology™:**

The Tree-cology program has provided every third-grade class in Utah the opportunity to plant a tree. Schoolchildren have planted nearly 8000 trees on school grounds, while learning about the benefits of tree planting. Schools are encouraged to Xeriscape (a landscaping method that conserves water and protects the environment) by choosing plant species that thrive in the local environment. Teachers and students can access information about trees and Tree-cology at [www.uen.org/treecology](http://www.uen.org/treecology).

### **Plant an Olympic Family Tree:**

As Cool Spaces 2002 identified hot spots in the region, Salt Lake 2002 designed the Plant an Olympic Family Tree program to cool down the hot spots and promote urban forestry. Together with TreeUtah, a local nonprofit organization, and the Utah Nursery and Landscape Association, participating nurseries throughout Utah offered a 20 percent discount to locals purchasing a tree. Participants received a Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games pin, a donation in their name to TreeUtah and a tree tag outlining the

environmental benefits of tree planting. After four years, more than 30,000 trees have been planted through this program.

**Capitol Tree Program:**

On 11 August 1999, a freak tornado touched down in the heart of Salt Lake City. Skirting the Utah State Capitol, it uprooted hundreds of beautiful, old trees on the Capitol grounds. Salt Lake 2002 devised the successful Capitol Tree Program, raising \$9000 through the sale of Olympic Tornado pins and donating 100 trees with which to replant the grounds. Salt Lake 2002 launched the program with Utah Governor Michael Leavitt and Salt Lake 2002 President and CEO Mitt Romney, planting four Japanese cherry trees on the Capitol grounds.

**Venue Trees:**

Salt Lake 2002 has planted thousands of trees at competition venues. At Soldier Hollow, site of the cross-country skiing and biathlon events, native trees now grow in a meadow once used for cattle grazing. At Utah Olympic Oval, site of the speed skating events, 1000 trees were planted to help reduce ground-level ozone caused by the interaction of sunlight, air pollution and high temperatures.

**Plant It Green!**  
The Global Tree Race

Plant It Green! The Global Tree Race is an Internet-based, international program that advocates urban forestry and its role in improving the quality of life. People are encouraged to plant trees in honor of the ideals of the Olympic Movement and the program serves as a tool to teach people about trees, forests and effective urban forest stewardship. Salt Lake 2002 set a goal of 2 million trees to be planted worldwide before the Olympic Winter Games. By partnering with the Coalition of United Green Partners ([www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org)), that goal has been surpassed, and more than 15 million trees have been planted to date. Participants around the world may plant a tree and register it in the name of the Games at [saltlake2002.com](http://saltlake2002.com). The project's first program was the planting of 15,000 trees in Sarajevo, site of the 1984 Olympic Winter Games. Once home to a beautiful forest canopy, the city was ravaged by war from 1992 to 1995, prompting residents to cut down virtually every tree in the city for food and warmth.

**Environmental facts:**

- Increasing urban tree cover by 5 percent reduces ground-level ozone, a harmful air pollutant, by 10 percent. In the Salt Lake Valley, this 5 percent is roughly equal to the 100,000 trees that Salt Lake 2002 is planting locally. A 10 percent reduction in ground level ozone is equivalent to the impact of taking every area car and truck off the road.
- The Plant an Olympic Family Tree program has resulted in 25,000 new trees for Utah in the program's four-year run.

