

Members' Corner

Here we will be sharing stories of what MNLN Members have been doing. We're proud of the work you do! This month we are featuring a story from Blake Nursery (Big Timber, MT). They were selected to complete a highway beautification project. It's a great example of the way MNLN Members are improving the communities around us. Here's what owner, Sandi Blake, had to say about the project:

Blake Nursery had the privilege and challenge of participating this summer in a significant highway beautification project in Roberts, Montana. Due to Highway #212 expansion many established trees were eliminated, but the Roberts Community Foundation came to the rescue with an offer that was hard to refuse: up to 4 trees per property owner at no cost!

Enter Blake Nursery. The Foundation requested we provide a list of appropriate trees from which property owners could make their own selection. Included in this varied list were trees of different dimensions and attributes: 'Greenspire' Linden, Tatarian, 'Sienna Glen', and 'Sensation' Maple, 'Radiant' and 'Gladiator' Flowering Crab, Oakleaf Mountain Ash, Bur Oak, Ohio Buckeye, Clump Paper Birch, Japanese Tree Lilac and Colorado Spruce. It was a pleasure for us to receive homeowners' picks and provide them with 70 top quality plants. (The most popular selections were Japanese Tree Lilac, Maple and Colorado Spruce.)

An additional pleasure for our nursery was being a partner in a project that will surely reap enduring benefits by enhancing the wellbeing of the entire community of Roberts. We will enjoy observing how this new urban forest develops and adds value over time, as we agree with experts with USDA Forest Service who say:

"Municipalities are increasingly planning for sustainability and improved quality of life for current and future residents as they work toward building healthy communities. One method of planning for sustainability involves the consideration of social, environmental, and economic impacts of proposed development, known as the triple bottom line. Trees growing in urban environments provide numerous benefits for humanity that improve quality of life and address this triple bottom line. more and more scientific evidence shows how urban trees and greenspace positively impact physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual well-being in humans."

Sandi Blake
 Blake Nursery
 September 25, 2020

