Masters of the Environment
University of Colorado **Boulder**

TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND™

Trust for Public Land

Mitigating Climate Change Through the Reforestation of Public Spaces

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) wishes to mitigate the impacts of climate change through the implementation of pocket forests in urban areas that lack equitable access to green spaces. There are many communities across the Colorado Front Range that suffer from the lack of available green spaces and will inequitably feel the effects of climate change. Urban parks positively impact communities in countless ways, including decreasing average temperatures, sequestering carbon, supporting positive lifestyles, and connecting people with nature and each other.

The Sites

Marie L. Greenwood Elementary School

Greeley Community Garden

The Goals

<u>Community</u>

1. Reconnect underserved communities with the outdoors
2. Meet neighborhood needs by tailoring each park design to community feedback

<u>Environmental</u>

1. Combat the effects of climate change in urban areas
2. Restore and enhance habitats for pollinators and other wildlife

The Miyawaki Method

Using the Miyawaki Method for the foundation of the concept of pocket forest design and construction, we researched the best ways to incorporate pocket forests in the communities where they are most needed. Using a combination of the Miyawaki forest building method and research on forest building in the Colorado Front Range, we were able to build a solid foundation of the steps to a tailored implementation plan for pocket forests in Greeley and Denver. TPL's mission is to connect people with the outdoors, and they have been able to do so by relying on their comprehensive community engagement strategies. The goal is to build lasting trust between the organization and the community they are working in long after the project is over. Between TPL's robust community engagement tools and our research into the Miyawaki Method and various other forest building techniques, we were able to develop a suite of tools to be used by TPL for future implementation of pocket forests throughout the US.

increase in biodiversity in the area

faster growth than traditional plantings

to become self sufficient

The Outcomes

The desired outcome for this project was the development of a suite of tools to be used by TPL in order to implement pocket forests across the front range of Colorado, and ideally be used by other organizations for further implementation across the US. One of our key findings was that even though there is a clear pocket forest building guide, every pocket forest will look different depending on where they are built and who they are built for. Our tool set reads more like a thought process, guiding the user through the implementation and development of pocket forests in their area.
For example, in Colorado a lush green dense pocket forest cannot be naturally achieved due to the limited number of species and the general climate. Even so, pocket forests can still be implemented into Colorado, but their structure will just have to look a little different.