

Urban and Community Forestry Program 2017 Accomplishment Report – Missouri

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Introduction

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) community forestry program promotes the development of sustainable community forests throughout Missouri. MDC assists communities through grants, promotion, and coordination of volunteer-driven community forestry programs, local coordination of Arbor Day Foundation programs, and numerous opportunities for training. A State coordinator leads the effort. Eight regional community foresters deliver community forestry assistance, and all 58 field foresters have community forestry responsibilities. Statewide policy development and implementation are managed in partnership with the *Missouri Community Forestry Council* using a team approach.

Key Accomplishments

Celebrating 40 Years of Tree City USA

For the last four decades, people who live in Tree City USA communities have enjoyed the benefits of having greener, healthier places to live. In Missouri, that includes 88 communities representing almost 43 percent of the State's population. This past year the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) recognized the 40th anniversary of the national Tree City USA program by celebrating those Missouri communities in the program at a special event on September 12 in St. Louis at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

By partnering with the Missouri Botanical Garden and Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, the event was a way to recognize and thank the communities for their involvement. Missouri Botanical Garden President Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, Arbor Day Foundation President Dan Lambe, and MDC State Forester Lisa Allen joined MDC Interim Director Tom Draper as speakers at the celebration. After their remarks, guests received a special twilight tour of the most beautiful and impressive trees in the garden. A reception was provided with donations from Ameren Missouri, Anheuser-Busch, Bethlehem Valley Wines, and Edg-Clif Farms and Vineyards.

Missouri does not have any cities that have been in the program for all 40 years, but there are several with 30-plus years, including Des Peres (33 years), Ellisville (35 years), Fenton (32 years), Mexico (37 years), Rock Hill (30 years), Springfield (31 years), St. Louis (34 years), University City (34 years), and Webster Groves (33 years). Thirty-five of the 88 Tree City USA communities were represented at the reception with more than 100 community members attending.



Missouri State Forester Lisa Allen took part in a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Tree City USA program in St. Louis, MO.

The Tree City USA program is a proven framework to help communities establish a healthy, sustainable urban forestry program. Over the past 40 years, MDC has seen the benefits of the program first hand and actively promoted the program. In conjunction with the 40-year anniversary, MDC has set a goal to add 40 new communities to the program in the next 5 years. Several strategies are being developed to work to attain this lofty goal, and MDC’s foresters have really taken to the challenge and are working hard to reach out to communities.

Statistical Highlights

Managing Communities:	85
Developing Communities:	67
Population of Participating Communities:	2,985,633
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours):	24,479

