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**FOREST RELEAF PRESENTS**  
**“EXCEPTIONAL RELEAF” AWARDS**

ST. LOUIS, MO, May 26, 2009 – Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, a not-for-profit tree planting and education organization, presented its annual Exceptional ReLeaf awards at The Lodge Des Peres in Des Peres, MO on National Arbor Day (April 24). Forest ReLeaf has presented the awards each year since 1999. They honor outstanding planting projects from the previous year using trees donated by the organization.

Winners are selected by Forest ReLeaf in three categories: school, municipal/government, and organization. The projects are evaluated on the quality of the planting and maintenance, the degree of volunteer involvement, and the overall benefit to the community. This year’s winners were selected from a total of 136 projects receiving trees from Forest ReLeaf in 2008 through its Project CommuniTree and Priority ReLeaf programs.

Selvidge Middle School S.T.R.E.A.M.S. in the Rockwood School District won the Exceptional ReLeaf award in the category of schools for its planting project. The school was awarded 32 trees and shrubs through Project CommuniTree. The trees were planted on the school grounds by 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade team members of S.T.R.E.A.M.S., which stands for “Striving to Renew Environments around My School.” The tree-planting represented the first phase of an ongoing beautification and restoration project for the grounds. The project is now in its second phase, which includes a nature trail and outdoor classroom.

The winner of the municipal category was the Urban Forestry Commission of the City of University City. They received 50 free trees through Project CommuniTree. The trees were planted on right-of-ways and in several parks. The project was designed to increase the tree canopy in the city, and it provided 50 residents with an opportunity to add a tree to the tree lawn in front of their homes, or plant it in an area park. The participating residents were required to attend a demonstration on tree planting and care presented by the city, and then they were given the trees to take home and plant.

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Exceptional ReLeaf Awards  
May 26, 2009

Forest Park Forever won the Exceptional ReLeaf award in the category of organizations for its efforts to ensure that the tree canopy within the park is healthy for the enjoyment of park visitors and future generations to come. They received 132 free trees through Project CommuniTree and 75 larger trees through Priority ReLeaf. The trees were used to help restock Kennedy Forest, an old-growth stand located in the heart of the St. Louis area. They will help provide a replacement canopy for the declining oaks in the forest and fill in the woods after removal of bush honeysuckle.

Forest Park Forever and its volunteers also planted trees along The Cascades/Flegal Falls, a popular park site where bush honeysuckle was also recently cleared. In addition, 75 larger trees provided through Forest ReLeaf's Priority ReLeaf program were planted in various locations in the park in accordance with the Forest Park Forever's master plan for tree planting.

Forest ReLeaf of Missouri is a regional, not-for-profit organization founded in 1993 to promote urban and community reforestation through education and tree planting programs. For more information, call (314) 533-LEAF (5323) or visit the organization's website at [www.moreleaf.org](http://www.moreleaf.org).

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