

Forest ReLeaf of Missouri
Growing Tree-Mendous Communities

Trees. They clean the air, provide oxygen and shade, increase property value, beautify neighborhoods, attract businesses, and reduce noise, water runoff, and energy costs. But, disease, damage, and old age are eliminating trees faster than they are being replanted, especially in cities and towns.

Fortunately, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri is dedicated to reversing the decline of our urban and community trees.

Since 1993, the St. Louis-based nonprofit has been guiding and inspiring personal and community stewardship of the trees and forests in Missouri and the surrounding region through a variety of tree-planting and educational programs. In 2006, the organization surpassed the milestone of 70,000 trees distributed since the organization was founded.

Forest ReLeaf is connected and efficient.

Forest ReLeaf works with a variety of forestry and community partners, from the Missouri Department of Conservation to major corporations, foundations and individual citizens, to provide free or low-cost access to quality trees for community plantings.

Through **Priority ReLeaf**, we raise corporate and foundation donations to fund high-need planting projects in financially-underserved communities and schools. We leverage similar funding to provide free trees for community plantings through **Project CommuniTree**. Through **Project ReLeaf**, we work with growers to provide reduced-cost, larger-caliper trees to parks and municipalities to assist with their reforestation efforts.

We join the Missouri Department of Conservation in recognizing communities participating in the Tree City USA program during the annual Arbor Day celebration in St. Louis. We also highlight exemplary community plantings of our trees at the event with the presentation of the **Exceptional ReLeaf Awards**.

Forest ReLeaf is educational and sustainable.

Forest ReLeaf teaches the value of trees and proper tree care. We provide literature and tips on proper tree planting and maintenance, along with many other resources to promote stewardship of our urban and community trees. For example:

- Our **TreeKeepers** program teaches volunteers tree identification, care, and maintenance, and provides opportunities to become involved in community tree-care projects.
 - Through the **Missouri Forestkeepers Network**, we provide volunteers the tools to conserve, sustain, and enhance our state's trees and forests. Forest health information, training opportunities, and volunteer efforts are showcased in the quarterly Forestkeepers newsletter and online at www.forestkeepers.org.



FOREST RELEAF OF MISSOURI

TREE-PLANTING PROGRAMS

PROJECT COMMUNITREE

Founded in 1996, Project CommuniTree is the region's only community-assisted nursery. Each spring and fall, Forest ReLeaf distributes thousands of young trees from the nursery at no cost for planting on public or nonprofit properties in Missouri and throughout the region. At the nursery, located in Creve Coeur Park in St. Louis County, volunteers pot up seedlings and care for the trees for several seasons before they are harvested and distributed.

In 2008, nearly 400 volunteers contributed over 1,000 hours at the nursery, potting 8,950 new seedlings and harvesting 6,700 trees for planting in parks, neighborhoods, schoolyards, and municipalities. Over 10,000 trees are under cultivation at the nursery annually, with major funding provided by AmerenUE, the Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis, Missouri-American Water Co., the Missouri Department of Conservation, St. Louis County Parks, The Trio Foundation of St. Louis, and individual donors.

PROJECT RELEAF

Since 1994, Forest ReLeaf has worked with various growers to provide reduced-cost, larger caliper trees to public agencies and nonprofit groups to assist with their reforestation efforts.

Many municipalities and park systems apply for these larger trees, as they typically are more suitable than the smaller, free trees available through Project CommuniTree for plantings in high public use areas.

Forest ReLeaf distributed 1,209 trees through Project ReLeaf in 2008.

PRIORITY RELEAF

Priority ReLeaf is a matching grant program through which donors provide funding to help Forest ReLeaf purchase larger trees for underserved communities and schools. Forest ReLeaf's forestry programs manager works with eligible groups to recommend appropriate species and quantities of trees for particular planting sites. The groups then supply the labor and supplies as a "match" for the trees granted.

In 2008, Forest ReLeaf distributed 345 trees for 22 Priority ReLeaf projects, including financially-underserved schools, parks, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations. These plantings were funded by Anheuser-Busch Companies, Commerce Bancshares Foundation, the Edward Chase Garvey Memorial Foundation, Emerson Charitable Trust, the Clifford Willard Gaylord Foundation, the E. Reuben and Gladys Flora Grant Charitable Trust, and The Home Depot .



To volunteer or to learn more about Forest ReLeaf, call (314) 533-5323 in St. Louis or toll-free (888) 4-RELEAF (473-5323). You can also visit us on the Internet at www.moreleaf.org.