

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, energy costs — even crime. 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 fact, in 2004, the agency celebrated the planting of the 50,000th tree 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 and 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 to community groups and municipalities through **Project CommuniTree**. Through **Project ReLeaf**, we work with local and out-of-state growers to provide reduced-cost, larger-caliper trees to public agencies and non-profit groups 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 and many other resources for to promote stewardship of urban forests. For example:

- Our **TreeKeepers** program teaches volunteers tree identification, care, and maintenance, and provides opportunities to become involved in community projects.
 - Through the **Missouri Forestkeepers Network**, we provide volunteers the tools to conserve, sustain, and enhance Missouri's urban and rural forest resources.
 - Forest health information, training opportunities, and volunteer efforts are showcased in the quarterly Forestkeepers newsletter, the *Monitor*, 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 these young trees for planting on public or nonprofit properties in Missouri and throughout the region at no cost. At the nursery, Forest ReLeaf staff and volunteers plant seedlings and care for the trees for several years before they are harvested and distributed.

In 2005, nearly 500 volunteers contributed more than 1,600 hours to the nursery, potting nearly 6,500 new seedlings and harvesting more than 4,600 trees for planting in parks, neighborhoods, schoolyards, and municipalities. Some 14,000 seedlings are under cultivation at the nursery annually, with funding provided by Ameren, the Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis, 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 non-profit 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 1,158 trees through Project ReLeaf in 2006.

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 2005, Forest ReLeaf distributed 425 trees for 26 projects, including financially underserved schools, parks, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations. These plantings were funded by AmerenUE, Anheuser-Busch Companies, the Edward Chase Garvey Memorial Foundation, and the E. Reuben and Gladys Flora Grant Charitable Trust.



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