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ST. LOUIS, August 31, 2009 – Forest ReLeaf of Missouri will host a guided walking tour of its four-acre nursery, CommuniTree Gardens in Creve Coeur Park, to showcase nearly 40 trees and shrubs native to Missouri. Forest ReLeaf and its volunteers grow and distribute the trees and shrubs to schools, municipalities, neighborhood associations, city parks and other public partners to increase the planting and care of trees in our region.

The free tour, to be led by Forest ReLeaf's Forestry Programs Manager, Mike Walsh, on Saturday, September 19, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at CommuniTree Gardens at 2194 Creve Coeur Mill Road South in Maryland Heights, will focus on species identification and an overview of the organization's tree-planting and education programs. Participants will also tour the nursery's new "utility friendly" trail, sponsored by AmerenUE, to learn which trees and shrubs may be planted safely under or near transmission lines.

Seedlings are provided by the Missouri Department of Conservation and other nurseries, and then planted in three-gallon containers and grown at CommuniTree Gardens for several seasons until they are three to seven feet tall.

Anyone may apply for the free trees, but they must be planted on public or nonprofit property and picked up at the nursery. Applications are accepted beginning in August for fall plantings, and in January for spring plantings. Recipients are asked to care for the trees for at least three years after planting.

This fall, over 30 species are available through Project CommuniTree on a first-come, first-served basis, with approximately 6,000 trees to be awarded to qualified applicants. More than 51,000 free trees have been distributed through Project CommuniTree for community plantings since 1998.

Forest ReLeaf offers a variety of other innovative tree-planting and education programs. Since its inception, through these programs the organization has distributed over 87,000 trees for planting throughout Missouri and in surrounding regions.

Those interested in the walking tour or obtaining more information about these programs may contact Forest ReLeaf at [info@moreleaf.org](mailto:info@moreleaf.org) or by calling 888-4-RELEAF (473-5323).

Forest ReLeaf of Missouri is a St. Louis-based, regional not-for-profit organization founded in 1993. It is dedicated to inspiring volunteer efforts in planting and caring for our trees and forests, particularly those in cities and towns. Major funding for Project CommuniTree is provided by AmerenUE, St. Louis County Parks, the Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis, the Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Trio Foundation of St. Louis. More information may be found at [www.moreleaf.org](http://www.moreleaf.org).

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