

1998 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

Missouri

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The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) assists communities in the development of sustainable urban and community forestry programs in communities across the state.

Program Components

Tree City USA
Cost Share Assistance
Coordinating Volunteers
Missouri Urban and Community Forestry
Advisory Council

Highlights

The **Branch Out Missouri** program provided \$494,887 in cost share funding for 76 tree planting projects which resulted in 5,663 trees planted.

A goal of the MDC urban and community forestry five-year plan was met when 40 communities, including six new communities, received **Tree City USA** status. In addition, three utilities were recognized as Tree Line USA companies.

A new cost share program called **T.R.I.M. (Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance)** is being developed to provide communities with funding for non-tree planting projects. This will include urban tree inventories, hazard tree identification and management, routine pruning activities, educational materials, and tree ordinance development. This program is an attempt to create sustainable community forestry programs complementing the existing Branch Out Missouri tree planting program.



MDC forester assists 4th grade students with an Arbor Day tree planting project.

STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

Working with **Forest ReLeaf** of Missouri, MDC supported new and existing volunteer groups with technical and financial assistance. The TreeKeepers program, which trains volunteers for community tree maintenance, continued to expand in communities such as **Springfield, Kansas City, St. Joseph, St. Louis, and Columbia.**

The **Missouri Treescape Awards** recognized outstanding tree planting projects. The First Lady, Mrs. Jean Carnahan, presented the awards to the towns, businesses, community groups, and individuals who completed projects benefiting their communities.

The MDC continued to support the **Missouri Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (MUCFAC)** which utilizes volunteers to educate the public about urban and community forestry programs. The annual MUCFAC conference, held in conjunction with the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association, provided a forum to dispense technical advice to 100 professionals. This year MUCFAC developed the "Communitree Awards" to recognize communities, non-profit groups, and individuals who had accomplished outstanding urban and community forestry projects.



MDC forester presents a check for Branch Out Missouri cost-share assistance to an elementary school.

Federal Program Support		<i>Dollars in thousands</i>		
The State Program	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>	<u>FY 1998</u>
	380.9	299.5	263.9	259.2