

Missouri

Program Overview

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) continues to promote and support U&CF activities statewide. The MDC assists communities in developing sustainable U&CF programs through community enabling grants, promotion and coordination of volunteer-driven U&CF programs, local coordination of the Tree City USA Program, and the Missouri Community Forestry Council.

Program Accomplishments

Working closely with Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, contracted to provide State volunteer coordination in U&CF, MDC supported new and existing volunteer groups with technical and financial assistance. For example, the Treekeepers Program, which trains and utilizes volunteers for community tree maintenance, was active in Springfield, Branson, St. Joseph, and Columbia.

The Missouri Community Forestry Council (MCFC), supported by the MDC, played a key role in utilizing volunteers to educate the public about U&CF programs in the State. A public service campaign called, "Experts Agree Don't Top Your Tree," was the focus for the MCFC this year. The campaign educates the public that tree topping is not a desirable practice and provides alternatives to topping. Additional funding was secured from the Midwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and the Society of American Foresters to redesign and reprint the brochure and poster.

Outreach efforts through the Missouri Electric Cooperative Right of Way Association resulted in recognition of the Cuivre River Electric Cooperative by The National Arbor Day Foundation as Tree Line USA. Springfield City Utilities, Columbia Water and Light Department, Ameren, and Independence Power and Light were all certified as Tree Line USA in FY 2002. At the request of a nursery with many employees for

whom English is a second language, a tree-planting program was developed and presented in Spanish by MDC staff.

A new and enhanced Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM II) grants program was created. Recognizing the importance of developing sustainable, locally driven community tree care programs, this grant program provides cost share grants to communities for projects that help a community build or develop a community forestry program. Communities must articulate how their proposed project will advance long-range community forestry goals for their community. The grants are available for activities such as urban tree inventories, hazard tree identification and management, educational materials, tree ordinance development, and traditional activities like pruning, removal, and planting. TRIM II provided 43 grants this year totaling \$249,845.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 194
Number of communities assisted: 194
Number of hours of training provided: 1,000
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 3,880
Number of trees planted: 6,638
Number of Tree City USA Communities: 59

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