

# ANNUAL COMMUNITY FORESTRY PLAN UNIVERSITY CITY, MO. 2015

## INTRODUCTION:

The community forest is an important resource that contributes to the quality of life for the residents of University City. This community forest resource works to improve air and water quality, reduce energy costs, increase property values and beautify the city. University City is home to over 30,000 public trees approximately 12,000 of which are street trees the remaining are park and woodland trees. Our current forest resources were planted by previous residents and must be maintained and improved by current residents for the future.

*Vision:* To sustain a healthy, safe and appealing public street and park tree population in the city of University City, MO.

*Goal:* To efficiently oversee the urban and community forest of University City in an effective manner through sound management, utilizing in-house and contracted services and building a team of effective proponents for the trees in the community.

## OVERVIEW:

The forestry division is a part of the Public Works and Parks Department. The division is made up of four personnel; the city forester, a crew leader/ tree trimmer and two tree trimmers. The city forester reports directly to the Parks Maintenance Superintendent.

In November of 2006 the municipal code was amended to establish new regulations on trees and shrubs. Assisting the city forester in the enforcement of this tree ordinance is a seven person Urban Forestry Commission.

In April 2009 the city developed a forestry operations review and strategic plan which was accepted by the Urban Forestry Commission and implemented and used as a guide by the Forestry Division.

## THE TREE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

### REVIEW:

#### **University City's fiscal year runs from July to June:**

Block street pruning was completed in the second and third wards under the Best Management Practices Plan and begun in the third ward from McKnight on the western boundary, to Grant Dr. on the eastern boundary.

**REMOVALS:** University City's community forest is a diverse population of old growth and younger trees. Consequently some have died due to old age or construction damage; these trees must be removed for safety and liability issues. During the fiscal year of 2015, 171 trees were removed; a decrease of 19 trees over fiscal year 2014. All removals were completed in house by the forestry crew.

**PRUNING:** Pruning is the most important tool in the management plan; proper pruning can greatly extend the health, safety and life of trees.

1841 trees were pruned in fiscal year 2015; this represents a decrease of 552 trees from fiscal year 2014. Of the 1841 trees pruned, 1120 were by subcontractor at a cost of \$67 per tree.

**PLANTING:** Planting is the only way to insure the diversity of the community forest and every attempt is made to plant at least as many trees as removed.

During the fiscal year 2015, 181 trees were planted; this is a decrease of 30 trees from fiscal year 2014 but, a positive ratio of 10 more trees planted than removed. All plantings were made by in house personnel. For a list of the trees the division plants please refer to appendix B of the Tree Manual on the city web site.

**BUDGET:**

Salaries \$176,162.00

Contractor Allocation: \$75,000.00

Trees for planting: \$7,000.00

**TIME ALLOCATIONS:**

Pruning: 38%

Removals: 45%

Planting: 7%

Other: 10%

**PROJECTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016:**

Removals: 200

Prunes: 1700

Plantings: 200

COMPLETED ACTION ITEMS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015:

**CONTINUE TO ADVANCE THE BLOCK STREET TREE PRUNING ACROSS UNIVERSITY CITY.**

*Completed pruning the First and Second Wards began pruning in the Third Ward.*

**PROMOTE TREE AWARENESS AND STEWARSHIP AMONG CITY RESIDENTS:**

**A) Increase tree and forest educational opportunities for residents**

*The Urban Forestry Commission collaborated on the Bike the Tree Walk*

**B) Continue with the annual Arbor Day celebration.**

*Arbor Day was celebrated on May18 with a tree planting in the Ruth Park Bird Corridor.*

**RECRUIT MEMBERS FOR THE URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION**

*A) Three new board members for 2015.*

**INCREASE TREE PLANTING (Added by the Urban Forestry Commission)**

**A) To work towards a goal of increasing the planting of trees to offset what is removed each year.**

*Tree planting to trees removed 181/171*

ACTION ITEMS FOR YEAR 2016:

**A) ALL OF THE ABOVE ITEMS**

**B) PROMOTE TREE AWARENESS AND STEWARSHIP AMONG CITY RESIDENTS:**

1) Expand on the forestry related opportunities for residents.

2) Continue with the annual Arbor Day celebration.

3) Explore other venues in media

