



2019

ANNUAL REPORT

**"One touch of nature
makes the whole
world kin."**

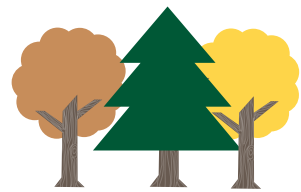
—WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Forest ReLeaf
OF MISSOURI

25 YEARS &
GROWING

*Planting trees.
Enriching communities.*

2019



11,431

Total Trees
Distributed

187

Total Tree
Planting
Projects

42

Native
Missouri
Species Grown

15,000

Seedlings
Potted

Volunteer Vaughn Meister and Nursery Manager Eric Floro lead a tree planting demonstration.

Dear Friends,

Trees unite us. Trees sustain us. Trees calm us. Trees heal us.

I believe in the essential role community tree nonprofits play in creating environmental improvements for all of us. Our 2019 annual report demonstrates how Forest ReLeaf of Missouri continues to meet our community's challenges by leveraging the power of trees to transform people and the places where we live, work and play.

In 2019 the work of more than 4,500 volunteers, nearly 300 donors and funders, 4 employees, and 150 community partners enabled Forest ReLeaf to plant more than 11,000 new trees in Missouri. Each of these 11,000 experiences provided the people of Missouri a deeper connection with the environment, a chance to make our state greener, and a gift to our future for a healthier world.

As we reflect on the amazing work of this past year, our staff feels a responsibility to grow the mission and impact of Forest ReLeaf. With fresh perspective and new ideas, our team has set new goals for 2020. We're digging in and are so grateful for our friends and partners united with us!

Thank you!

Meredith Perkins
Executive Director

P.S. In 2019 we said goodbye to Donna Coble who served as the organization's executive director from 2009 to 2019. Thank you, Donna, for your leadership and passion for Forest ReLeaf!

After a Decade of Service, Donna Coble Passes the Torch

Forest ReLeaf has been shaped by the leadership of Donna Coble the past 10 years. Over that time, the organization has planted over 100,000 trees, surpassing 200,000 total trees planted from CommuniTree Gardens. Through increased partnerships, engaged social media, and new signature events like ArborMeisters, Concert in the Trees, and Crawl the Grove, Forest ReLeaf has developed a strong reputation as a committed, reliable, and mission focused organization supporting trees across the region. Donna also fostered growth in volunteer recognition and the creation of a Young Friend's group, expanding the organization's reach to more and more people each year. As Donna began sharing Forest ReLeaf's vision with new audiences, the response was always the same, "Wow, that's really cool!" and we agree.



Though all the growth and changes have been rewarding, Donna notes that her proudest accomplishment was responding to the desperate need for new life and new hope after the 2011 tornadoes in North St. Louis County and Joplin, MO. Working with local officials and the Missouri Department of Conservation, Forest ReLeaf was able to provide thousands of trees to help reforest these cities. She commented, "I learned a lot about resilience and how important trees are in helping communities heal."

Donna built a solid framework and positioned Forest ReLeaf to successfully start a new chapter in 2020 with a new leadership, new enthusiasm, and new perspectives while maintaining the organization's core values and critical impact.



In October, Forest ReLeaf welcomed Meredith McAvoy Perkins as the new Executive Director. For the past 20 years, Meredith has dedicated her career to promoting healthy urban forestry management, connecting people to trees in ways that transform both landscapes and lives. She comes to Forest ReLeaf of Missouri most recently from Davey Resource Group, Inc., where she led the Missouri Regional Team and served as the Principal Consulting Arborist. Prior to that, she worked as an Urban & Community Forestry Coordinator for Utah's Division of Forestry, managing statewide programs, contracts, partnerships, and grants. Meredith is a skilled educator and advocate for healthy, connected woodlands and forests, having taught as an adjunct instructor, led technical workshops and conference sessions with professional peers, and delivered keynote presentations for general public events.

In her formative years, Meredith's personal playgrounds were the magnificent trees and urban forests within the City of St. Louis — each experience seeding what would become, and still is, her personal and professional passion for trees. Whether you believe in fate or not, it is notable that in her high school years, Meredith volunteered for Forest ReLeaf.

Now that's a seed well-planted.





Missouri Master Naturalist volunteers gather for a photo after a busy day of caring for trees at CommuniTree Gardens.

A New Pollinator Garden Takes Shape

Forest ReLeaf began conceptualizing a pollinator garden in 2016 as an addition to our newly installed prairie. That idea is taking shape, and includes spots to rest, park bikes, and sit under a pergola surrounded by native plants. Signage will illustrate the benefits of native plants and educate people about our mission. The garden was funded by a generous gift from the Franciscan Sisters of Mary and individual donors. Operations Committee member Tom Nagle designed the pergola and it was constructed by St. Louis County Parks staff.

Washington University Master of Landscape Architecture students Tom Klein and Eric Kobal designed the garden which is planted in a v-shaped area. The native plants were grown at CommuniTree Gardens and other areas were seeded with native mixes. A selection of pollinator-friendly woody plants and trees will be planted along the borders to emphasize the mission of Forest ReLeaf and the importance of woody species to pollinators.

Wet Weather Leads to Flood Action Plan

This spring, CommuniTree Gardens and Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park experienced a very wet season. This, combined with the heavy snow pack further up the Missouri River watershed resulted in very high and sustained flood levels for many weeks. We were unable to access the nursery for several days and temporarily stored all of our large equipment at the nearby soccer park. Flooding required us to move several hundred 15-gallon trees to higher ground three separate times in response to heavy rains. Luckily, we did not lose any trees due to the flooding, largely thanks to the work of our committed volunteers.

Unpredictable weather has increased the likelihood for more frequent, serious and lengthy flood seasons. In response, we created a Flood Action Plan and took the following steps:

- Reorganized our growing zones and put flood tolerant species in places prone to flooding.
- Mapped a flood emergency protocol to allow for rapid movement of equipment and trees to higher ground.
- Created a communication plan with volunteers and partners including St. Louis County Parks who will provide landing spots and physical resources to care for evacuated trees.

Volunteer Groups

AmeriCorps STL
Audubon Society
Better Family Life
Boeing
Boy Scouts of America
Centene Corporation
City Roots
Cool Valley Elementary School
Cushman Wakefield
Enterprise Rent-a-Car
Fairway Management
Girl Scouts of America
Graybar
ICL Performance Products
Immanuel Lutheran School
JM Family Corporation
Kare Camp
Ladue High School
Lutheran North High School
Maryville University
Missouri Master Naturalists
Muslim Environmentalists
Parkway Central
PGAV Destinations
Sherwood Forest
St. Louis University
Timberland
Trout Unlimited
US Bank
Wallace Company
Washington University Law
Worldwide Technology



Volunteer Spotlight:
John Milton

During his career as an Emergency Department physician at St. Mary’s Hospital in Richmond Heights and St. Luke’s Hospital in Chesterfield, John treated patients suffering from heart attacks to broken bones to asthma attacks. Every day brought a new challenge. Now, he has traded in his scrubs for work jeans and is saving lives by planting trees!



John got acquainted with Forest ReLeaf when he helped plant trees on underforested streets in north St. Louis. John connected Forest ReLeaf’s tree plantings to his personal commitment to promote a healthy and sustainable planet and became a strong advocate for the organization. After retiring in 2018 John finally relaxed - a little. Recognizing the need to water newly planted trees, John, along with his wonderfully supportive wife Cathy and a few close friends, purchased a new truck for Forest ReLeaf so he could make sure “his” trees got the care they needed. The truck came with its very own ‘water guy’ (otherwise known as John).

Now, open spaces and cloverleafs look like potential forests to John, so he put his action-oriented ER skills to work orchestrating two volunteer tree planting projects along MODOT highway interchanges in St. Louis County to maximize the pollution mitigation benefits and improve aesthetics. John has contributed hundreds of hours identifying new locations for projects, recruiting community volunteers, connecting with partners, and (his favorite part) planting trees! Thanks to a connection John made with Better Family Life, Forest ReLeaf supported a powerful memorial tree project in fall.

John brings his energy and unfiltered passion for trees into every project. Thanks to his efforts thousands will experience tree’s life-saving health benefits: clean air, walkable streets, safe spaces, traffic calming, and stress reduction. That’s just the medicine our region needs.

- Total Nursery
Volunteer Hours**
6,243

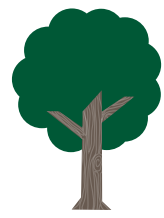
**Total Nursery
Volunteers**
638

300+ Hours
Kay LaBanca

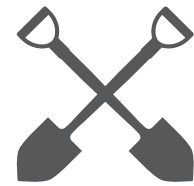
200+ Hours
Dave Durham
Howard Warth

100+ Hours
Renee’ Benage
Frank Breitenstein
Tim Brunsman
Tom Donovan
Frank Dvorak
Nan Johnson
Brian Kelly
Lorna Kelly
Bob Lindecke
Steve McCarthy
Vaughn Meister
Glenn Meyer
Tom Nagle
Lee Phillion
Greg Riss
Alfred Strout
Tessa Wasserman





6,898
Free Trees
Distributed



146
Planting
Projects



137,722
Free Trees
Distributed
To Date



1,332
Free Trees
Distributed
Outside MO



Forest Park Forever staff unloads trees to be planted that were received through Project CommuniTree.

**Project CommuniTree provides trees,
at no charge, for planting on
public & nonprofit land.**

Project CommuniTree Reinventory

Forest ReLeaf is continually working to ensure that our trees are high quality and survive for decades to come. In 2019, staff surveyed 1,176 trees that had been planted by Project CommuniTree recipients in fall of 2018 and spring of 2019. Data collected about tree survival and growth rates, evidence of tree care and maintenance, paired with the project and species type will help Forest ReLeaf better support partners in the future. Trees from this reinventory had a higher than average survival rate of 88%.

**“Without Forest ReLeaf, I would only be able to
do half of my job! I need the free trees that
Forest ReLeaf provides to help replant the
communities I work with in the 24:1”**

- Doug Seely, Beyond Housing

ReLeaf Sales

Forest ReLeaf offers a limited stock of trees for sale to the public each year. This connects us with homeowners and promotes native trees while raising critical operating funds. Trees planted on private land provide universal benefits. As growing space becomes more limited in rights-of-way, a healthy urban tree canopy relies on biodiverse, resilient trees on private land.



542
trees



200
flowers



Children volunteer to plant trees in Benton Park in St. Louis City.

**Priority ReLeaf provides larger
trees for free to under-served
& disaster-affected areas.**

Planting in Benton Park

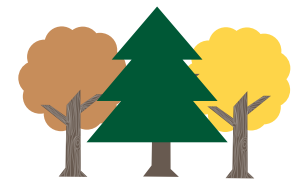
In the spring, Forest ReLeaf partnered with St. Louis City Forestry, the Arbor Day Foundation, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, and community volunteers to plant 250, 15 gallon container trees in the Benton Park neighborhood. The trees were planted along the streets and in four neighborhood parks.

Family Love, Family Roots

In the fall, Forest ReLeaf supported a tree planting with Better Family Life in St. Louis' Ivory Perry Park. After powerful reflections from family members who lost their loved ones to gun violence, the survivors each planted a 15-gallon oak tree in memory of those who had passed. These 15 trees serve as a symbol of new life. The growing canopy will create a landscape for peaceful memories and hope filled futures.

STL TreeLC

Forest ReLeaf partnered on the creation of STL TreeLC, a new volunteer group in St. Louis City which aims to care for newly planted trees in the city of St. Louis to increase survival rates. Volunteers have met with Forest ReLeaf and St. Louis City Forestry staff to learn about proper pruning techniques so that they can care for trees in their neighborhood.



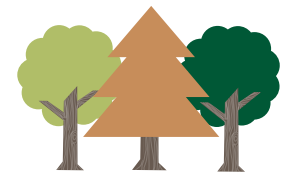
3,991
Trees
Distributed
in 2019



41
Total Tree
Planting
Projects



416
Trees Planted
to Respond to
Tornado
Damage



40,231
Priority
ReLeaf Trees
Distributed
to Date



Community Forester, Cory Knoblauch, teaches Tree Campers about tree identification.

“We learned about trees and a lot of other things outside - birds, flowers and how trees make the world better, and what owl pellets are.”

- Tate Wolff, two time Tree Camper

Tree Camp

Following the success of the inaugural Tree Camp in 2018, Forest ReLeaf brought the program back for a 6 day camp in June. The number of participants doubled, with 12 students in attendance. Students learned about tree biology and identification, and how trees interact with birds, pollinators, soil, water, and humans. Campers enjoyed the combination of education and spending time exploring CommuniTree Gardens Nursery.



TreeKeepers

In 2019, Forest ReLeaf offered two TreeKeepers courses to more than 40 people. Spring classes were taught at Little Creek Nature Area while fall classes were taught at Urban Chestnut Brewery. Each course is a series of 6 free classes designed to educate citizens about trees, their benefits and care, and provide practical, hands-on learning in six key areas: identification, biology, soils, planting, pruning, and insects and diseases.



The Missouri Forestkeepers Network tour Naeger Forest Products for their annual conference.

Missouri Forestkeepers Network

The Missouri Forestkeepers Network took incredible action in protecting our forests in 2019. The network now has more than 2,700 members, mostly in the St. Louis and Kansas City regions. Forestkeepers planted over 12,000 trees, treated more than 1,100 acres of unwanted vegetation, participated in 160 hours of advocacy, and spent nearly 2,700 hours planting and caring for trees. Several Forestkeepers also received recognition for their dedication to Missouri forests at the Forestkeepers Conference at Naeger Forest Products on November 1, 2019. At the conference, Forestkeepers toured a logging and mill operation and learned about timber harvesting and management.

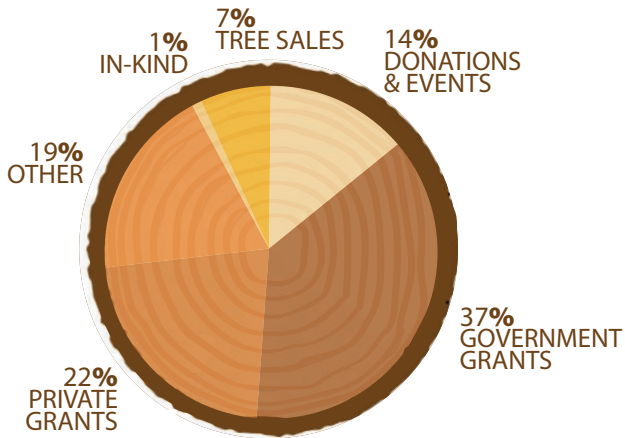
Vision 20/20: Plant MOre Trees

For the past four years Forest ReLeaf, in partnership with the Missouri Community Forestry Council and the Missouri Department of Conservation, has been dutifully working toward a goal to track one million trees planted in Missouri by 2020. This past year Forest ReLeaf added 187 new planting projects and encouraged citizen scientists across the state to participate by plotting the trees they plant as well. Together we boosted our total tree count to just over 350,000 trees. We know that we are only capturing a fraction of the trees that are getting planted throughout the region, so we made a strategic action plan at the end of the year to expand our network, engage nontraditional partners, and ramp up outreach. We haven't given up our million tree goal yet!




Financials

2019 Revenue & Support

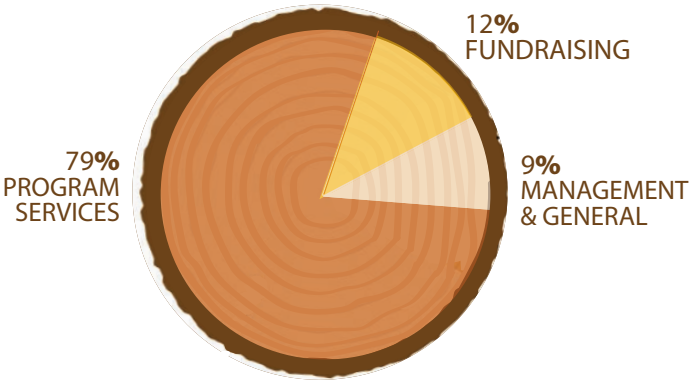


Revenue & Support

	\$
Government Grants	221,000
Private Grants	131,048
Donations & Events	83,647
In-Kind	7,242
Tree Sales	40,600
Investments/Other	121,642
Total	605,179

 Source: Devereaux & Company Independent Auditor's Report dated 2020. Forest ReLeaf of Missouri meets all charity standards of the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance.

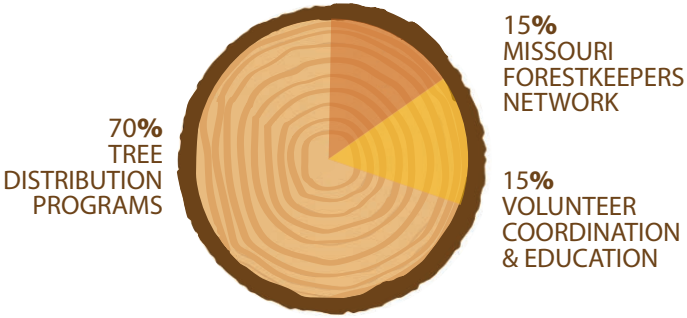
2019 Functional Expenses



Expenses

	\$
Management & General	55,452
Program Services	464,352
Fundraising	73,235
Total	593,039
Net Assets at Start of Year	240,588
Net Assets at End of Year	188,680

Program Services Breakdown



Board of Trustees

- Gordon Schweitzer Jr., *President*

Mary Sherfy, *Vice President*

Rob Hibbard, *Treasurer*

Cathy deJong, *ex officio*

Tim Brunsman

David Dresner

Chris Erker

Donna Hart
- Alan Jankowski

Cindy M. Lewis

John Moller

Joni Ott

Tom Ott

Jason Pratte

Jesse Stuart

Sheila S. Voss

Staff

- Meridith McAvoy Perkins

Executive Director

Eric Floro

Nursery Manager

Cory Knoblauch

Community Forester

Amy Klein

Development & Marketing Manager

\$1-\$99

Sally Ahsmuhs
Gary Ault & Catherine McCredie
Colleen Autry
Caroline Basore
Lynn Beinke
Diane Berry
Kathryn Bowers
Barbara Brain
Brenda Bredemeier
Adam Brooks
Kelly Bugger
Sally Burgess
Thomas & Ellen Burkemper
Virginia Busch
Kaye Campbell Hinson
Katie Carpenter
Mary Carpenter
Bob & Nanka Castulik-Byrne
Theresa Ciccolella
Phil & Kathy Clark
Climb SO iLL
Laura Cohen
Thomas & Eloise Cohoon
Maggie Crane
Andrew & Linda Cross
Kevin Davison
Carol Davit
Angie Dent
Nancy Desloge
Larry & Judith Dew
Doug Dick
Katherine Dockery
Kathleen Dolson
William Drennan
John Ebeling
Ann Finklang
Justine Gartner
John Gilkey
Vicki Goldman
Mary Lou Green
Ben & Suzanne Grossman
Eric Hadley
Nancy Hartman
Mary Hetz
Chuck Hird
James & Diane Hubbard
Herbert Huebner
David Hysert
Ayesha Iqbal
Clare Ireland
Alison Jenkinson
Jaclyn Jezik
John & Lois Johnson
Sara Kammerer
Kids Who Care Camp
Kelley Klor
Kyle & Emma Klues
Bonnie Kopolow Stansen

Bill & Janet Kopp
Joseph Kurtz
JB Lane
Rachel Levi
Larry Levin
Lisa Levine
Steve Lovell
Lori Lucas
Sarah Martin
Ray Martin
Mary Marty Hubert
Alicia Marty Hubert
Paul Maurer-Batjer
Fritz McAvoy
Steve & Jane McCarthy
John Mehuys
Valerie Miller
Anna Miller
SueRilla Miller
Vicki Misloski
Joan Murphy
Tom Nagle
Evan & Megan Hill
John and Susan Nickler
O'Fallon Garden Club
Ken Olsen
Tom Ott
Sarah Paradoski
Kevin Parker
James Patikol
Bryan & Joan Peetz
Meridith Perkins
Jean Ponzi
Caroline Pufalt
Gretchen Reisig
Huck Roberts
Ge Rogers
Joan Rothrock
David Rowan
Caroline Sant
Kate Sathi
Ryan Schepers
Heidi Schindler
William Schryver
Anne Schweitzer
Jeffrey Scott
Hugh Share
Allen Sherman
Bob Snyders
Judy Speck
Amy Templer
Kristen VonGruben
Brandon Wade
Andrea Walker Nickrent
Tuell & Marilyn White
Angela White
Christi Winter
Shirley Wolverson
Tim Wood
Steve Wulff

Andy & Laura Yates
Dorothy & Duke Zobeck
Lisa Zoia

\$100-\$249

Christelle Adelman-Adler
Brian Azcona
Renee' Benage
John & Ann Bieller
Dustin Branick
Larry & Joanie Branson
Frank Breitenstein
Tim Brunsman
Richard Chase
Cathy DeJong
Sue Dellbringge
Deborah Dolgin
Edward & Donna Dougherty
Earthbound Beer
Ann Eggebrecht
Elizabeth Fathman
Helene Frankel
Kathy Freese
Erin Godwin
Peggy Harrison
Heidi & Chris Hehner
James Holtzman
Stephen Ibendahl
William & Holly James
Kurt & Doreen James
Kathryn Freese
Pamela Kelley
John Kemper
Larry & Linda Krumrey
Mignon LaMar
Susan Lammert
Martha & Alan Lemley
Aaron Levin
Jared Lind
Anna Miller
Richard & Joan Morris
Kathy O'Neill
Stewart Pagenstecher
Petersburg Tree Committee
Ryia Ross Peterson
Bob Pickard
Bill & Connie Reeves
Bill Reininger
Peter & Susan Rogers
Norma Schechter
Bill & Kate Schoenhard
Sally Shwartz
Karl & Sui Ti Siebert
Tom & Shelley Smith
St. Louis Greenhouse Plant Society Inc.
Jesse & Lauren Stuart
Lenora Suozzi
Kayla Vaughan
Sheila Voss
Barbara Voss

Malinda Walter Slagle
Ray Wiesehan
Patricia Willis

\$250-\$499

Timothy Boeddeker
Martha Clark
Dickerson Park Zoo
Tom & Jenny Donovan
Ann Earley
Suzanne Gales
Joan Gettemeyer
Meggan Hargrave
Alan & Susan Jankowski
Kay LaBanca
Susan Lammert
Richard Lesage
Mason Ridge Garden Club
Metropolitan Forestry Services, Inc.
Les Meyers
George & Barbara Nelson
Jeanne Ortega
Linda Pallmann
Jason Pratte
Gregory Riss
Tessa Wasserman

\$500-\$999

Tom & Joni Byrne
Patrick Geraty
Skip Kincaid
Cindy Lewis
Vaughn Meister
Vickie & Ken Ressler
Mary Ann & Richard Shaw
Alfred & Kathleen Strout

\$1,000+

Bellefontaine Cemetery
Eugene Brunk
David Dresner
Christopher Erker
Rob Hibbard
John & Cathy Milton
John Moller
Joseph Moore
Gordon & Jane Schweitzer
Mary & David Sherfy
Michael Spiegel
Pat & Jim Tracy
St. Louis Greenhouse Plant Society Inc.
Gabe Waterhouse

Foundation & Corporate

Alpine Shop
Ameren Charitable Trust
Arbor Day Foundation
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Clifford Willard Gaylord Foundation
Conservation Federation of Missouri
E Reuben & Gladys Flora Grant Charitable Trust
Edward Chase Garvey Memorial Foundation
Edward Jones
Emerson Charitable Trust
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
The Great Forest Park Balloon Race
Hansen's Tree Service
ICL Specialty Products
James & Elizabeth Maritz Charitable Fund
JM Family Enterprises
McPheeters & Rickard Family Fund
Missouri Community Forestry Council
One Tree Planted
Platke-Lammers Family Charitable Fund
Renewal by Andersen
Robert J. Trulaske, Jr. Family Foundation
Sleeve a Message
St. Louis Composting Inc
St. Louis Tree Pros LLC
St. Louis Community Foundation
The Hoagland Charitable Fund
Trio Foundation of St. Louis
Victor & Selene Deliniere Charitable Foundation

Government





Volunteers Dave Durham and Howard Warth care for trees while volunteering at CommuniTree Gardens.

Gift of Trees

In Honor

Carl Bassi
in honor of Emily Bassi & Pete Young
Sally Garhart Eneguess
in honor of Chris Garhart
Judith Harmon
in honor of Mary E. Callier
Geri Higgins
in honor of Lori Lober
Susan Jarrett
in honor of Ann Eggebrecht
Dan Krewson
in honor of Brittany Krewson
Joseph Moore
in honor of Perennial
Annemarie Nauert
in honor of Sue Nauert
Mary Nauert
in honor of Sue & Paul Nauert
Mary Neal
in honor of Robert Charity

Kate Schwenke
in honor of Ron & Pam Kruse
Robert Selsor
in honor of Grayson Selsor
Sally Schwartz
in honor of Cindy Lewis
Jeffrey & Barbara Smith
in honor of Doug Durham
Kiarra Lynn Smith
in honor of Kiarra Lynn Smith
Kay Stockenberg
in honor of Heidi Schindler
Sue & James Tresback
in honor of Grayson Selsor
Jake Tweedy
in honor of Jim Hixson
Chris & Jill Varvares
in honor of Grayson Selsor
Heather White
in honor of Pleasant White

First Baptist Church of Hillsboro
in memory of Todd Whitehead
Sharon Armstrong
in memory of Todd Whitehead
Neal Bayes
in memory of Todd Whitehead
Jim and Pat Blackard
in memory of Todd Whitehead
Devereux & Company
in memory of David Podwojski
Michelle Grojean
in memory of Mark McLean
Rodger & Jill Johnson
in memory of Ralph Pierce
Alisa Kelley
in memory of Rudy Zuroweste
Barbara Kozek
in memory of Peggy Garavaglia

In Memory

Jana Lause
in memory of Rudy Zuroweste
John & Norma McGuirk
in memory of Joseph McGurik
Mary and Jane McKinney
in memory of Todd Whitehead
Charles & Dian Mossman
in memory of Todd Whitehead
Karen Munroe
in memory of Todd Whitehead
Becky Reed
in memory of Todd Whitehead
Edward Six
in memory of Dr. Will Ann Farr Six
Kaitlin Spraul
in memory of John A. Palos
Nancy Thomas
in memory of Larry Dexter's Father

Evelyn Tullos
in memory of Zachary Helms Lowenstein
Jamie Turnbough
in memory of Todd Whitehead
Miller Welch
in memory of Diane Cutaia
James & Carolyn Willett
in memory of Todd Whitehead
Danny & Gina Whitehead
in memory of Todd Whitehead
BG Whitehead
in memory of Todd Whitehead
James & Carolyn Willett
in memory of Todd Whitehead



Left: Volunteers work to plant native trees to replace invasive species at a cloverleaf off of I-64 and I-270. Right: Volunteers weed young trees at CommuniTree Gardens.



Forest ReLeaf believes in the power of trees to improve our daily lives and make a positive impact on the environment. Through strategic planting initiatives, our trees will provide ecosystem services, like capturing pollutants along roadways and taking back natural areas from invasive species, across the region.

Cloverleaf Plantings

This year, Eagle Scout Grayson Selsor worked with Forest ReLeaf to identify a high impact planting site in a Cloverleaf area between I-64 and I-270. With support from the Missouri Department of Transportation, volunteers cleared a large section of invasive bush honeysuckle and callery pear trees from the St. Louis County MODOT location. Scouts planted 50, 15-gallon native trees. As they grow, the trees will clean the air by capturing particulate matter and harmful emissions from the vehicles.

Pear Buy Back

To promote invasive species awareness, Forest ReLeaf partnered with the Missouri Invasive Species Task Force, Forrest Keeling, and the Missouri Botanical Garden to host a “Pear Buy Back” event at CommuniTree Gardens. This program leveraged social media and news outlets to educate the public about the destructive nature of callery pear during the spring when the species is most notable. Forest ReLeaf offered a native trees for free to replace invasive pear trees. Over 50 property owners participated and the messaging reached a broad audience. We plan to make the Pear Buy Back an annual event.

Tree Walks

When volunteers pot trees at CommuniTree Gardens, plant trees in parks, or take part in TreeKeepers courses, they quickly learn proper techniques to ensure trees will thrive in the landscape: don’t plant too deep, mulch and water regularly. These initial experiences sparked a deeper interest in trees and volunteers wanted help identifying species. So, in 2019, Forest ReLeaf hosted 4 public tree tree walks in Tower Grove Park and Forest Park. These casual events gave us a chance to connect people with nature in a new way and grow the skills and confidence of our current and future volunteers.

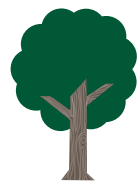
“I loved the tree walk in Tower Grove Park. Cory helped the class ID some of my favorite trees like Kentucky coffeetree & American beech. Now, when I’m at the park with friends, I can show them how smart I am by ID’ing trees!”

- Christina Calhoun



Timberland was just one of many corporate groups that helped grow our trees in 2019!

94 Forest ReLeaf Led Activities



29

Nursery
Projects



18

Classes



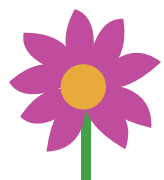
7

Community
Projects



4

Fundraisers



4

Plant
Sales



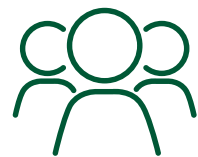
19

Partner
Events



6

Nursery
Tours



7

Presentations
Facilitated

May
Concert in the Trees
with Tony & the Saints



July
Young Friends' Weeding
Happy Hour

August
Young Friends' Tree Trivia



September
ArborMeisters
Garage Brewer's Society
took home the trophy!

December
Young Friends' Crawl the Grove





Forest ReLeaf of Missouri
4168 Juniata St. Suite 1
St. Louis, MO 63116
moreleaf.org

