

2021

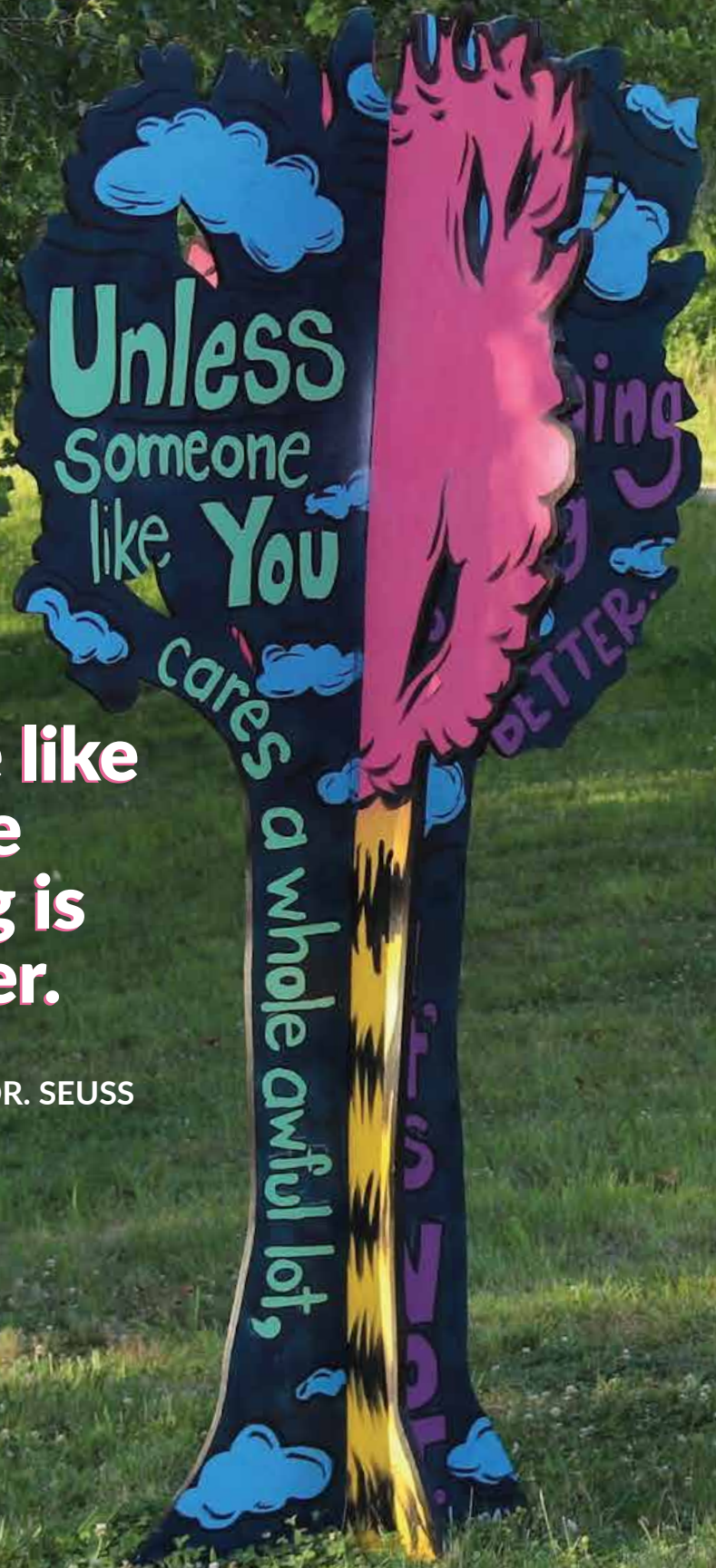
ANNUAL REPORT

**“Unless someone like
you cares a whole
awful lot, nothing is
going to get better.
It’s not.”**

-DR. SEUSS

Forest ReLeaf
OF MISSOURI

Planting trees. Enriching communities.





Forest ReLeaf's mission is to plant trees and enrich communities.

Our goal is to connect people with the benefits of trees and remove barriers to successful tree planting. That includes access to trees, cost of materials, confidence in implementation and care, limited resources, and quality of plant material. With the help of thousands of volunteers we grow, plant, and advocate for trees, in order to create resilient community forests that restore healthy land, air and water, improve human well-being, and promote economic vitality.

**20
21**
IMPACT

**Total
Trees
Planted**
8,218

194
**Planting
Projects**

16,000
**Seedlings
Potted**
57 Species

Board of Trustees

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Barnes Jewish Hospital

Welcome to our new
Board Member,
Almetta Jordan!

Almetta has served as the Scott Joplin House Site Administrator since 2008. She brings an extensive background in outdoor, urban education to the Forest ReLeaf Board of Trustees. Almetta will also serve as a liaison between Forest ReLeaf and Missouri State Parks as we grow our partnership to distribute and care for more trees in Missouri.



Note from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

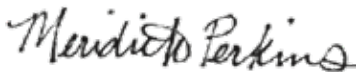
Forest ReLeaf's mission - to plant trees and enrich communities - resonates now more than ever. The organization is a part of the solution to pressing global challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and a cultural disconnection to nature.

As Executive Director, my commitment is to expand Forest ReLeaf's impact and grow services to meet the emerging needs of communities. In 2021 this included expanding our nursery and growing more trees, evaluating programming and making changes to improve healthy outcomes, and engaging with new and diverse partners to better serve all Missourians.

In a volunteer based, community focused organization, leadership calls for listening. Our staff are technical experts, but it's our partners who show us how to put tree resources to the greatest use. Our team works in tandem with local leaders across the state, empowering them to achieve their goals.

Forest ReLeaf is changing lives. The organization has been creative, tenacious, and focused on building systems and relationships that promote healthy people and places. We will continue to work with passion and pride to improve programs and services that positively impact citizens at an individual, local, and landscape level.

Sincerely,



Meridith McAvoy-Perkins
Executive Director



Our Staff

Our staff work with volunteers and partners to grow, plant, and care for trees.



Rebecca Hankins
Partnerships Manager

Expanding impact and access to trees in St. Louis and beyond.



Jake Roeckle
Nursery Manager

Growing quality trees for partners and planting projects.



Billy Haag
Forestry Manager

Engaging people in planting and stewardship through projects and education.

Ellen Sulser
Volunteer Coordinator

Connecting volunteers to engaging, mission focused experiences and activities.



Dan Billman
Nursery Specialist

Supporting nursery initiatives and growth.



Amy Klein
Development & Marketing Manager

Telling Forest ReLeaf's story and sharing the mission.





Our Volunteers



\$478,060

Value of volunteer time



5,035

Number of volunteers



16,750

Volunteer hours

2021 Volunteer Groups

- 350 STL
- 4 Hands Brewing Co.
- Bethel Lutheran
- Better Family Life
- Beyond Housing
- Bryan Hill Elementary
- Cardinal Investment Advisors
- Chain of Rocks Community Association
- Chelsea Center-Webster Groves High School
- Crestwood Elementary Environmental Club
- earthday365
- Equifax Workforce Solutions
- Essex Industries
- Ethical Society Mid Rivers
- Girl Scout Troop 1274
- Girl Scout Troop 1986
- Great Rivers Greenway
- Grow Native
- ICL Group
- Insight Global
- K.A.R.E. Camp
- Liga Latina
- Love in Action
- Magnificent Missouri
- Maryville Reaches Out
- Mastercard
- MetLife
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Invasive Plant Council
- Missouri Master Naturalists
- Missouri State Parks
- MTO School of Islamic Sufism
- The Nature Conservancy
- Outdoor Afro
- Parkway Green Club
- POE & EHI
- Quiet Village
- SLU's Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity
- Spire
- SSM Health
- St. Louis Public Schools
- St. Louis City Forestry
- St. Louis County Parks
- Straight Up Solar
- True Manufacturing
- UPS
- Warby Parker
- Washington University School of Law
- Washington University Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity
- West End Neighbors

“The most meaningful aspect of the tree planting was volunteering with my family and coworkers and bringing joy to the neighborhood.”

- Mary Swyers, MetLife employee at Gwen Giles Park Planting



Volunteer Spotlight LEE PHILLION

A Forest ReLeaf volunteer for more than a decade, Lee continues to lend her talents in many ways. As our resident photographer and videographer, she captures both staff and fellow volunteers in action. Paired with her witty commentary, the volunteer newsletter she edits, *The BARK*, is always a hit. Lee is passionate about many things, including social justice and her time helping Forest ReLeaf.

Featured Volunteer Partner MTO SHAHMAGHSOUDI SCHOOL OF ISLAMIC SUFISM



MTO Sharmaghssoudi School of Islamic Sufism was a new Forest ReLeaf partner in 2021, volunteering 75 hours over 5 events!

“One of the principles of MTO Sharmaghssoudi School of Islamic Sufism is to give back to our community, help nature, and learn from one another for the purpose of growth inwardly and outwardly. At Forest ReLeaf, we had the opportunity to be in a warm and friendly environment with very knowledgeable staff that guided us how to work effectively as a team along with learning more about how to plant and pot trees.”

- Mojdeh Zafarani

Project CommuniTree



5,775

Free trees
distributed

181

Tree plantings
supported

We believe cost and access to trees should not be barriers to urban forest canopy growth. Project CommuniTree exists to support the ambition of all enthusiastic tree planters. Through this program, partners can request free 3-gallon native trees and shrubs to plant on public and nonprofit property. Led by community leaders, Project CommuniTree gives tree planting ownership and inspires ongoing forest stewardship at a hyper-local level.

The trees planted through CommuniTree in 2021 will create 150 acres of mature tree canopy across the state!

“Trees have a purpose beyond shade and making oxygen. Each newly planted tree is a hope for our community.”

- Imani Robinson, Love In Action, Carr Square Neighborhood

Around the Nursery

Forest ReLeaf remains committed to creating a more sustainable nursery operation.

A new water well has:

- eliminated our use of treated water for irrigation, reducing our carbon footprint
- paid for itself in water bill savings in just one year!
- A huge thank you to the inspiration and matching funds from Patrick and Rebecca Geraty

Experimenting with fabric pots has:

- reduced dependence on virgin petroleum products
- promoted easy pot returns and reuse
- saved energy costs in shipping





2,443
Free trees
distributed

59
Tree plantings
supported

Priority ReLeaf

Priority ReLeaf provides extra support to high-need areas. This includes larger trees to make a more immediate impact as well as additional technical support. Priority ReLeaf focuses on sites with low tree canopy in under-resourced neighborhoods, communities experiencing loss from catastrophic storms, and areas facing threats from invasive species. Environmental racism, redlining, and disinvestment have limited quality tree planting and care in many neighborhoods across the state. Priority ReLeaf provides tools for residents to receive the critical benefits of a healthy tree canopy.



DID YOU KNOW...

In addition to providing native trees like pawpaw, persimmon, serviceberry, and pecan for urban food forests, Forest ReLeaf has a special partnership with Seed St. Louis (formerly Gateway Greening) to grow well-adapted fruit and nut trees from the Giving Grove. Seed St. Louis incorporates these trees in their community garden projects to support healthy trees for healthy people.



Teaming up with Great Rivers Greenway

In 2021, Forest ReLeaf and Great Rivers Greenway kicked off a partnership to carry out several tree planting projects to enhance current and future greenways that connect people to their environment. Our collective goal was to engage and activate neighbors who live or play near these parks, bringing them into the conversation, listening to their feedback, and encouraging them to help guide the tree plantings.

The role of Forest ReLeaf is to provide expert-level advice in terms of planting locations, tree species selection and tree maintenance during the 1-2 year establishment period. As local nonprofits, Forest ReLeaf and Great Rivers Greenway share a commitment to promoting healthy vibrant communities through creating healthy vibrant green spaces that connect, engage, and inspire people.



Reforesting the Katy Trail

2021 was the beginning of a 3-year commitment to plant 300 trees along the Katy Trail in partnership with Missouri State Parks and Magnificent Missouri, with support from the Robert J. Trulaske Foundation. Restoring the native forest system along the trail will support wildlife, improve watershed health, and shade the path for thousands of trail visitors. Look for these trees the next time you take off from the Marthasville or Dutzo trailheads.



"I feel blessed to have been a part of the tree planting. I planted an oak tree which will grow to provide more shade and housing for birds. This is one of the best days of my community service journey. Thank you!"

- Fred Maboneza, Umoja Soccer Club Coach at DeSoto Park



Missouri Forestkeepers Network

In 2021, Forestkeepers planted over 31,56 trees, treated 1697 acres of unwanted vegetation, participated in 272 hours of advocacy, and spent nearly 2147 hours planting and caring for trees. In the midst of the pandemic we expanded our program to include engaging online videos about tree and forest health. Several Forestkeepers also received recognition for their dedication to Missouri forests at the annual Forestkeepers Conference at Klondike Park.

Forestkeepers Award Winners

Forest Advocate: Rick Vance
Tree Enthusiast: Bart Carter
Fantastic Forestkeeper: Don Sartin

Innovation Award: Huck Roberts
Forestry Education Award: Skip Easter

National Treesilience Initiative



The National Treesilience initiative was launched in St. Louis to remove barriers to healthy tree canopy, including removal and replacement of dead or dying trees, mature tree maintenance, and site preparation to improve conditions for new plantings. We focus on areas where tree canopy is threatened and we prioritize communities where residents stand to gain the most from a resilient urban forest. Treesilience is supported by a strong partnership between Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, The Nature Conservancy, Beyond Housing, St. Louis City, Davey Tree-Expert Company, and local community leaders. Funding is provided by USDA Forest Service.



Tree Camp

In August, Forest ReLeaf hosted Tree Camp! The rising 5th and 6th grade students gathered at the Forest ReLeaf Nursery and Arboretum to participate in the week-long summer camp. Through hands-on activities, campers learned how to care for trees, and how trees care for them. Highlights included tree climbing, kayaking, raptor encounters, and arborist equipment demos.



Arbormeisters Homebrew + Craft Beer Festival



Forest ReLeaf welcomed homebrewers and local craft brewers back to the nursery and arboretum on September 25 for the 8th annual Arbormeisters Beer Festival to showcase beers inspired by tree ingredients and celebrate the start of fall planting season. Craft brewers in attendance included 4 Hands Brewing Co., Earthbound Beer, Schlafly Beer, and Urban Chestnut Brewing Company.

Brian Haskins of St. Louis Brewminati brewed the crowd favorite beer, Blueberry Fields, and Garage Brewers Society brought home the club prize.



4 Hands Brewing Co. lent a hand by donating a percentage of City Wide beer sales in 2021 to Forest ReLeaf, raising over \$10,000!

Our Interns

Anna

"I was fortunate to gain experience in all aspect of environmental stewardship, from working on the development of the curriculum for the highly acclaimed Tree Camp, to the creation of educational signage in the nursery. Working at Forest ReLeaf not only deepened my understanding of ecological concepts, but also taught me the importance of resilient community-based climate solutions. Forest ReLeaf's commitment to social and environmental justice inspired me to complete a certificate in Professional Development Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with my Master's in Ecosystem Management."

Liam

"The staff at FRM are invested in helping neighbors understand the benefit of an urban tree canopy, so the work I did was naturally integrated with interactions with community members, both through planned events and by having conversations with people while out watering and surveying trees. This position taught me a lot about the power of connecting with individuals and building strong relationships on common ground of an interest in nature. I also had the opportunity for great learning experiences of tree care and broadly applicable skills in data collection and GIS."

Misty

"I learned about the importance of a nonprofit and what Forest ReLeaf is doing for a city like St. Louis. I learned how to care for trees and the types of trees we need for certain areas. I learned how important trees are for our city. The best part of my job was the people I get to interact with everyday. The staff and volunteers at Forest ReLeaf offered many stories and their experiences with Forest ReLeaf that makes me want to stay in touch. Working here gave me skills that I can use in not only the future but now. I learned how to talk to different types of people and also made digital designs on rainy days."



TreeKeepers attracts record attendance!

This popular training program is for adults looking to get a comprehensive understanding of trees and how to care for them. The course went completely virtual in spring of 2021, attracting a record breaking 165 participants! The complete set of six recorded sessions remains available on our YouTube channel and have been used for modified TreeKeeper programs with Beyond Housing and Heartlands Conservancy. Forest ReLeaf's fall TreeKeeper course returned in-person to Urban Chestnut Brewery in St. Louis City for a more traditional 6-week program with 30 participants.





Concert in the Trees

Concert in the Trees had a different spin in 2021 with the addition of The Social Life of Trees Art Stroll. Inspired by nature and community, six local artists – Eugenia Alexander, Dail Chambers, Aaron McMullin, Ben Bradshaw, Jurni Bayoc and students from Bryan Hill Elementary led by their art teacher Britt Tate-Beaugard – transformed wooden tree forms, constructed by Forest ReLeaf volunteer Tessa Wasserman, into unique expressions of the social lives of trees. On June 10, 2021, attendees strolled the half mile trail segment viewing the art and enjoying the sounds of African drummer Baba Mike Nelson and crew and the St. Louis Osuwa Taiko drummers. The event culminated with a reception and tour of the Forest ReLeaf Nursery and Arboretum.

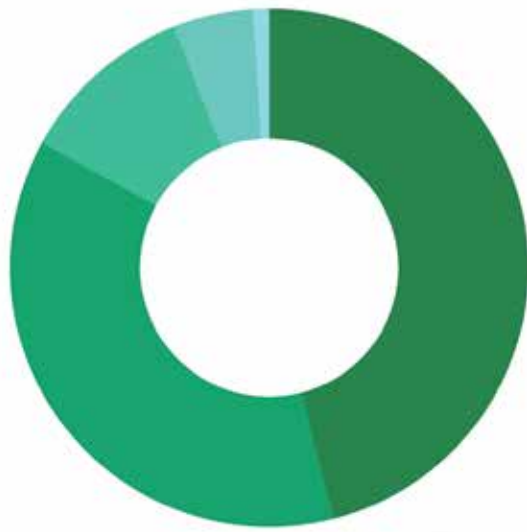


Forest ReLeaf is powered by tree lovers like you! Thank you for supporting our urban forest. For a full list of 2021 donors, visit moreleaf.org/supporters

Sustaining Partners

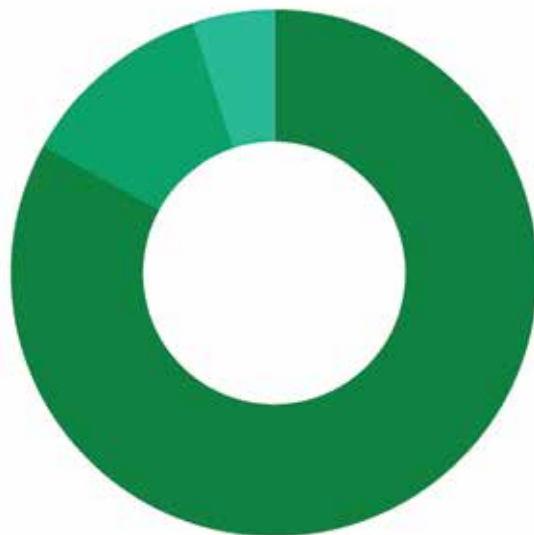


Financials



Revenue & Support \$

37%	Government Grants	306,250
46%	Private Grants	386,717
11%	Donations & Events	91,385
5%	Tree Sales	39,855
1%	Miscellaneous/Other	1,494
	Total	847,368



Expenses \$

5%	Management & General	28,652
83%	Program Services	437,029
12%	Fundraising	62,268
	Investments	200,000
	Total	727,949



Source: Fick, Eggemeyer & Williamson Independent Auditor's Report dated March 9, 2022. Forest ReLeaf meets all charity standards of the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance.

Corporate & Foundation Donors

- 4 Hands Brewing Co.
- Allen's Tree Service, Inc.
- Ameren Corporation Charitable Trust
- Arbor Day Foundation
- Bank of America
- Boeing Corp.
- Bulrush St. Louis Inc.
- Cardinal Investment Advisors
- Clif Bar Family Foundation
- Conservation Federation of Missouri
- Davey Tree Expert Company
- DeLinere Charitable Foundation
- Droege Tree Care Inc.
- Edward Chase Garvey Memorial Foundation
- E. Reuben and Gladys Flora Grant Charitable Trust
- Enterprise Holdings
- The Filament
- Gaylord Foundation
- Great Rivers Greenway
- Heart of the Oak Foundation
- Home Depot
- Horwitz/Friedman Charitable Fund
- ICL Specialty Products
- JM Family
- Scott Joplin House State Historic Site
- MetLife
- Metropolitan Forestry Services
- Missouri American Water
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri State Parks
- National Nursery Products
- The Nature Conservancy
- Network for Strong Communities
- Pang Family Charitable Trust
- Robert J. Trulaske Foundation
- Sleeve a Message
- Spire Energy
- SSM Health
- St. Louis Philanthropic Organization
- St. Louis Tree Pros
- Straight Up Solar
- Trio Foundation
- UPS

Mapping Our Growth

Since 1993, Forest ReLeaf has been planting and caring for trees across Missouri with your help!

2021 Tree Recipients

Ackerman School Special School District
Adorers of The Blood of Christ Asplin
Belle Coeur Subdivision
Belleville Heart Garden
Belleville Running Club
Bellefontaine Cemetery
Bent Tree Trails Subdivision
Beverly Place
Beyond Housing
Botanical Heights HOA
Botanical Yoga Leadership Project
Boy Scout Pack 961
Boy Scout Troop 134
Boy Scout Troop 21
Breckenridge Hills HOA
Brenda Lucas
Briarhill Farm
BSA troop 892
Camp Trinity INC
Carman Woods HOA
Cassville FFA
Central Primary School
Centralia Parks and Recreation
Chapel of the Lake
Chesterfield Hill HOA

Chesterfield Montessori School
Citizens' Committee for Flood Relief
City Blossoms Inc
City of Branson
City of Brentwood
City of Canton
City of Carthage Parks and Rec
City of Cassville
City of Clayton Parks
City of Collinsville
City of Columbia
City of Fulton
City of Goodman
City of Grain Valley
City of Independence Parks Dept
City of Maplewood
City of Olivette, Parks and Rec
City of Ozark
City of Pacific
City of Perryville
City of Pleasant Hill
City of Republic
City of Riverside
City of Saint louis
City of Shelbina
City of Shrewsbury
City of Springfield

City of Sunset Hills
City of Tipton
City of Washington
City of Waynesville
City of Webster Groves
City of Weldon Spring
City of Winchester
Civic Arts Development/ Hyde Park
Atelier/ Live From Hyde Park
Clay County Parks
Claymont Elementary PTO
Claymont Estates
Colonial
Columbia and Bryan Hill Elementaries
Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture
Community Stewardship Alliance
Covenant Christian School
Creve Coeur Park
Crystal City Parks Board
Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist
Dr. Phillip Venable Park
EarthDance Farm
Ecumenical Eco-Justice
Edgar Road Parent Teacher Organization
Fairway Elementary School
Fenton Flyers Disc Golf

Ferguson Volunteer Flower Dept Flance
Early Learning Center
Forest Park Forever
Fortuna Baptist Church
Friends of Bellerive Boulevard
Friends of Francis Park
Friends of Ewing Community Park
Gateway Greening
George Owens Nature Park
German cultural Society
Girl Scout Brownie Troop 3645
Girl Scout troop 71115
Glan Tai Garden Committee
Golf Club of Wentzville HOA,
Good Shepherd Children & Family Services
Grantwood Village
Great Rivers Greenway
Green Dawgs
Hackamore HOA
Harrisonville Parks & Rec
Haven of Grace
Hi five development
Highway 141 & Manors Way
Hinterlands Forestry LLC
Holcomb R-III School District
Indian Hills Lake



Even the smallest hands can help pot trees at Forest ReLeaf's nursery and arboretum.



A child receives a tree to plant near their home by Gwen B. Gilles Park.

James River Basin Partnership
Jefferson City Parks and Rec
Jefferson Elementary School
John Milton
Journey Baptist church
Kansas City Parks and Rec
Karamar Subdivision
Karrvilla HOA
KIPP Victory Academy
Kirkwood Parks Department
La Salle Park Neighborhood
Lafayette Square Conservancy
Lake Chesterfield HOA
Lakewood Hills HOA
Links Incorporated, St. Louis Chapter
Little Blue River Watershed Coalition
Little Creek Nature Area
Longfellow Community Association
LOVetheLOU
Malcolm Koldin
Marthasville Fall Project
Mason Glen HOA Restoration Project
Mason Valley Estates HOA
Mason Valley Woods HOA
McDonnell/King Parks
Mission: St. Louis
Missouri Botanical Garden

Missouri Dept of Conservation
Missouri State University
Missouri Town 1855
MODOT
MTO Shahmaghsoudi School of Islamic
Sufism
Mudds Grove Kirkwood History House
Mullanphy Botanical ILC School
Museum of Transportation
National Museum of Transportation
North Market Neighbors
Northside Christian Church
Oakleigh Park Subdivision
Old Farm Estates subdivision
Old North St. Louis Restoration Group
Old Woods Mill Manor
Open Space Council
Operation Brightside, Inc.
Ori Temple
Osage Trail Park
Parkville Nature Sanctuary
Peace United Church of Christ
Penrose Planting Project
Petersburg Tree Committee
Pheasant Run Residents Association
Planting in Rock Hill
Prestige Estates HOA

Preston Community Garden
Preston Woods HOA
Principia School
Queen Anne Village HOA
Remington Oaks Subdivision
Rotary Club of Lebanon
Rotary Clubs of St. Joseph
Royal Village Subdivision
Russell Elementary School
Saint Louis Disc Golf Club
Saint Louis Zoo
School District of Clayton
Seeds of Hope Farm/Community Action
Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.
Seven Oaks Subdivision
Shady Creek Stream Team
Sisters of Mercy
South City Resident
Southwest Garden Association
Springfield Public Schools
Springtree Subdivision Common Ground
St. Louis Arts Chamber of Commerce
St. Charles County Parks
St. Francis Episcopal Church
St. Louis County Parks
St. Louis University
St. Louis University High School

St. Louis University Teaching Orchard
Step into Staph
Sustainable in Saint Louis
Tappmeyer House/Millennium Park
The College School
The Farm School at Gibbs Road I
The Giving Grove
The Heights at O'Fallon HOA
Theodosia Beautification
Trinity Presbyterian Church and Brentwood Christian Church
Troop 892
University of Missouri - St. Louis
Volker Neighborhood Association
Waldorf School Of St. Louis
Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
Westchester Elementary
Westport Crossing Condo Assn
Whispering Hills HOA
White Flag Church
Willoughby Farm and Conservation Reserve
Winterset Community Association
Woodside HOA
Woody Albro
Yeyo Arts Collective
York Village



Forest ReLeaf of Missouri
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St. Louis, MO 63116
moreleaf.org

"Thank you, that work with you and [Better Family Life] was healing for me. I had a hard day yesterday, judging myself for some mistakes I made. The people, trees and dirt made all the difference."

- Anonymous



Families honor victims of gun violence during a Better Family Life tree planting in spring 2021 at Bradley Park in St. Louis, supported by Forest ReLeaf. A second event was hosted at Penrose Park in the fall. Seventy-eight trees were planted in all.