

A green square graphic with a repeating pattern of stylized leaves. In the center is a white rectangular box containing the text "FOREST RELEAF OF MISSOURI IMPACT STORIES" in green, all-caps, serif font.

FOREST RELEAF OF MISSOURI IMPACT STORIES

“you can’t just talk endlessly about a problem like climate change and not take some action. While it’s hard for an individual to tackle the big leverage issues around climate, anyone can learn the right way to plant a tree”

-Aaron Dohogne

Greener and Cleaner Neighborhoods

St. Louis is 200 trees richer and over 24,000 pieces of trash lighter thanks to the efforts of Lindenwood Park resident Aaron Dohogne. In the last five years, Dohogne and the volunteers he has recruited have planted trees in five St. Louis neighborhood parks as part of an effort to mitigate the effects of climate change by improving the urban tree canopy. In addition he has organized trash and litter pickups that have helped brighten St. Louis neighborhoods while raising funds for charity.

“You can’t just talk endlessly about a problem like climate change and not take some action,” said Dohogne. “While it’s hard for an individual to tackle the big leverage issues around climate, anyone can learn the right way to plant a tree. And, picking up litter is pretty self-explanatory.” Dohogne’s tree planting effort began in 2016, when he enlisted students from Gateway Science Academy, where he taught history, to plant rose mallow and butterfly bushes on the school grounds. The blooming shrubs, provided by Forest ReLeaf, continue to improve the school’s appearance today.

Using what he learned from that experience, Dohogne subsequently organized larger plantings in Tilles Park, Lindenwood Park, Francis Slay Park, Christy Park, and most recently Joe Leisure Park—expanding his cadre of volunteers to neighborhood groups as well as students. While Dohogne pays for the U-Haul or truck to transport the trees, he counts on Forest ReLeaf of Missouri to provide the trees, and the City of St. Louis to provide mulch. Dohogne or a volunteer will plant the trees and teach homeowners how to properly care for their trees. “I cannot say enough about the value Forest ReLeaf brings to this region or how grateful I am for their collaboration.” said Dohogne. This collaboration continues and all are welcome to contribute to the greening and cleaning of St. Louis.

Groups or individuals interested in supporting or partnering with Dohogne in his efforts may contact him at dohogne.aarone@gmail.com.



Forest
ReLeaf
OF MISSOURI 