

Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission

A Commission of the City of Kirkwood Missouri
*Supporting, Promoting and Encouraging the Preservation
And Enhancement of Kirkwood's Urban Forest*

2015 Annual Report

For calendar year ending December 31st 2015

*Submitted to the Kirkwood City Administration
Submitted: 2-23-2016 to Georgia Ragland at the KUFC meeting.*

I **Membership:**

- A. The calendar year opened with members: **David Slane**, Chair. **Priscilla Ward**, Secretary. **Michelle Storgion**, **Joe Day**, **Andy Baldrige**, **Carol Rush** and **Ellen Edman**.
- B. New members for 2015 were **Matthew Stacker** and **Linda Holekamp** who joined the Commission in July of 2015 as replacements for outgoing members Michelle Storgion and Priscilla Ward.

KUFC Activity (Leadership included)

Junior Treekeepers Program: **Michelle Storgion**, **Priscilla Ward**, (**Ellen Edman** and **Linda Holekamp** after Michelle and Priscilla's terms expired.)

Education and Outreach: **Joe Day**

Public Tree Inventory: **Georgia Ragland**, **David Slane**

Tree City USA/Growth Award Submittals: **Georgia Ragland**

Event Participation: Green Tree Festival Booth, Earth Day Booth

II. **Liaison Representation**

Nancy Luetzow served for the entire year.

Kirkwood Assistant Chief Administrative Officer **Georgia Ragland** served as Staff Liaison.

- ### III **Kirkwood Arbor Day Ceremonial Tree Planting:**
- The annual Arbor Day Tree planting and Proclamation was done. The Proclamation was read by Mayor Art McDonnell at a City Council Meeting and Deputy Mayor Paul Ward at the actual ceremony. The Proclamation was submitted to the KUFC for presentation to the Missouri Dept. of Conservation for the Tree City USA Re-Certification. The actual tree planting and Arbor Day ceremony was done at the Kirkwood Library this year.

IV **Requests for Kirkwood public tree removals:**

- 1 March. Chestnut Run Condominiums at 444 N. Clay. Representative requested removal of a 30" Sycamore that is lifting the sidewalk. The request by Representative was denied by the Board in a majority vote.

- 2 May. Tim Clegg made a request to remove Bradford Pear trees in the ROW at 615 W. Jewel. Request was approved by the Board in a majority vote.
- 3 June. Janet Otten requested permission to remove an ash tree at 431 Julian. Request was approved by the Board in a majority vote.
- 4 June. Tom LaPage made a request for permission to remove a 28" diameter silver maple at 12 Hillcrest. Request was approved by the Board in a majority vote.
- 5 August. Jan Studer presented her request to remove a tree about 6' from driveway. It was a pear tree located under power lines and already topped. Request was approved by the Board in a majority vote.
- 6 September. Erin Schellert presented a request to remove a Bradford Pear tree in the ROW at 1311 Woodgate Request was approved by the Board in a majority vote.
- 7 November. Janet Mulroy presented a request to remove a sweet gum tree tilting towards her house after being significantly cut back from the power lines. Request was approved by the Board in a majority vote.

V **Kirkwood Street Tree Inventory:** The contract for the second phase of the street tree inventory was again given to ArborPro. The City of Kirkwood was given a second TRIM Grant from the MDC at the \$10,000 level in order to continue it's work to inventory all the public "street trees". This second phase is expected to complete at minimum another ¼ or more of the City's public trees. The plan is to re-apply for another grant in 2016.

VI **Kirkwood Junior Treekeepers:** KUFC members **Priscilla Ward** and **Michelle Storgion** continued to procure financial support for the program from various local garden clubs, community service organizations and individuals. Materials for the classes were procured and used at the 3 main schools involved in the program... St. Peter School(4th grade), St. Gerard School(4th grade) and Keysor School(Third Grade). The KUFC was disappointed with the fact that Keysor School decided to no longer participate in the program in 2015. St. Peter and St. Gerard continue with very enthusiastic support. Priscilla and Michelle both "termed out" in 2015 and **Linda Holekamp** and **Ellen Edman** took over the management of the JTK Program.

VII **Greentree Festival:** The KUFC members hosted a booth at the festival in September. KUFC members staffed the booth to display information and answer questions of the public for the duration of the festival. The plan is to continue this for 2016. In addition for 2015... a float was entered for the KUFC by **David Slane**.

VIII **Tree City USA:** 2015 completed Kirkwood's 24nd year as a Tree City USA. One of the requirements by the MDC in order to become and remain a Tree City USA is to have an active "Tree Board" similar to the KUFC. In addition, at least \$2 dollars per capita must be spent annually on tree maintenance, replacement and education. Kirkwood continues to meet or exceed these requirements.

IV **Tree Code Subcommittee:** In 2015 the KUFC created a Subcommittee to research and possibly write a Tree Code to eventually present to the Council for approval. Progress

was made and a rough version was presented to City Officials Bill Bensing and Ryan Spencer. Bill Bensing reviewed the document and used it in part to construct another version and then presented this new version to the KUFC Board for additional review. The KUFC members are currently reviewing this latest draft and as of the end of 2015, Bill Bensing and other City Officials are awaiting a report from the KUFC Sub-Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Slane
2015 Chair, Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission