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For Immediate Release

City of Kirkwood Completes Final Phase of Tree Inventory with Help of TRIM Grant from Missouri Department of Conservation

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Kirkwood, Missouri: The City of Kirkwood has completed the final year of a multi-year Tree Inventory it started in 2014, after receiving a Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). The City received a second grant in 2015 and a third grant in 2016, for a total of \$30,000 in grant funds, to be used towards the City's work on an inventory of public trees. The City completed the third and final phase of the inventory in December 2016, and the results are now posted on the City's Website as an interactive map.

The completed Tree Inventory is a useful forestry management tool for the City's 9,982 publicly owned trees – trees located in the public right-of-way (ROW). It will be especially effective in the management of pests and diseases, general maintenance, and in the fight against the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), which invades and kills ash trees. The EAB was introduced into North America more than a dozen years ago and was detected in Missouri in 2008.

With the inventory completed, the City now knows the location, size, and general health and condition of all 687 ash trees in Kirkwood. This will help staff to monitor the trees as the EAB further invades the region. The City is working to develop a multi-year plan to remove and replace the ash trees maintained in the City's ROW areas.

The inventory identified the total number of publicly owned trees and assessed their condition. About 90% of ROW trees were determined to be in fair or better condition. This includes 1758 oak trees (19 different species) and 1683 maple trees (17 different species). These two types of trees comprise about 35 percent of all ROW trees in Kirkwood. Another goal of the tree inventory is to diversify the tree population in ROW areas.

The tree inventory was made possible by a grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation. The grant program had the following goals:

- 1) Assist Missouri communities initiating or significantly improving their efforts to care for the community forest.
- 2) Encourage communities to have a sustainable and comprehensive community forestry program.
- 3) Promote community forestry benefits through the proper management and care of trees in Missouri communities.

The City contracted with Arbor Pro to conduct the inventory. The final report includes information such as common and botanical name, diameter, height, condition, and location. The

inventory appears as a GIS map and can be found on the City's Website at www.kirkwoodmo.org/CityMap.

To learn more about the Emerald Ash Borer, visit the MDC website at: <http://mdc.mo.gov>.

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