



For more information, contact: Beth von Behren
Public Information Officer, City of Kirkwood
139 S. Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, Missouri 63122
314-822-5894 or 314-495-7382 (cell)

For Immediate Release

City of Kirkwood Completes Second 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 second 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. The MDC grant awarded up to \$10,000 to be used towards the City's work on an inventory of public trees. The City completed this phase of the inventory in December 2015, and the results are now posted on the City's Website as an interactive map.

The Tree Inventory is a useful management tool for the City's thousands of publicly owned trees but is especially effective in light of the Emerald Ash Borer as it has moved into the St. Louis area. The inventory identified the number and location of ash trees the City owns and their condition. The second phase of the inventory covered the part of Kirkwood that is west of Geyer Road and south of West Adams. This part of the work uncovered a higher concentration of ash trees than the first phase, which covered the southwest portion of the City and the downtown area.

The City will apply in 2016 for another TRIM grant and hopes to complete the inventory for the remainder of the City at that time.

The Emerald Ash Borer is a beetle accidentally introduced into North America more than a dozen years ago. The beetle has now been detected in St. Louis and St. Louis County. Its larvae feed on and kill ash trees. Learn more about the Emerald Ash Borer at the MDC website at <http://mdc.mo.gov>.

The City contracted with Arbor Pro to conduct the inventory, which compiled information on public trees in Kirkwood and included 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.

The MDC grant program had the following three goals:

1. To assist Missouri communities in initiating or significantly improving their efforts to care for the community forest.
2. To encourage communities to have a sustainable and comprehensive community forestry program.

3. To promote community forestry benefits through the proper management and care of trees in Missouri communities.

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