

# 2008 Accomplishment Report – Missouri

## State Contact

Justine Gartner  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
Forestry Division  
P.O. Box 180  
2901 W. Truman Boulevard  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Phone: (573) 522-4115 ext 3116  
Fax: (573) 526-6670  
E-mail: [Justine.gartner@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Justine.gartner@mdc.mo.gov)  
Web site: [www.missouriconservation.org](http://www.missouriconservation.org)

## State Forester

Lisa Allen  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
P.O. Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Phone: (573) 522-4115  
Fax: (573) 526-6670  
E-mail: [lisa.allen@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:lisa.allen@mdc.mo.gov)

## Introduction

The mission of the Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) community forestry program is to promote the development of sustainable community forests throughout Missouri. MDC assists communities through enabling grants, promotion and coordination of volunteer-driven community forestry programs, local coordination of the Tree City USA program, and numerous opportunities for training. A State coordinator leads the effort, which includes seven urban foresters whose primary responsibility is the delivery of community forestry assistance. In addition, 58 field foresters also have some community forestry responsibilities. Statewide policy development and implementation are managed in partnership with the *Missouri Community Forestry Council* using a team approach.

The top emerging issues/opportunities include:

- Assisting communities that sustained major damage to their community forest in the past 24 months from ice and wind
- Preparing at the State and community level for emerald ash borer (EAB)
- Addressing urban sprawl and forest fragmentation along transportation corridors

## Key Accomplishments

### Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

Community forestry accomplishments in FY 08 were accelerated by the addition of \$250,000 to the agency's **Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM)** cost-share program, making the total budget for the program \$500,000. These additional funds were targeted to assist communities impacted by multiple ice storms over the last 24 months.

The program funded 57 projects, completing 20 tree inventory projects, many of which were undertaken by long-standing Tree City USA communities. This qualified them for "Sustaining" status in this year's CARS report. Several smaller communities also completed inventory projects hoping to better prepare their community in the event of other natural disasters.

Twenty-five projects were primarily hazard tree removal for work that was outside of FEMA's scope of authority. Seventy percent of the \$500,000 available was spent in communities that were part of the January 2007 Federal Disaster declaration following a massive ice storm. This investment was matched with \$307,830 in local funds.

While the on-the-ground accomplishments supported through TRIM are impressive, the true triumph has been the amount of recognition community forestry has received by communities and by our own

Conservation Commission. In fact, the results were so positive that the Commission has allocated additional funds in the coming fiscal year to continue to assist communities with tree management.

### Partnerships

The Legacy Trails subdivision is the first residential low-impact development to be undertaken in the Springfield area. This 56-home community, built by Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, takes an ecologically friendly approach to site development and stormwater management. The goal is to mitigate development impacts to land, water, and air by incorporating earth-friendly elements like native plant landscaping, curbless roads, and porous pavement. To date, more than 30 homes have been built.



What makes this project unique is the number of organizations and agencies that have come together to make it a reality. Habitat for Humanity of Springfield joined with Greene County, the city of Springfield, MDC, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Drury University, Missouri Society of American Foresters, and many others. MDC's role has been to provide suitable trees and shrubs and to coordinate the volunteers for planting them. In addition, MDC staff secured a Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation grant of \$5,000 to fund a native plant and rain garden project. To date, six projects have been designed and three installed. To assure that this hard work isn't lost to neglect, Habitat has employed a full-time horticulturalist to oversee the installation of plants and their maintenance.

### Emerging Threats

A statewide response plan and implementation schedule addressing the impact of EAB were crafted by the Missouri Departments of Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources with assistance from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Stakeholders were offered numerous opportunities to comment. The response plan was officially adopted by the three key State agencies approximately 3 weeks before the insect was found in Missouri.

### Statistical Highlights

Managing and Developing Communities	160
Population of Participating Communities	2,814,128
Volunteer Assistance Generated (hours)	33,812