

## AWARDS PRESENTED FOR OUTSTANDING CARE OF TREES

*The Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Community Forestry Council announce winners of their annual community forestry awards competition.*

KIRKSVILLE—The Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Community Forestry Council recognized a total of five communities, institutions, and organizations for substantially improving their respective community's trees. Missouri Department of Conservation State Forester Lisa Allen and Missouri Community Forestry Council Chair Ben Grossman presented four *Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence Awards* and one *Citation of Merit* at the annual Missouri Community Forestry Council Conference March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Kirksville.

Justine Gartner, Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence coordinator for the Conservation Department, said to win recognition applicants must outline how their care of trees contributed significantly to the town or area where they are located and that their work is part of a sustain long term effort. "The overall health and attractiveness of any community's trees depends on many people practicing good tree stewardship on public and private property. Well designed tree plantings and sustained long term care of existing trees are important to assuring a healthy community forest."

Arbor Award winners this year were: **Missouri Science and Technology – Custodial and Landscape Services** (Business/Institution Category); **City of Hannibal** (Municipalities/Governments Category); **Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission- Junior Treekeeper program** (Organization Category) and **Forest ReLeaf of Missouri** in St. Louis (Organization Category). In addition a Citation of Merit was presented to the **Raytown Tree Board** (Municipalities/Governments Category). These five were selected from numerous nominations received from across the state. Nominations were evaluated based on sustainability, use of sound tree management principles, effectiveness, size of area affected, and innovation.

For more information about the Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence, contact Justine Gartner at 573/522-4115 extension 3116 or at [Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Justine.Gartner@mdc.mo.gov) .