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*

2018 Annual Report

For calendar year ending December 31st 2018

*Submitted to the Kirkwood City Administration2-21-2019 via email*

I **Membership:**

1. The calendar year opened with members**: David Slane**, Chair. **Linda Holekamp**, **Matthew Stacker, Barbara Sandhagen**, **Joe Day**, **Andy Baldridge**, and **Carol Rush**.
2. **Matthew Stacker’s** term expired in May. Matthew’s vacant position was filled by **Chris Molitor** who started his term in June.

KUFC Activity (Leadership included)

Urban Forester: **Cory Meyer**.

Junior Treekeepers Program: **Linda Holekamp and Barbara Sandhagen.**

Education and Outreach: **Joe Day**

Public Tree Inventory: **David Slane**

Tree City USA/Growth Award Submittals: **David Slane and Cory Meyer**

Event Participation: Green Tree Festival Booth, Earth Day Booth

II. **Liaison Representation**

**Mark Zimmer** served for the entire year as Council Liaison.

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 on April 21st at 9am. Mayor Tim Griffin at a City Council Meeting and at the actual ceremony read the Proclamation. 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 in the tree lawn area directly across from the Farmers Market. Representatives attended the ceremony from the City, Extension Office and general public. A 2.5” caliper Black Gum (Green Gables) was donated by KUFC Chair, David Slane.

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

1. **January**

345 George: Request for removal of 1 White Oak at this address by property owner. Request was approved by a Board vote.

326 E Jefferson: Request for removal of Ash tree by the property owner. Request was approved by a Board vote.

1. **April**

859 Briar Farm Ln: Homeowner requested to remove large Sweet Gum tree. Approved by Board vote.

1. **July**

517 Coverdale: The property owner and Builder requested removal of a healthy large diameter Red Oak. Request was voted on and denied by Board vote. This recommendation by the KUFC was not taken by the City Officials and the tree was ultimately removed.

**August**

505 S Kirkwood Rd: Request by Concordia Lutheran Church to remove two Pin Oaks in the way of construction. Request Approved by Board vote.

403 Longfellow: Request to remove healthy tree from area where planned driveway is going. Request denied by Board vote.

**September**

1005 Glenford Place: Request was made by homeowner to remove Sugar Maple. Request was denied by Board vote.

**November**

1025 Berry Ct: Request to remove Zelkova Tree in the ROW. Request approved by Board vote.

V **Kirkwood Street Tree Inventory**: The Inventory is currently in a maintenance mode through constant updates as trees are planted and other trees are removed. The EAB infestation is still being monitored and Ash Tree removal and or treatment is ongoing.

VI **Kirkwood Junior Treekeepers**: The program lost one more school (St. Gerard) in 2018 leaving only St Peter School as the only School participating in the program. The KUFC is currently working to develop and implement a new style program starting in 2019 that will hopefully attract the other Kirkwood grade schools back to participation.

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 2019.

VIII **Tree City USA**: 2018 completed Kirkwood’s 27th 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:** In December, 2018 the Kirkwood City Council voted to pass into law the new Tree Ordinance.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Slane, 2018 Chair, Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission