



For Immediate Release: April 14, 2022

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32nd Annual Raytown Arbor Day Celebration

Raytown Parks plants Magnolia tree, gives away saplings to residents

(Raytown, Mo.) On Thursday, April 14, at 9 a.m., Raytown Parks and Recreation in partnership with Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) planted a Magnolia tree at Krister Park, 11707 E 75th St, in celebration of Arbor Day and the City's 19 years of being a Tree City USA designation. Last year's events were virtual, but this year's event returned to in person.

"Raytown is a perfect example of understanding the benefits of having beautiful green spaces and trees that help people reduce stress and provide a calming effect for the people," said Chuck Conner, MDC Community Forester. "These benefits are brought about through the planting and hard work of the Raytown Parks Department."

When trees are planted:

- Healthy communities are fostered
- Land is protected and revitalized
- Native biodiversity is restored

This year's tree planted at Kritser Park is a Magnolia grandiflora 'Bracken Brown Beauty.' It was chosen for its broad leaf evergreen that remains green throughout winter and its creamy white flowers that emit a lovely fragrance. When full grown, this Magnolia tree will stand about 40 feet tall and 20 feet wide.

Seven new trees will also be planted at other Raytown parks this month as part of MDC's Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) grant. Parks was a 2021 \$10,000 grant recipient.

In efforts to expand the benefits of trees throughout the community, the Parks Department is giving away Swamp Oak saplings. These shade trees can live for more than 300 years, will grow to be medium in size and produces acorns. Supplies are limited. To pick up your free tree, stop by the Parks office between 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, 5912 Lane Avenue.

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