

TREE TALK

Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission

Storms & Trees: How to Reduce Damage

In recent years Kirkwood has seen an increase in moderate to severe summer storms that have wreaked havoc on our City's trees. The cost associated with aid extended to our residents to clean up from these storms has accumulated to over \$250,000.

Many people ask, "How can we keep this from happening?" in short, we cannot. But we can reduce the impact that these storms have on our trees. To do this, we must be proactive in our care and maintenance. The City for example has adopted a routine pruning program where we are actively pruning the public trees in Kirkwood on an 8-year cycle. Since adopting this program, we have seen a decrease in public tree-related storm debris over the past 4 years.

Having a reputable tree company, with a certified arborist on staff to aid in the maintenance of your trees will help reduce the possibilities of damage. This can be done by proper pruning, removing dead limbs, and hazardous branches, and even on some occasions reducing overreaching branches that may cause problems. The biggest takeaway is to have a Certified Arborist inspect your trees and have them professionally maintained for their health and safety. To find a Certified Arborist, you can visit www.isa-arbor.com and follow their link to "Find an Arborist."

City of Kirkwood Storm Debris Policy

You can visit www.kirkwoodmo.org/forestry and click the Storm Debris" link under Resources to view the City's Storm Debris Policy.

Kirkwood Electric: Pruning & Tree Removal

Starting this year, Kirkwood Electric partnered with Kirkwood's Forestry Division to develop and monitor a more sustainable vegetation management system for their electric lines. This new system is a more aggressive approach than we have had in the past but is planned to be beneficial not only to Kirkwood Electric but more importantly to the residents of Kirkwood and the City as a whole.

This system will include more aggressive pruning around utility lines to reduce storm-related power outages from trees. Not only will this reduce the power outages, but we will also reduce the need to revisit the same areas year after year.

If we recognize nuisance trees we are often removing these trees with a plan to replant smaller trees that will not interfere with the utility hardware. We are working with residents when we identify these trees within the utility easements. For more information on this program, visit our website at www.kirkwoodmo.org/forestry and select the "Kirkwood Electric Pruning" link under Resources.



Kathy & Paul Paulsen received plaques for being named Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission Advocates of the Year for 2021 at the July 7th City Council meeting.



Members of Kirkwood City Council and the Kirkwood Urban Forestry Commission at the 2022 Arbor Day Tree Planting in Downtown Kirkwood on April 23rd.

Interested in learning more about the City's Tree Ordinance or the Urban Forestry Commission? Check out the Urban Forestry Commission webpage by opening your camera and pointing it at the QR Code on the right to be taken directly to their page at kirkwoodmo.org





HANDS ON KIRKWOOD

A missionALL community project. Making a difference.



October 1, 2022

www.HandsOnKirkwood.org

Hands on Kirkwood (HOK) is a one-day mission blitz of our local community. A special day when every member of our community is encouraged and empowered to go serve. HOK gives us that opportunity. It is a simple way – just sign-up to serve neighbors in need. Sign up as a

How can I help? So glad you asked ...

- Visit **HandsOnKirkwood.org** to see all of the volunteer opportunities and sign up to help! Need an excuse to get out of the house? Sign up as a family or your pod to help on yard projects OR help us clean up the historic Father Dickson Cemetery.
- We will need volunteers to help drop yellow bags on Kirkwood doors the last part of September for a food and personal care items drive. And volunteers to help pick up on Saturday, October 2.
- Like us on Facebook for many other opportunities to serve and get served!

For more info on Hands On Kirkwood events go to
www.HandsOnKirkwood.org.



Please visit our giving store using the KirkCare (local food pantry), Kirkwood

QR code. Collected items will go to School District, Meramec Brown Bag

What to do if you need help?

FREE OUTDOOR Home and Yard Projects

Volunteers will serve Kirkwood residents who are in need of help outside of their home who may not be able to do it on their own. There are a variety of ways we can help including yard work or small OUTDOOR home repairs. If you, or maybe your elderly or single parent neighbor need some help, give us a call at 314-965-2349 EXT 111, weekdays, 9am to 4pm. We are limited in how many projects we can do, so best to call sooner than later.

FREE Winterize Car Check - 9:30am - 12pm Kirkwood Baptist Church, 211 N Woodlawn

FREE of charge, volunteers will inspect cars and provide visitors with recommended items to follow up with your local mechanic. In addition, windshield wiper fluid will be topped off and tires and batteries will be checked.

Electronic Recycling - 9:00am - 12pm St. Louis Community College-Meramec, West Parking Lot (Off Big Bend)

Volunteers will help unload your electronics to recycle. There is a charge for TV's, monitors and some other electronics. Most items are free.

Paper Shredding - 9:00am - 12pm Enterprise Bank and Trust, 1052 S Kirkwood Road

Volunteers will help unload your confidential papers to shred. Three bag limit, personal only, no commercial.

VISIT www.HandsOnKirkwood.org for more info and other events!