MDC Landowner Assistance Program and TRIM Grant

Angie Weber, Community Conservation Planner
Purpose: To help landowners achieve their land use objectives in ways that enhance the conservation of natural resources.
LAP Guidelines

• Eligible Applicants
  • Any Missouri landowner
  • City and County units of government
  • NGOs

• Application Info.
  • Limited funds available
  • First come, first served
  • Fiscal year begins on July 01
LAP Guidelines

• Funding
  • Maximum of $5,000 per landowner per year
  • Limit varies by individual practice
  • Flat rates vs. percentage rates
  • In-Kind contributions: seed, machinery use, labor, etc.

• Monitoring
  • Randomly spot check 10% of completed projects, not to exceed 15 per year per region
  • 1/2 from previous fiscal year and remainder from earlier years
  • 10 - 25 year maintenance requirement
  • Failure to comply: repayment and loss of eligibility for future participation
LAP Practices

- Invasive Plant Species Management
- Native Herbaceous Vegetation Establishment
- Native Tree & Shrub Establishment
- Woodland Improvement
- Stream Bank Restoration
- Stormwater Management
- Prescribed Fire Management
- Natural Resource Inventory & Plan Development
TRIM Grant

Tree Resource Improvement & Maintenance

- Purpose: To promote sustainable community forestry.
TRIM Grant Guidelines

- **Eligible Applicants**
  - All units of government
  - Public Schools
  - 501(c)(3) groups with permission

- **Application Info.**
  - Due June 1
  - Competitive application process
  - Reviewed by urban forester prior to submittal

- **Criteria**
  - Projects must be located on publicly owned property
  - Approved projects must be completed by following May
TRIM Grant Guidelines

- **Funding**
  - Cost-share ranges from 60-75 percent
  - Maximum per project is $10,000; minimum is $1,000
TRIM Grant Guidelines

- Eligible Practices
  - Community tree inventories
  - Community tree management plan development
  - Initial costs of certification for in-house employees by the International Society of Arboriculture
  - Municipal tree ordinance development
  - Purchase and distribution of tree care education materials
  - Removal of hazardous trees
  - Training for city employees and volunteers
  - Tree planting projects as part of a comprehensive tree management program
  - Tree pruning
Dougherty Ridge Subdivision
Erb Crossing Subdivision

BEFORE

JUNE 2010

OCT 2011

FEB 2012
Program Overview

• Project sites must be within defined geographic boundaries
• Grant requests cannot exceed $10,000
• Projects must be completed within 2 years of signing grant agreement
Program Goals

1. Provide support for habitat improvement
2. Encourage partnerships for land stewardship
3. Engage urban residents in community conservation through volunteer efforts
The College School

- Purchased property for restoration & education purposes
- Located in the LaBarque Creek watershed
- Restoring remnant glades, stream bank restoration, and controlling bush honeysuckle.
St. Charles County Parks

• Native habitat restoration
• Converting crop field to prairie habitat
• Supported by Greenway Network & Master Naturalist volunteers
Bethany-Peace Church

- Church organization in a highly urban part of St. Louis County
- Half-acre prairie reconstruction
- Project has strong volunteer and community support
Grant Recipients

41 projects have been funded since 2007:

- 23 Non-profit organizations
- 5 Municipal parks departments
- 3 County parks departments
- 8 Public school districts
Partner Contributions

• 92 organizations partnered on 41 projects by contributing matching funds and in-kind resources
• MDC awarded $389,894 in grants
• Partners contributed $549,191 and 10,540 volunteer hours to projects
Land Restoration Accomplishments

Projects have improved:

- 126 acres of forest
- 24 acres of wetland
- 156 acres of prairie/grassland
- 5600 feet of stream bank
- 4 acres of glade
- 1 cave
Program Accomplishments

- MDC name recognition
- Conservation education opportunities
- Connects urban residents with conservation
- Partnerships to achieve common goals
Questions?

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Photo courtesy of Perry Eckhardt