

Date: JUNE 2, 2011

Subject: FUND ESTABLISHED TO RESTORE TREES IN JOPLIN

Contact: LOUISE KNAUER, CFO, (417) 864-6199; OR KATHRYN BRADEN, RC&D, (417) 335-0671

The Southwest Missouri Resource Conservation & Development office has established the “Trees for Joplin Fund” with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks to accept donations to help re-plant the city’s tree canopy ravaged in the May 22 tornado.

The RC&D plans to use its network of partnerships, volunteer and technical assistance, and bulk purchasing power at tree stock nurseries to support tree restoration.

“When trees and landscaping return, it will start to feel more like a community,” said Kathryn Braden, Chair of Southwest Missouri RC&D.

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program’s goal is to accelerate the conservation, development and use of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in its areas.

The RC&D program took a similar leadership role in tree restoration after an EF5 tornado leveled 95 percent of the city of Greensburg, Kan., in May 2007. Greensburg, which was designated as a Tree City U.S.A. before the tornado, received the designation again after the reforestation process. Joplin was designated as a Tree City, U.S.A. in 2009, according to the national Arbor Day Foundation.

The tree restoration effort complements the mission of the CFO and its affiliate, the Community Foundation of Southwest Missouri, Inc., to focus on the recovery and rebuilding process for Joplin’s non-profit agencies. The CFO/CFSWMO established the overall [“Joplin Recovery Fund”](#) to support mid- to long-term community redevelopment.

Donors interesting in contributing to Joplin’s reforestation can make contributions online at: www.cfozarks.org/donate; or send checks to Community Foundation of the Ozarks, P.O. Box 8960, Springfield, MO, 65801. Please note “Trees for Joplin” in the fund/program box online or on your check.

Community Foundation of the Ozarks
425 E. Trafficway
Springfield, MO, 65806
(417) 864-6199
Fax (417) 864-8344
www.cfozarks.org