**Centralia Parks and Recreation Department Finalizes Tree Grant Project**

The Centralia Parks and Recreation Department was approved for a TRIM grant through the Missouri Department of Conservation. The focus of the project was to improve the tree population throughout the Centralia Parks by removing hazardous trees and replacing them with healthy trees. The overwhelming majority of the tree removals were Ash trees that are significantly affected by the Emerald Ash Borer and stress due to age. The Grant focuses on diversifying the tree population in order to prevent mass issues that affect a given species.

Tree removals include grinding stumps, removing stump grindings, backfilling stump areas and re-seeding stump areas. Tree planting includes planting, mulching and staking trees. The Park Department will annually prune and mulch trees as well as water trees as needed. The Park Department will replace any tree that dies within the first three years after planting.

A certified Arborist inspected all of the identified trees and made recommendations that guided the project. 42 Trees were identified for removal and 2 trees were identified for significant pruning. 37 of the 42 removals were Green Ash trees.

The trees that have been purchased and planted are approved by the Department of Conservation. Thirty seven of the 42 replacement trees are native to Missouri. The following trees were purchased and planted throughout the Park system:

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| **Number** | **Tree Type** |
| 8 | Armstrong Maple |
| 4 | Hackberry |
| 4 | Sawtooth Oak |
| 3 | Kentucky Coffee |
| 4 | October Glory Maple |
| 4 | White Spire Birch |
| 4 | Frontier Elm |
| 2 | Taylor Juniper |
| 5 | Norway Spruce |
| 2 | Heritage River Birch |
| 2 | Serviceberry |

The TRIM Grant application was approved in October and the Park Department finalized the project in December of 2022. The total cost of the project was $46,498.04. The Department of Conservation pays 90% of the project cost with the Park Department being responsible for the remaining 10%. The total amount of the requested reimbursement to the Centralia Park Department is $42,201.04.