

# NEWS



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bourbon city park gains 22 trees thanks to donation from Crawford Electric Cooperative**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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BOURBON – Thanks to a donation from Crawford Electric Cooperative, visitors to Bourbon’s city park can look forward to years of shaded spots to rest and play when newly planted trees mature.

City workers planted 22 trees this fall, placing them strategically in the park so that they ultimately will shade benches and playground equipment. The trees were purchased with funds provided by Crawford Electric as part of the co-op’s public outreach commitment as a Tree Line USA Utility.

This is the 15th year the co-op has earned the Tree Line USA designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation. The Tree Line USA program exists to recognize best practices in utility tree management, which benefit both the utilities and the communities they serve. Crawford Electric uses an integrated vegetation management approach to maintain more than 3,000 miles of utility right-of-way. A proven utility-industry standard, IVM employs mechanical pruning techniques and selective herbicide application.

Among the core standards a Tree Line USA Utility must meet is a commitment to promoting proper tree planting techniques, with an emphasis on expanding the tree canopy in the community. Each year, the co-op works with community leaders across the service territory to support such projects.

“Tree planting and public education is a fun part of my job,” said Terry Gordon, the co-op’s right-of-way program manager. “As a professional forester, I love trees and understand their value. As a utility specialist, I also understand that trees and power lines don’t mix,” he said.

Encouraging people to plant the right tree in the right place – away from the utility right-of-way – is a critical component of the co-op’s public education outreach.

The 22 trees planted in the park were selected and sited for beauty and shade potential. The planting comprises seven flowering pears, five Kousa dogwoods, five Eastern redbuds, two shumard oaks and three autumn blaze red maples.

Crawford Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy, a national alliance of locally owned, community-minded electric co-ops with high standards of service. Crawford Electric serves almost 20,000 meters along more than 3,000 miles of distribution lines in Crawford, Franklin, Gasconade, Washington and Dent counties.

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**CUTLINE INFO: (Playground pic):** The playground equipment in the Bourbon city park (background) will gain shade from a tree-planting made possible by a donation from Crawford Electric Cooperative, a Tree Line USA Utility. (L to R) Crawford Electric employees Terry Gordon and Scott Blue, Bourbon Mayor Danny Skaggs and city employee Mike Gazaway surround a shumard oak sapling.

**(bench pic):** This bench in the Bourbon city park will gain shade from the autumn blaze maple planted behind it. A few more of the 22 new trees in the Bourbon city park are visible in the background.