



Each year, awards are given to those working to preserve and advance our urban forests. These awards recognize communities, projects, and individuals for their exemplary leadership, commitment, and achievements in urban forestry for 2019.

❖ **Outstanding Urban Forestry Leader.**

This award recognizes an individual who works for an organization, or whose business is related to urban forestry, and has made outstanding contributions to the urban forestry effort at the local, regional, or state level.



Karen Sippy works tirelessly to increase advocacy for the Urban Forestry Program within the City of Missoula. She has been instrumental in encouraging the use of green infrastructure including Silva Cells within the City’s downtown business district. Karen has been working with developers, contractors, city staff and engineers to encourage the use of green infrastructure.

Karen also coordinates a diverse and active group of volunteers that in the last year have put in over a 150 hours over the last year planting and pruning trees, hanging tree watering tags and putting up deer protection fencing around new trees.

2017 also saw one of the most intense grant projects undertaken by Trees for Missoula and City Urban Forestry. With the help of many local partners, MUCFA and the DNRC a barren and trashed site was turned into a community treasure. The site is located adjacent to the main commuter trail system, major arterial road and railroad track. The

area was a weed filled lot that saw no use by the neighborhood. Now the site boasts, three new trees, native grasses, an irrigation system to maintain the landscape and a shade shelter. The shelter was built by volunteers and Missoula's Home Resource and designed by a local architect group. All of this was coordinated and spearheaded by Karen. If not for her tireless dedication, this project would never have come to pass.

- ❖ **Outstanding Urban Forestry Volunteer.** This award recognizes an individual who works for an organization, or whose business is related to urban forestry, and has made outstanding contributions to the urban forestry effort at the local, regional, or state level.

Since 1989 Growing Friends has been a leader in planting and advocating for trees in Helena. They operate a nonprofit cost sharing planting program as well as administering small grants for planting projects. Their main focus is planting in the rights of way and schools. Growing Friends estimates they are responsible for the planting of 3-4000 trees not including trees planted through their grant program. They have also supported the City of Helena Urban Forestry department getting 2 increases in funding and encouraging the city to adopt tree friendly policies and procedures. The original board of directors is retiring and this last year they have been working with several new members grooming them for a total replacement of the board. I think it would be admirable to recognize the outgoing board for their 30 years of leadership, service and accomplishments as well as energizing the new members taking over.

- ❖ **Outstanding Urban Forestry Partner.** This award recognizes the company that demonstrates true corporate citizenship and dedication to protecting and enhancing community forest resources in Montana. This company is a valuable partner and supporter of the Associations programs and its mission.

AMTOPP has made tremendous efforts to increase arborists events throughout 2019 including a great winter conference, aerial rescue class in Helena, their summer field day at the MT Veterans' home in Kalispell, support of Saluting Branches in Helena, their offer of financial support for the Tree Worker Academy which was cancelled, and the tremendous upcoming winter conference in January 2020.

- ❖ **Outstanding Media Award.** This award recognizes an individual or group that has utilized media to promote urban and community forestry in their community or state.

Scott has done an amazing job reestablishing the Yellowstone Arboretum at Zoo Montana in Billings, Montana. The website <https://www.yellowstonearboretum.org/> is packed with useful tree knowledge about the arboretum. The website is beautiful and well done. On the website you can find the arboretums tree inventory with pictures of each tree and a wealth of knowledge on each tree. Many of the trees at the arboretum are labeled with placards further educating the public about trees.

Scott also produces a monthly newsletter <https://www.yellowstonearboretum.org/news> that is disseminated around the state providing a look into what is happening at Zoo Montana concerning the Arboretum. Scott and the Yellowstone Arboretum use of media has added to what already is an amazing program they have happening at Zoo Montana.