

**Natural & Cultural Heritage Grant  
Program  
TARGET Project Application  
2011**



The Douglas County Commission allocated \$350,000 for the 2011 County budget to assist with the development and creation of natural and cultural heritage conservation projects. As part of this process, the Douglas County Commission created the Natural & Cultural Heritage Task Force in the fall of 2011 with the objective of recommending the process for awarding the allocated money.

The grant application materials are designed to be straight forward enough to encourage grant submissions from a wide variety of interests. Individuals, organizations and businesses can apply. The amount of detail and verification required should be dependent in part on the amount of the request. At the same time, applicants should provide enough information to demonstrate their ability to carry out and accomplish the purpose for which they are requesting public funds. The grant application should convey what is expected in terms of the requirements for eligibility and the desired outcomes.

This packet is the application for a **TARGET PROJECT**. The Natural & Cultural Heritage Task Force has defined a target project as a proposal requesting at most \$104,999. Please refer to pages 8-9 of the *Natural & Cultural Heritage Task Force's Final Report* to learn how heritage applications will be evaluated.

Grant monies will be distributed to each grant recipient under terms of a performance agreement between the recipient and Douglas County.

The Heritage Conservation Council may contact applicants for further information or clarification. If you have any additional questions or concerns please contact:

Heritage Conservation Council  
Douglas County Courthouse  
1100 Massachusetts Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Level  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
785-832-5268

To apply, please send your application to the above address by Friday, September 23, 2011 by the close of the business day. Include as much information as possible about the proposed project. You may attach additional pages and any supplemental information if necessary. Electronic applications are encouraged.

**Section 1: Applicant Information**

Please fill out the following

Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners

Name of Applicant or Organization:

Jennifer Smith, Douglas County Extension Agent – Horticulture

Name of Organization’s Director (if different from above)

2110 Harper St, Lawrence KS 66046

Address (include township if applicable):

smithjen@ksu.edu

Email:

785-843-7058

Phone #

785-917-1240

Cell Phone #

**Section 2:Project Information**

Heritage Trees of Douglas County, Kansas

Project Title:

Multiple locations within Douglas County

Address of Project:

Numerous public entities and private individuals

Names of individuals/organization that own the property:

Will be provided through educational materials associated with the project.

Contact Information for those individuals and/or groups:

Heritage Trees of Douglas County is a project to educate Douglas County residents and visitors about the cultural heritage of significant and historical trees, and to protect and conserve those trees.

Project Description Summary:

N/A

Number of Acres:

\$ 2,700  
Amount Requested

\$ 5,836  
Project Budget

Scope of project:  
(Please check all that apply)

- Historic Structures
- Prairie; woodlands, waterways; habitat restoration/preservation
- Agriculture; working farms; heritage farms
- Freedom’s Frontier themes (Civil War and pre-Civil War heritage; Settlement stories before and after Civil War; Enduring struggle for freedom)
- Pre-settlement history

**Section 3: Project Description**

**a) Specifically explain the proposed project, including any regulations, guidelines, or best practices that will be followed. What do you plan to do? When? How? Photos, plans, drawings, illustrations, building condition reports or building inspections that are related to the proposed project may be included separately as support materials.**

The purpose of the “Heritage Trees of Douglas County, Kansas” project is to search for, locate, and identify trees of historical significance in Douglas County, Kansas. From among those trees found and researched, a number will be selected to be labeled and made known to the public. Any especially large trees will be evaluated for championship status. A brochure will be published to distribute to residents and visitors to enjoy our trees and enrich and expand their knowledge of Douglas County history. Information about the trees and their stories will be available online, and public programs will be given to educate area residents on the trees and their connection to our cultural heritage.

**b) Describe the natural and cultural heritage significance of the project, structure, and or property?**

Heritage trees are typically defined as trees of great size, old age, or that have cultural or historical significance. Heritage trees are often formally recognized and protected by countries and cultures.

Trees represent a natural connection to our heritage. They stand as reminders of settlers and Native Americans that planted them here. Landmark trees played an important role in the settling of Kansas, guiding pioneers to their destinations. Trees are also “mute witnesses” to the history of the people and events in our communities. Finding the stories of old trees and passing those on to the community makes the public aware of the importance of such trees and reconnects us with our history.

**c) Please describe how this project provides a substantial benefit for the conservation of Douglas County natural and cultural resources?**

Trees shade and cool our homes, bring song birds close by, and mark the changes of the seasons. They purify the air and prevent soil erosion, thus helping to conserve natural resources. By identifying historically significant, large and/or old trees, this project will inform and educate the public about trees’ importance to our history and heritage. Trees standing in our presence provide a living link to previous generations.

**d) If applicable, please describe the condition of the property and include photos.**

N/A

**e) Please describe the urgency of the project.**

The biggest risk of losing trees with cultural and historical significance is at the hands of people who lack understanding of this significance and/or the value of trees to the community. This project would help to protect remaining trees by educating residents about the trees' historical and cultural significance and by marking certain trees for preservation.

**f) Describe the expected timeline for completion of this project.**

Trees will be identified and labeled and educational materials will be produced within one year from the date of the award. Additional educational outreach will continue indefinitely.

**g) How will this project connect the physical sites and interpretative stories of Douglas County?**

Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners will produce an educational brochure that links the stories to the physical sites. The information will also be available on the K-State Research and Extension – Douglas County website and will be made available to other pertinent organizations for distribution through print and web. Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners will present educational programs regarding the Heritage Trees of Douglas County project in the year following project completion and hopefully in ongoing years. At least one program will be sponsored by K-State Research and Extension and advertised widely to the public. Other educational programs may be given to local organizations, community groups, and schools upon request. Effort will be given to providing educational programs to as many people as possible and making the program known to the public. Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners will seek publicity through local media and the support of other organizations.

## Section 4: Community Impact

### a) Describe how the project contributes to maintaining or enhancing Douglas County's heritage.

The Heritage Trees of Douglas County project will recognize individual trees with local significance to educate Douglas County residents and visitors about the value of the history of these trees, to promote appreciation of the trees, and to retain and protect the trees as part of our county's heritage.

Douglas County's Heritage Trees will be identified and designated as significant because of their importance in regional history and culture. As living witnesses to history, heritage trees stand as living memorials that connect us to our historical roots and carry an appreciation of the past into the future.

Trees identified and designated as Heritage Trees in this project will meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. The tree is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
2. The tree is associated with the life of a person or group with historical or cultural significance.
3. The tree represents a significant and distinguishable entity within a community or location.
4. The tree's age, size, or species, or a combination of those factors, makes it significant to our heritage.

### b) Will you allow public access to the facility/property?

Yes  No

#### Please explain your response above

The project will seek to identify and label heritage trees located on public property that is easily visible and accessible. However, heritage trees identified on private property must also be included, and public access will be decided by individual landowners. Heritage trees located on private property will include a notation in any educational materials produced, and will instruct visitors to obtain permission from the landowner to view trees on private property.

### c) Please describe the public benefit derived from this project.

The Heritage Trees of Douglas County project will highlight the importance of trees in our cultural history and the many benefits of trees to our community. Trees make all places healthier and more enjoyable as they produce life-giving oxygen. As living things in our midst, trees deserve our praise and protection. The International Society of Arboriculture groups the many benefits of trees into social, communal, environmental, and economic categories. (For more information, see the International Society of Arboriculture website, [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com).) Following are some examples of the many benefits of trees.

### **Social Benefits**

Trees make life more pleasant. The International Society of Arboriculture says, “Most of us respond to the presence of trees beyond simply observing their beauty. We feel serene, peaceful, restful, and tranquil in a grove of trees. We are ‘at home’ there.” Studies have shown that trees can reduce stress, and that views of trees can speed the recovery of hospital patients. Research has also shown that greener urban areas encourage more healthy social interaction between adults and children, as well as lower levels of graffiti, property crime, and violent crime. The strong ties between people and trees have been evident in Douglas County when land owners who seek to remove trees for real estate development meet resistance from community residents who seek to preserve green spaces.

“The stature, strength, and endurance of trees give them a cathedral-like quality. Because of their potential for long life, trees frequently are planted as living memorials. We often become personally attached to trees that we or those we love have planted.”

### **Communal Benefits**

City trees often serve architectural and engineering functions. They provide privacy, improve a pleasant view or screen out an objectionable one. They may reduce glare and reflection, direct pedestrian traffic and provide background to or enhance architecture. Even when trees are on private property, their size often makes them part of the community as well. With proper selection, placement and maintenance, trees enhance the wider streets and neighborhoods where they are grown.

### **Environmental Benefits**

Trees alter the environment by moderating climate, improving air quality, conserving water, and harboring wildlife. Climate control is obtained by moderating the effects of sun, wind, and rain. Wind speed and direction can be affected by trees. The more compact the foliage on the tree or group of trees, the greater the influence of the windbreak. The downward fall of rain, sleet, and hail is initially absorbed or deflected by trees, which provides some protection for people, pets, and buildings. Trees intercept water, store some of it, and reduce storm runoff and the possibility of flooding.

Temperature in the shade of trees is cooler than that away from trees. The larger the tree, the greater the cooling. Trees in urban areas help moderate the heat-island effect caused by pavement and buildings in commercial areas. Air quality is improved as leaves filter the air, removing dust and other particulates that are then washed to the ground by rain. Leaves absorb carbon dioxide from the air to use in growth processes while also absorbing other pollutants—such as ozone, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide—while releasing oxygen into the atmosphere.

Trees and other plants ensure a more natural, less artificial environment. The natural cycles of plant growth, reproduction, and decomposition are present, both above and below ground. Natural harmony is restored to the urban environment.

### **Economic Benefits**

The economic benefits of trees can be both direct and indirect. The purchase of trees and related products such as fertilizer, mulch, and tools provide direct economic stimulus in the community. Energy savings in summer cooling or winter heating are realized when trees create

shade or windbreaks around buildings. Trees increase in value as they grow and mature, which raises property values.

Indirect economic benefits are available to the community through lowered electric bills and reduced need for fossil fuels. Communities also save money if fewer facilities must be built to meet energy demands, control pollution or manage storm water runoff. To the individual, these savings are small, but to the community, reductions in these expenses are often in the thousands of dollars.

The “Heritage Trees of Douglas County, Kansas” project will also complement the efforts of the Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area, which includes Douglas County, to support and nurture the hundreds of individual museums, attractions, historic sites and activities that together define Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area.

**d) Will the project incorporate any educational programs?**

Yes  No

**Please explain your response above**

An educated public is crucial for science-based public policies and responsible stewardship in communities. Citizens in Douglas County should be aware of how trees benefit the community in order to recognize the importance of trees to the area’s historical and cultural heritage, but also to work together to define public policy and find effective solutions for environmental and conservation issues in the future.

A brochure identifying the “Heritage Trees of Douglas County, Kansas” will be produced and made available in the community through the Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners and K-State Research and Extension – Douglas County. Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners will seek distribution of the brochures through the Lawrence Convention and Visitors’ Bureau, the Lawrence Public Library, Douglas County, the City of Lawrence, local garden centers, and other interested organizations and businesses.

Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners will present educational programs regarding the Heritage Trees of Douglas County project in the year following project completion and hopefully in ongoing years. At least one program will be sponsored by K-State Research and Extension and advertised widely to the public. Other educational programs may be given to local organizations, community groups, and schools upon request. Effort will be given to providing educational programs to as many people as possible and making the program known to the public. Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners will seek publicity through local media and the support of other organizations.

Information about “Heritage Trees of Douglas County, Kansas” will be available online through the K-State Research and Extension website and will be shared with other pertinent organizations for distribution through print and web.

## Section 5: Project Costs

a) What are the estimated costs (acquisition, rehabilitation, etc...) for this project? Please include any estimates or bids that have been completed. If the budget presented in this application is a preliminary budget arrived at without firm bids, explain how the cost estimates were determined.

<b>Project Budget - Heritage Trees of Douglas County, Kansas</b>			
<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>In-Kind Contribution Total</b>	<b>Grant Funds Requested</b>
Personnel	Volunteers	\$ 2,136	
Travel	Visits to potential Heritage Trees, placement of tree markers, delivery of informational brochures	\$ 500	
Miscellaneous	Office supplies and use	\$ 500	
Printed materials	Informational brochure		\$ 1,350
Tree markers	Engraved markers (see Appendix A)		\$ 1,125
Tools	Clinometer		\$ 150
Tools	Logger's tape		\$ 50
Tools	Open-reel measuring tape		\$ 25
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 3,136</b>	<b>\$ 2,700</b>

### Cost estimates:

Personnel: Estimated 5 volunteers, approximately 20 hours per volunteer, valued at \$21.36 per hour (Independent Sector, 2010)

Travel: Estimated

Miscellaneous: Estimated

Printed materials: Estimated on basis of previous printing expenses, 3000 brochures at \$0.45 each, 8 ½ x 11", double-sided, 4-color

Tree markers: Estimated price \$15.00 each, Lark Label, approximately 50 markers needed, plus shipping, see Appendix A

Tools: Advertised price, Forestry Suppliers, Inc.

b) How will the project be sustained once the project is completed? For instance, how will ongoing maintenance costs be financed?

There are no ongoing maintenance costs associated with the project. In the event that the educational materials need to be updated after a given period of time, the Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners Board of Directors and/or the Douglas County Extension Agent – Horticulture will determine needs and potential support at that time.

**c) Explain if there are any other resources you intend to use in order to complete this project. This may include other sources of funding, loans, or in-kind contributions.**

Project costs include hours of time and energy in the search, identification, dissemination of information and miles of travel provided by Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners. Incidental supplies such as paper, copy services, phone and internet use, and office supplies will be provided by K-State Research and Extension – Douglas County.

**d) How is this project unique to Douglas County?**

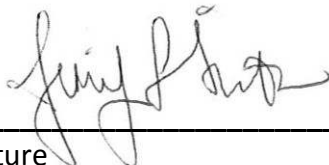
Very often the full aesthetic and environmental benefits of a newly planted tree are not realized until a generation or many generations later. Along with the legacy of beautiful trees from past citizens of Douglas County we sometimes receive the story of how or why a tree was planted or the stories of our history for which our trees have been present.

There certainly are some of the same species of trees in other parts of Kansas and the nation – perhaps some even more beautiful or larger than those we treasure here. The trees of Douglas County are, however, our trees, and the history which they have been present for is uniquely that of Douglas County and its citizens.

There is a legend of a ‘hanging tree’ in or near Lawrence where one of Quantrill’s raiders met his demise. Is the story true? Does the tree still exist? Are there trees in present day Douglas County that once shaded encampments of the Buffalo Soldiers? What about the trees in the Blackjack Battlefield? What stories do they have to tell? What kind of trees are on the battlefield? At least one Lawrence citizen participated in a world-wide reforestation effort to restore the Dawn Redwood, once thought to be extinct. Can we find that tree?

Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners, armed with a Sherlock Holmes attitude, reliable measuring tape, clinometer, and logger’s tape, will seek out trees with cultural and historical significance. Efforts will begin with interviews of local and reputable persons – from individual landowners to amateur and professional arborists to historians and other private citizens – who accept our invitation to help with the project. Douglas County Extension Master Gardeners will search for the stories that are unique to Douglas County and for the trees that lived during the making of our history. In warranted cases, trees will be measured and considered for the Champion Trees of Kansas program sponsored by the Kansas Forest Service.

**Section 6: Signature**



**09-23-2011**

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Signature

Date

**Appendix A.**

Examples of tree markers that would be placed by trees designated as “Heritage Trees of Douglas County, Kansas.” These markers were produced by Lark Label of Wichita, Kansas. They are highly durable, tamper-proof labels and fully customizable.

