



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPS FUND NEW TRACTOR, LOADER AND MOWERS FOR THE CITY OF WHEELING

Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, announced funding of \$21,700 to the City of Wheeling to help purchase a new tractor, loader, and two mowers to maintain the City's property. A certificate representing the funding was presented to the City during a funding celebration held on Monday, December 6th at Wheeling City Hall.

The grant funds originated from Rural Development's Community Facility Grant program. These community facility grants provide funding for essential public improvements to public bodies and non-profit corporations with substantial ties to the local community. The remainder of the cost of the tractor, loader and mowers (\$17,768) was provided by the City of Wheeling.

Rural Development worked with Darrin Fravel, Mayor of Wheeling, in the application phase of funding for the project. Mayor Fravel expressed appreciation to Rural Development for funding of the new tractor, loader and mowers, as the existing tractor did not have sufficient horse-power to maintain city property and the equipment was over 20 years old and beyond repair. The City was not in a financial position to purchase the equipment without the assistance of USDA Rural Development.

"Supplying our communities with the equipment they need to provide proper maintenance helps the area thrive," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "I'm pleased that with the help of USDA/Rural Development competitive grant funds, the City of Wheeling will be able to purchase new machinery to aid in the continued upkeep of the community for future generations."

"Funding these pieces of equipment for the City illustrates that Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities," said Dunning. "Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials supporting Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology

infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Danny L. Jackson, at the Chillicothe Rural Development office, 1100 Morton Parkway, Chillicothe, Missouri 64601 or by calling 660-646-6222 ext. 4.

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