As a TREE CITY USA, your community will receive...

... additions to your awards denoting the year

... a Tree City USA flag

... special anniversary materials

10 Years

TREE CITY USA
Arbor Day Foundation

... along with the joy of stewardship and the gratitude of future generations

The National Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes towns and cities across America that meet the standards of the TREE CITY USA program.

At least half of the trees in a typical city are on public property...along streets, in parks, and around public buildings. The TREE CITY USA program is designed to recognize those communities that effectively manage their public tree resources, and to encourage the implementation of community tree management based on four TREE CITY USA Standards.

These four standards provide structure for a community forestry program, require that program to demonstrate success based on the judgment of the state forester's office, and provide for an awareness and appreciation of trees among the residents of the community.

Tree CITY USA is an ongoing community improvement program, and your community can and should apply for recertification each year.

Ongoing TREE CITY USA recognition can make a strong contribution to your community's pride, and it will keep you in touch with other communities and resources which can help you improve your program.

Application Procedures

The TREE CITY USA application for recertification must be completed by an appropriate city official (mayor, city forester, chairman of the tree board, etc.). Mail the completed application to your state forester along with all requested supporting material no later than December 31. Your state forester will evaluate application and forward it to The National Arbor Day Foundation. You will be advised whether your community qualifies for TREE CITY USA recertification.

Tree City USA Standards

STANDARD 1: A Tree Board or Department

A tree board is a group of concerned citizens, usually volunteer, charged by ordinance to develop and administer a comprehensive community tree management program for the care of trees on public property. Tree boards usually function with the aid of professional foresters. In communities with a population of more then 10,000, city forestry departments with salaried employees are often feasible. These departments may or may not be supported by advisory boards or administrative commissions.

STANDARD 2: A Community Tree Ordinance

The community tree ordinance needs to designate the tree board or department and give them the responsibility for writing and implementing the annual community forestry work plan. The ordinance should determine public tree care policies for planting, maintenance and removals. Ideally, the city tree ordinance will make provisions for establishing and updating a list of recommended street tree species to be planted with spacing and location requirements. A sample tree ordinance may be obtained by writing The National Arbor Day Foundation.

STANDARD 3: A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at least $2 per capita.

Many communities begin their program by taking a inventory of the trees growing on public property. The species, location, and condition of each tree are noted (i.e. healthy, needs pruning, should be removed, etc.) and the inventory data is summarized in a written report for presentation and approval by the city council. The report should be an objective analysis of the present state of the urban forest with recommendations for future management. The essential, ongoing activity for the care of trees along streets, in parks, and on other public places is the community forestry program. The annual work plan should address planting, watering and fertilizing, dead and hazardous tree removal, safety and fine pruning, and insect and disease control. To be named as a TREE CITY USA, a town or city must annually spend at least $2 per capita for its annual community forestry program. Consider all funds spent for tree care – budget for street tree department or board, park department's tree expenditures, dead tree removal, etc.

STANDARD 4: An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

An Arbor Day observance can be simple and brief or an all-day or all-week observance. A proclamation issued by the mayor must accompany the observance and declare the observance of Arbor Day in your community. You can obtain a free "Celebrate Arbor Day!" packet by writing The National Arbor Day Foundation. Along with ideas for celebrating the holiday, the packet contains a sample proclamation.