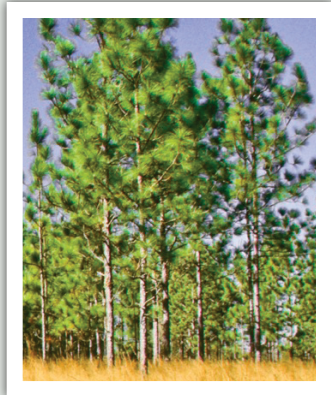


Alabama

2012 State Report



Alabama's State Tree is the Longleaf Pine.

Alabama State Statistics

Active Arbor Day Foundation Members

in Alabama: **15,214**



Program in Alabama:

Tree City USA Communities: **80**

Total population served: **1,554,993**

Largest Tree City USA in Alabama:

Mobile, population 272,630

Smallest Tree City USA in Alabama:

Myrtlewood, population 145

Tree Line USA Utilities: **2**

Tree Campus USA Colleges: **1**

Certified Nature Explore Classrooms: **0**

Alabama celebrates Arbor Day during the last full week in February.

Nature Explore Classrooms Are Changing the Lives of Children

Children today spend less time outdoors and are more disconnected from nature than ever before. At the same time studies show increasing rates of childhood obesity, diabetes, and behavior challenges. Addressing the problem is the growing Nature Explore program, a collaborative project of the Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation. Nature Explore provides comprehensive, field-tested resources to help educators, administrators, and families make nature part of the daily lives of children – at child care centers, schools, nature centers, parks, and at home.



Nature Explore Classrooms, in spaces large and small, continue to be designed and built across the country using field-tested principles in the Learning With Nature Idea Book (available at natureexplore.org). In Nature Explore Classrooms, children begin to understand the natural world around them, instilling a lifelong sense of wonder and a love of nature...creating the earth's next generation of tree planters and environmental stewards. To learn more about Nature Explore Classrooms in Alabama, please visit natureexplore.org/classrooms.

Alabama Members Plant 126,586 Trees

The Arbor Day Foundation's dedicated members are making a difference by planting trees in their communities across the United States. Our 15,214 Alabama members have helped plant more than 126,586 trees across the state last year.

Trees provide numerous benefits to us and our environment. Whether it is planting just one or the thousands of trees mentioned above, our members in Alabama have added beauty to their homes and neighborhoods, increased their property value, attracted birds and other wildlife, provided shade and windbreaks, decreased energy costs, and created a more livable community.



Boys Colony Forest

In the Boys Colony Forest planting more than 100 acres and 71,530 loblolly pine trees were planted to prevent erosion of soils into Lake Tuscaloosa and the surrounding watershed.

The forest is an urban tract that was renovated from farmland to trees in the mid-1960's. The land is on the outskirts of a Tuscaloosa urban area and represents a transitional expanse between residential areas and a major lake.

Lake Tuscaloosa is the primary water source for the City of Tuscaloosa. If the land were not reforested, the drainage and erosion problems would be significant within a very short period of time.

Thanks to Arbor Day Foundation partners and members and the Alabama Forestry Commission, this area is on its way to becoming a green space again and will benefit the surrounding wildlife and watershed for years to come.



KEY

★ = Boys Colony Forest



Alabama Tree City USAs Support Community Forestry

The Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA® program encourages, supports, and strengthens effective urban and community forestry programs in diverse communities nationwide through recognition, education, and publicity. From the humble beginning of the program 36 years ago, it has grown to be the leading community forestry recognition program in the country, with more than 3,400 designated Tree City USAs across America.

Tree City USA is thriving in Alabama because of the strong partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the Alabama Forestry Commission. Alabama boasts 80 certified Tree City USA communities. Last year, Alabama's Tree City USAs spent a combined total of \$16,491,983 on their urban forestry budgets benefiting the more than 1.5 million Alabama residents who live in those communities. The dedication of Alabama's urban and community foresters, city officials, and citizens to planting and caring for trees in their cities and towns helps increase energy savings, clean the air and water, and beautify the entire state.

Tree Campus USA

The Tree Campus USA program recognizes college and university campuses that:

- Effectively manage their campus trees.
- Develop connectivity with the community beyond campus borders to foster healthy, urban forests.
- Strive to engage their student population utilizing service learning opportunities centered on campus, and community forestry efforts.



Colleges and universities can be recognized, just like **Auburn University**, as a Tree Campus USA college by meeting five standards developed to promote healthy trees and student involvement. By meeting the annual standards and being recognized as a Tree Campus USA college, the campus not only benefits the environment but instills pride in the students, faculty, and community.

Learn more about the Tree Campus USA program at arborday.org/treecampususa.

Contacts

For more information about programs offered by the Arbor Day Foundation and our work in Alabama, please visit arborday.org or call:

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