

# Colorado

## 2012 State Report



Colorado's State Tree is the Blue Spruce.

### Colorado State Statistics

Active Arbor Day Foundation Members in Colorado: **17,993**



**TREE CITY USA®**

### Program in Colorado:

Tree City USA Communities: **93**  
Total population served: **3,324,575**

Largest Tree City USA in Colorado:  
**Denver, population 598,007**

Smallest Tree City USA in Colorado:  
**Campo, population 154**

Tree Line USA Utilities: **1**

Tree Campus USA Colleges: **3**

Certified Nature Explore Classrooms: **3**

**Colorado celebrates Arbor Day  
on the third Friday in April.**

### 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](http://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 Colorado, please visit [natureexplore.org/classrooms](http://natureexplore.org/classrooms).

### Colorado Members Plant 127,494 Trees

The Arbor Day Foundation's dedicated members are making a difference by planting trees in their communities across the United States. Our 17,993 Colorado members have helped plant more than 127,494 trees across the state last year.

Barbara Masters, a loyal member from Akron, Colorado has been planting Foundation membership trees since 1986. Barbara shared with us a photo of her trees. With wonderful, dedicated members like Barbara, Colorado will always have a strong and majestic tree presence.



Barbara Masters, a member from Colorado, shared this photo of trees she has planted.

## Pike National Forest

Spanning three million acres in central and southeast Colorado, the Pike & San Isabel National Forests offer visitors a diverse landscape, from the short grass prairies to the alpine tundra. The South Platte watershed rises in the Pike National Forest. More than 60 percent of the water used by Denver residents originates in the forest as rain or snowmelt.

The Hayman Fire burned approximately 137,000 acres – the largest fire in Colorado’s history – and within the critical South Platte watershed. In moderate and high intensity burn areas, 100 percent of the trees were lost – and, along with them, future seed sources for natural regeneration. With the help of Arbor Day Foundation partners, 140,000 ponderosa pine and Douglasfir trees were planted recently. The work being done is critical; wildlife is beginning to return to the area and newly planted trees are now covering a landscape once barren and charred. We truly are making a difference in the recovery of an area that needs our help.



KEY

★ = Pike National Forest

## Tree Campus USA

Colleges and universities across the United States can be recognized 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.

The following Colorado colleges have been recognized as Tree Campus USA schools:

- Fort Lewis College
- University of Colorado – Boulder
- Western State College of Colorado

Learn more about the Tree Campus USA program at [arborday.org/treecampususa](http://arborday.org/treecampususa).

## Colorado 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 Colorado because of the strong partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the Colorado State Forest Service. Colorado boasts 93 certified Tree City USA communities. Last year, Colorado’s Tree City USAs spent a combined total of \$17,484,143 on their urban forestry budgets benefiting the more than 3.3 million Colorado residents who live in those communities. The dedication of Colorado’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.



## Contacts

For more information about programs offered by the Arbor Day Foundation and our work in Colorado, please visit [arborday.org](http://arborday.org) or call:

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