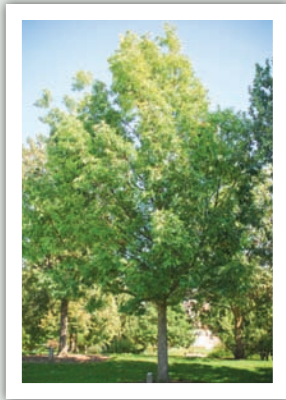


Illinois

2012 State Report



Illinois state tree is the White Oak.

Illinois State Statistics

Active Arbor Day Foundation Members
in Illinois: **39,718**



TREE CITY USA®

Program in Illinois:

Tree City USA Communities: **188**
Total population served: **7,507,832**

Largest Tree City USA in Illinois:
Chicago, population 2,746,590

Smallest Tree City USA in Illinois:
Steward, population 271

Tree Line USA Utilities: **5**

Tree Campus USA Schools: **12**

Certified Nature Explore Classrooms: **8**

**Illinois celebrates Arbor Day
on the last 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.

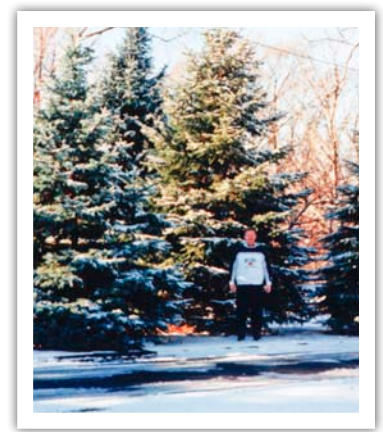
Nature Explore Classrooms, in spaces large and small, continue to be designed and built across the country using field-tested principles in the *Learning With Nature Idea Book* (available at natureexplore.org). In Nature Explore Classrooms, children begin to understand the natural world around them, 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 Illinois, please visit natureexplore.org/classrooms.



Illinois Members Plant 266,670 Trees

The Arbor Day Foundation's dedicated members are making a difference by planting trees in their communities across the United States. Our 39,718 Illinois members helped plant more than 266,670 trees across the state last year.

Tom Anderson, a loyal member from Palatine, Illinois, has been planting Foundation membership trees since 1987. Tom shared the photo at right and one of his favorite tree stories with us. "I remember my neighbor laughing at me when I planted my cute little 2-1/2 foot blue spruce across from his giant 7-foot tree. As you can see, his tree is no longer much taller than mine. Now we're both laughing." With wonderful, dedicated members like Tom, Illinois will always have a strong and majestic tree presence.



Tom Anderson with his blue spruce.

Our State and National Forests are National Treasures

From coast to coast, they are more than our national forests. They are national treasures. They thrill us with towering majesty and inspire us with breathtaking beauty. They provide wood for our homes, habitat for wildlife, clean air, and drinking water for millions of us.

But, in recent years, record wildfire seasons have destroyed millions of trees in forests around the country. Many areas have burned so severely that replanting is necessary. Yet much of the U.S. Forest Service budget has been diverted to simply fighting these massive fires, with much less funding left for replanting. The Forest Service has identified a backlog of more than one million acres of America's national forests that need to be replanted. And each year, with every wildfire, storm, or insect epidemic, the backlog steadily increases.

Our forests are our future. And you can help protect them... one tree at a time.



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 Illinois colleges have been recognized as Tree Campus USA schools:

- Elmhurst College
- Lewis University
- Illinois State University
- Aurora College
- Wilbur Wright College
- Moraine Valley Community College
- Chicago State University
- Eastern Illinois University
- Illinois Valley Community College District No. 513
- Kaskaskia College
- Illinois College
- Waubesa Community College

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

Illinois 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 Illinois because of the strong partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Illinois boasts 188 certified Tree City USA communities. Last year, Illinois Tree City USAs spent a combined total of \$93,968,625 on their urban forestry budgets benefiting the more than 7 million Illinois residents who live in those communities. The dedication of Illinois'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 Illinois, please visit arborday.org or call:

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