

Kentucky

2012 State Report



Chris Evans, River to River, CIMA, Bugwood.org

Kentucky's state tree is the Tulip poplar.

Kentucky State Statistics

Active Arbor Day Foundation Members
in Kentucky: **18,423**



TREE CITY USA®

Program in Kentucky:

Tree City USA Communities: **28**
Total population served: **1,525,965**

Largest Tree City USA in Kentucky:
Louisville, population 721,500

Smallest Tree City USA in Kentucky:
Nazareth, population 300

Tree Line USA Utilities: **3**

Tree Campus USA Colleges: **5**

Certified Nature Explore Classrooms: **1**

**Kentucky 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 Kentucky, please visit natureexplore.org/classrooms.



Kentucky Members Plant 166,543 Trees

The Arbor Day Foundation's dedicated members are making a difference by planting trees in their communities across the United States. Our 18,423 Kentucky members helped plant more than 166,543 trees across the state last year.

Debra Edwards, a loyal member from Elkton, Kentucky, has been planting Foundation membership trees since 2000. Debra shared with us the photo at right of one of her trees. With wonderful, dedicated members like Debra, Kentucky will always have a strong and majestic tree presence.



Debra with her five-year-old crab tree.

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 Kentucky colleges have been recognized as Tree Campus USA schools:

- Centre College
- Berea College
- Northern Kentucky University
- University of Louisville
- Western Kentucky University

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



Kentucky 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 Kentucky because of the strong partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the Kentucky Division of Forestry. Kentucky boasts 28 certified Tree City USA communities. Last year, Kentucky Tree City USAs spent a combined total of \$6,001,788 on their urban forestry budgets benefiting the more than 1.5 million Kentucky residents who live in those communities. The dedication of Kentucky'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 Kentucky, please visit arborday.org or call:

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