

Mississippi

2012 State Report



Mississippi's state tree is the Southern Magnolia.

Mississippi State Statistics

Active Arbor Day Foundation Members in
Mississippi: **10,814**



TREE CITY USA®

Program in Mississippi:

Tree City USA Communities: **33**
Total population served: **563,253**

Largest Tree City USA in Mississippi:
Biloxi, population 50,466

Smallest Tree City USA in Mississippi:
Sandersville, population 900

Tree Line USA Utilities: **1**

Tree Campus USA Colleges: **1**

Certified Nature Explore Classrooms: **0**

**Arbor Day in Mississippi is celebrated on
the second Friday 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 Mississippi, please visit natureexplore.org/classrooms.



Mississippi Members Plant 110,786 Trees

The Arbor Day Foundation's dedicated members are making a difference by planting trees in their communities across the United States. Our 10,814 Mississippi members helped plant more than 110,786 trees across the state last year.

R.J. Redd, a loyal member from Bogue Chitto, Mississippi, has been planting Foundation membership trees since 1991. R.J. shared with us a photo of his trees. With wonderful, dedicated members like R.J., Mississippi will always have a strong and majestic tree presence.



Member, R.J., with his loaded-down, six-year-old crabapple tree.

Smith County Forest Report

Mississippi Public Schools own more than 400,000 acres of forestland that is managed by the Mississippi Forestry Commission. The lands are managed for multiple objectives including wildlife, recreation, water quality, and environmental education. These sites are typically mixed longleaf pine, loblolly pine, and shortleaf pine trees.

This planting effort of longleaf pine trees was on the school forests in Smith County. This area will now be a great teaching tool for the schools and Mississippi Forestry Commission to show viable options for growing native species. Longleaf pine systems are naturally more resilient to climate extremes due to their ability to resist disease and tolerate drought and wildfires.

More than 100,000 longleaf pine trees (more than 160 acres) were replanted due to storm damage from Hurricane Katrina and also beetle damage following Katrina on two separate sites. Longleaf pines were planted due to the species being native to the area and having the ability to grow in sandy soils.



KEY

★ = Smith County

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 **Delta State 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.

Mississippi 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 Mississippi because of the strong partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the Mississippi Forestry Commission. Mississippi boasts 33 certified Tree City USA communities. Last year, Mississippi Tree City USAs spent a combined total of \$5,366,540 on their urban forestry budgets benefiting the thousands of residents who live in those communities. The dedication of Mississippi'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 Mississippi, please visit arborday.org or call:

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