



CREATING GREENER, HEALTHIER, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE.

Tree City USA program was developed by the Arbor Day Foundation in 1976 in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. The program is a voluntary, annual recognition program designed to:

1. Raise awareness of the value trees provide to communities
2. Set a foundation of basic standards for communities of all sizes
3. Celebrate community improvement through trees
4. Maintain a national network of communities with developed or developing programs managing community trees



Why Become a Tree City USA

IT'S ABOUT DEMONSTRATING A COMMITMENT TO YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH TREES

The Tree City USA program provides community leaders with a basic framework for community forestry work and maintains a national network of communities engaged in issues related to community trees and community forestry.

- Communities leverage their national recognition when working with local and state leaders to maintain and increase funding for community programming.
- Tree City USA communities are part of a national network that can share information, educational resources, and potential funding opportunities as they arise.

Earning Recognition

BE RECOGNIZED FOR YOUR COMMITMENT

Communities must annually meet or exceed the four Tree City USA standards.

- **STANDARD 1:** A Tree board or department. Identify who is responsible for community trees.
- **STANDARD 2:** A public tree care ordinance. Establish community-wide laws that govern public tree care.
- **STANDARD 3:** Annual expenditure of \$2 per capita for community tree care activities. The expenditures include, tree planting and initial care, tree maintenance, tree removal, management, utility line clearance, and volunteer hours (we calculate hours at a national hourly rate).
- **STANDARD 4:** An Arbor Day observance and proclamation. The community must observe Arbor Day and have a signed proclamation. Arbor Day can be celebrated any day of the year.

How it Works

JOIN THE TREE CITY USA NETWORK

Communities apply online via the Arbor Day Foundation application portal. We strongly encourage applications completed by December 31.

- Apply annually to the program starting in September of each year via our online application system.
- Report activities that occur between January 1 and December 31.
- Applications are reviewed by our state forestry partners and the Arbor Day Foundation.
- Communities receive notification for revisions and when the application is approved.

ELIGIBILITY

Communities of any size that meet the four standards are welcome to apply, whether you have 10 residents or millions of residents.

Reported activities must meet or exceed the four standards of the program.



**START WORKING ON MEETING THE FOUR STANDARDS TODAY.
YOU MAY BE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK TO BEING RECOGNIZED
AS A TREE CITY USA COMMUNITY!**

For more information and to take our short readiness quiz, visit arborday.org/treecity.