Don’t Overlook Evaluating and Revising

The basic steps toward protecting and managing the trees in any community are (1) determining what you have (an inventory), (2) deciding what you want, i.e., what is right for your community (safety, a certain percent crown cover, diversity, etc.), and (3) establishing goals and an implementation strategy (a plan). Tree ordinances are part of the latter. They are one of the ways of attaining the desires of residents to have the kind of community forest they deserve for a quality lifestyle.

No tree ordinance is static. As communities grow and change, it is essential to review your ordinance and make certain it keeps pace with the changing needs and challenges. Review what works and what doesn’t work. For example, if homeowners in new suburbs are encouraged to plant street trees but this is being ignored by non-resident owners of duplexes or apartments, what might be changed in the ordinance to solve the problem?

Monitoring is often the overlooked step in urban forestry. It is made easier when a tree board or department sets management goals annually and reviews the city’s vision statement regularly. It also helps to stay current on what is being done in other cities with similar growth patterns and challenges. The bottom line is that ordinances are not one-time documents. They are a tool, and they need to be updated or replaced like any other tool in order to serve best.

For more information and references, please visit arborday.org.

How to Write a Municipal Tree Ordinance

Tree City USA is a powerful force for the promotion of tree care and urban forestry. It is a program that has caught the imagination of citizens, elected officials, and urban tree professionals. More than 1,300 communities now fly the flag of accomplishment, a composite area that is home to some 137 million Americans.

At the heart of the Tree City USA program are four basic requirements:

1. How to Prune Young Trees
2. When a Storm Strikes
3. Resolving Tree-Sidewalk Conflicts
4. The Right Tree for the Right Place
5. Living With Urban Soils
6. Home In an Arborist
7. Home Tree Trees During Construction
8. Don’t Top Trees!
9. Writing a Municipal Tree Ordinance

For more information and references, please visit arborday.org.

City, State Zip

Phone

For a complete list of Tree City USA Bulletins, visit arborday.org.

Visit arborday.org/treecity for more information and references.

Annual Friends of Tree City USA Membership...$15.00...

Tree City USA Bulletin 3-Ring Binder...$5.00...

TOTAL PAYMENT...

Order Tree City USA Bulletins online at arborday.org or send this form and mail with your payment to:

Arbor Day Foundation • 211 N 12th Street • Lincoln, NE 68508

800-448-7337 • (Make checks payable to Arbor Day Foundation)