



Tree City USA Growth Award

TREE CITY USA®
BULLETIN

No. **18** Editor: Dr. James R. Fazio • \$3.00



Since 1976, Tree City USA has served as a catalyst for community tree care. By providing management guidelines, high visibility and public recognition, Tree City USA has helped communities nationwide take the right steps toward stewardship of their tree resources. But today there is an urgent need for even more action on behalf of urban trees and for a more sophisticated level of tree care. The Tree City USA Growth Award program provides the next steps by recognizing communities where tree care programs have significantly improved, and by encouraging growth and development in others.

“Effective tree care is an ongoing process of growth and renewal — a program of planting and care that continues through the years. Tree City USA provides a solid foundation for that process. But community leaders realize there is also a need today to do more and to do it better.” So said John Rosenow, former chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation, when he announced the new Tree City USA Growth Award in 1991.

The Foundation, in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the U.S. Forest Service, created the award program to recognize environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care throughout America. Importantly, the award is designed to do more than recognize achievement beyond the four basic standards of Tree City USA. It is also intended to communicate new ideas by showing community leaders what can and should be done in a well-rounded community forestry program. In short, the criteria for receiving a Tree City USA Growth Award provide an excellent checklist for planning the future of any community’s forestry program.

The purpose behind Tree City USA Growth Awards is to encourage greater effort on behalf of community forestry. In turn, communities enjoy the multiple benefits provided by trees, have a healthier urban ecosystem, and are given greater opportunities for their residents to work together.

You are invited to join other Friends of Tree City USA in developing the kind of expanded community forestry program that will make your town or city a winner. In fact, because the competition is only against your community’s own previous record, there is no reason why a Growth Award should not become an annual goal for your forestry department or tree board. Municipalities, counties and military bases that have received the Growth Award ten different years have the added distinction of being named a ‘Sterling Community.’

Award-winning communities receive attractive Growth Award banners to add to their Tree City USA signs.



Arbor Day Foundation®
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