

# North Carolina 2014 State Report



North Carolina's state tree is the Pine.

## North Carolina State Statistics

Active Arbor Day Foundation Members  
in North Carolina: **23,440**



**TREE CITY USA®**

## Program in North Carolina:

Tree City USA Communities: **78**  
Total population served: **3,892,394**

Largest Tree City USA in North Carolina:  
**Charlotte, population 773,000**

Smallest Tree City USA in North Carolina:  
**Bald Head Island, population 162**

Tree Line USA Utilities: **2**

Tree Campus USA Colleges: **7**

Certified Nature Explore Classrooms: **1**

**North Carolina celebrates Arbor Day on  
the first Friday following March 15.**

## Nature Explore Classroom Encourages Creativity, Imagination

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.



Estes Children's Cottage is the first certified Nature Explore Classroom in North Carolina.

Having a space delineated into specific areas has allowed staff to think more intentionally about items they make available to the children and where each type of material is stored. The children now know where to find material, and they are able to act independently in choosing activities. While observing the students, it was found that using natural barriers, such as grasses and plants, positively influenced the children's movements outside.

The outdoor classroom provides an abundance of opportunities for imaginative play and learning while the children interact with plants, trees, and each other. To learn more about Nature Explore Classrooms, please visit [natureexplore.org/classrooms](http://natureexplore.org/classrooms).

## Trees Revitalize Mixed-Use Neighborhood

The Arbor Day Foundation's dedicated members are making a difference by planting trees in their communities across the United States. Our 23,440 North Carolina members helped plant more than 211,799 trees across the state last year.



In Charlotte, John Amon has fond memories of his grandfather's house on Seigle Avenue. His family's business was also on this mixed-use street in 1958.

"I've been here all my life," John said. "It once was very nice, but it deteriorated. Now, it's headed in the right direction again."

A mile-long revitalization project made the difference. The street was narrowed, bicycle lanes were added, and trees were planted. The project reflects the city's commitment to improving urban life and public safety, according to the project's key contractor.

John agrees.

"The trees really add to the sense of neighborhood," he said. "In fact, they inspired me to put in flowers and make the front of my business quite pretty."

## The Sandhills

**W**hile North Carolina's Coastal Plain contains stretches of longleaf pine forest ecosystems, these forests have shrunk to only 4 percent of their original range in the past 50 years. Replanting of these forests is crucial to the long-term viability of the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, as well as for watershed protection throughout the southeastern corner of the state.

The Arbor Day Foundation is working with partners in North Carolina to help restore three tracts of forestland: Poindexter, Loblolly Group, and Quewhiffle West. The management plan is to plant 400 trees per acre to help increase the connectivity and forested acreage of the surrounding landscape.

More than 130,000 longleaf pine trees were planted on more than 370 acres. Poindexter had experienced excessive tree loss from a fire in the spring of 2012; the Loblolly Group Tract was an offsite plantation being restored to a natural longleaf ecosystem; and the planting at Quewhiffle was needed to supplement an earlier planting. Needed support from the Arbor Day Foundation and its partners is helping to increase the capacity for longleaf pine forest restoration and management in this area.



KEY

★ = North Carolina Sandhills



## North Carolina 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 38 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 North Carolina because of the strong partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources. North Carolina boasts 78 certified Tree City USA communities. Last year, North Carolina Tree City USAs spent a combined total of \$26,986,964 on their urban forestry budgets, benefiting the more than 3.8 million North Carolina residents who live in those communities. The dedication of North Carolina'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.

## Tree Campus USA

Colleges and universities across the United States can be recognized as Tree Campus USAs 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, the campus not only benefits the environment but instills pride in the students, faculty, and community.

The following North Carolina schools have been recognized as Tree Campus USAs:

- Appalachian State University
- Southeastern Community College
- Alamance Community College
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Duke University
- Wake Forest University
- High Point University

Learn more about the Tree Campus USA program at [arborday.org/treecampususa](http://arborday.org/treecampususa).

## Contacts

For more information about programs offered by the Arbor Day Foundation and our work in North Carolina, please visit [arborday.org](http://arborday.org) or call:

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