

# Create an Arboretum



from the **TREE CITY USA®  
BULLETIN**

*We collect stamps, coins, memorabilia, and all manner of other things. Why not collect and display trees? An arboretum is a collection with purpose; these living tree museums can be found from coast to coast and in climatic zones from Florida to Alaska. They range widely in size and ownership. If your community does not have an arboretum, now is the time to consider adding this valuable resource.*

## READ SEVEN MORE PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS, AS WELL AS:

- Maintenance needs to consider
- Special features in an arboretum
- Examples of arboretums of all sizes
- How to gain accreditation



Jan McSwain

Even in a small community like Morrison, Oklahoma, it is possible to create an arboretum that will be enjoyed by residents and attract visitors and tourists from out of town.

## Planning Your Arboretum

*Planting trees is the easy part of creating an arboretum. To ensure a quality project that is sustainable over time, it pays to carefully consider all aspects long before the first shovel of soil is turned.*

### Some Planning Considerations

**✓ PARTNERSHIPS** Partners in the endeavor are essential for success. Municipal officials, local nurseries, service clubs, churches, and youth organizations are a few of the sources of support that can help. Involve them early in the planning to obtain cooperation and ideas rather than presenting a finished plan to them and asking for help. Surveys and focus groups are ways to get valuable input.

**✓ FUNDING** Assuming that land is already available, the biggest expense will be annual maintenance. Planting stock, labels (including replacements), insurance, and materials for special events are just some of the recurring costs. Make a list and a budget, and know where the money will come from after any initial grant or donations.

**✓ THE SOIL** The better the soil, the easier it will be to plant for variety and to maintain healthy trees. A soil test will indicate such limitations as the pH range and its suitability for various species. Additional investigation may reveal hidden hardpan, excessive moisture, or a high water table.