

# TREE CITY USA

## 15 Reasons to Be One:



1. Encourages better care of community forests.
2. Touches the lives of people within the community who benefit daily from cleaner air, shadier streets, and aesthetic beauty that healthy, well-managed urban forests provide.
3. Recognizes and rewards communities for annual advancements in urban forestry practices.
4. Increases public awareness of the many social, economical and environmental benefits urban forestry practices.
5. Provides education to improve current urban forestry practices.
6. Builds cooperation between public and private sectors to effectively manage urban forests.
7. Encourages, supports, and strengthens effective urban forestry programs in diverse communities nationwide.
8. Can make a strong contribution to a community's pride.
9. Serves as a blueprint for planting and maintaining a community's trees.
10. Puts people in touch with other communities/resources that can help them improve their program.
11. Brings solid benefits to a community such as helping to gain financial support for tree projects and contributing to safer and healthier urban forests.
12. Helps present the kind of image that most citizens want to have for the place they live or conduct business.
13. Tells visitors, through signage, that here is a community that cares about its environment.
14. Sometimes gives preference over other communities when allocations of grant money are made for trees or forestry programs.
15. Provides a way to reach large numbers of people with information about tree care.

[www.arboday.org](http://www.arboday.org)



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## Standards 1 and 2



### **Standard 1: Tree Board or Department**

Professional arborist or forester, or entire forestry department, or volunteer tree board

### **Standard 2: Public Tree Care Ordinance**

At minimum:

- Establishes a tree board or department
- Defines the role of the board or department
- Takes responsibility for ALL public trees
- Defines who is designated for tree care
- Addresses issues other than initial development
- Lists prohibitions, penalty, appeal

**Look for a model public tree care ordinance tutorial at  
<http://texasforests-service.tamu.edu>**



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## Standard 3 Budget Expenditures

**The following expenses for public tree care (street, park, cemetery) may be counted in meeting the \$2 per capita requirement for Standard 3:**

- city workers' salaries (or percentage thereof if tree care is only a portion of their job)
- contract work
- tree board salaries (most are volunteer, some are paid)
- tree purchases
- watering
- fertilizing
- insect control
- staking
- mulching
- dead tree removal
- stump removal
- pruning by city employees
- leaf and brush pick-up
- biomass recycling
- survey or inventory expenses
- computer inventory software
- equipment purchases
- equipment rental
- equipment maintenance
- Arbor Day program
- prizes for Arbor Day contests
- tree care conferences and workshops attended by city workers
- memberships in and donations to tree organizations
- public education materials - brochures, newsletters, etc.
- administrative time
- insurance
- grant monies expended for any of the above items may be counted
- volunteer contributions—labor and materials—(figure volunteer work at minimum wage or with some other reasonable, uniformly applied formula)
- You can include tree work by public utilities, if the utility is a partner in the city's tree program and has implemented a tree planting program and proper pruning methods as recommended in the Tree Line USA program



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# Tree City USA Standard 3 Worksheet

Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of trees planted \_\_\_\_\_

Number of trees pruned \_\_\_\_\_

Number of trees removed \_\_\_\_\_

## MUNICIPAL FORESTRY EXPENDITURES

### Tree Planting and Initial Care

Include cost of tree purchases, labor and equipment for planting, planting materials, stakes, wrapping, watering, mulching, competition control, etc.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Tree Maintenance

Include pruning, insect and disease management, fertilization, watering, etc.

+ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Tree Removals

Include cost of equipment, supplies, labor, etc.

+ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Management

Include public education, professional training, memberships, salaries, street and park tree inventory.

+ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Other

Include any other expenses not already mentioned. Briefly describe.

\_\_\_\_\_

+ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES

= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## OTHER COMMUNITY FORESTRY EXPENDITURES

### Utility Line Clearance

Utility trimming expenses are allowed only if the utility is a partner in the city's tree program and has implemented a tree planting program and proper pruning methods as recommended in the Tree Line USA program.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Donated Labor and Materials

Value of volunteer labor and other contributions from civic organizations.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** (Municipal + Other)

= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNITY POPULATION

To qualify for Tree City USA total expenditures must be at least twice population.

Transfer these two numbers to Standard 3 on application and upload this sheet with application



# TREE CITY USA

## Standard 4: Arbor Day Proclamation & Observance

### Sample Proclamation:

# Arbor Day Proclamation

*Whereas,* In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

*Whereas,* the holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

*Whereas,* Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

*Whereas,* trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, lower our heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

*Whereas,* trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

*Whereas,* trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

*Whereas,* trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal,

NOW, THEREFORE, I \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor of the City of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim \_\_\_\_\_ as

# Arbor Day

in the City of \_\_\_\_\_, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

*Further,* I urge all citizens to plant and care for trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

*Dated* this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_