



# TREE CITY USA 2005

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## INFORMATION SHEET

### Background

In 1976, Tree City USA was established to recognize communities that were effectively managing their trees. Over time, four basic standards necessary to qualify to become a Tree City USA were set up and the program's goal grew to also encourage the implementation of well-planned local forestry programs. Tree City USA is the result of the partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, National Association of State Foresters and The National Arbor Day Foundation. The U.S. Forest Service provides financial assistance and technical advice, the state foresters provide local assistance as well as serving as key promoters, certifiers and coordinators in each state, and The National Arbor Day Foundation provides educational materials and management of the cooperative venture. In addition to hundreds of professionals and volunteers work together on behalf of Tree City USA, and the program is endorsed and promoted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities. The National Arbor Day Foundation has identified six benefits of Tree City USA for a community: Framework for Action, Education, Public Image, Citizen Pride, Financial Assistance and Publicity.

A community can obtain assistance from their state forester's office to organize or improve their community forestry program and to help their community become a Tree City USA. The National Arbor Day Foundation presents a beautiful walnut-mounted plaque, a large Tree City USA flag, and special highway signs for community entrances to each Tree City USA.

### Qualifications

To qualify for Tree City USA, a community must meet four standards that were established to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree management plan and program. Importantly, they were also designed so that no community would be excluded because of size. The four standards are:

1. A Tree Board or Department  
*A forester, city department, or tree board is designated by ordinance to be responsible for tree care and management of the community's trees.*
2. A Community Tree Ordinance  
*The tree ordinance must designate the establishment of a tree board or forestry department and give this body the responsibility for writing and implementing an annual community forestry work plan.*
3. A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at least \$2 per capita  
*Evidence is required that the community has established an active community forestry program that is supported by an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita. At first, this may seem like an impossible barrier to some communities. However, a little investigation usually reveals that more than this amount is already being spent by the municipality on its trees.*
4. An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation  
*An Arbor Day celebration can be simple and brief or an all-day or all-week observation. Arbor Day is a golden opportunity for publicity and to educate homeowners about proper tree care.*

### The National Arbor Day Foundation address <http://www.arborday.org/>

To receive a free Tree City USA booklet and application packet, contact your state urban forester at [perwin@arkansasusa.com](mailto:perwin@arkansasusa.com) or call: The National Arbor Day Foundation at:1.888.448.7337.

### Listing of Tree City USA cities within Arkansas

As of 2005, there are twenty-three cities in Arkansas that are registered as a Tree City USA community. They are listed along with their population, in order of years certified: Eureka Springs-2,200 (22); Rogers-38,829 (19); Fordyce-4,987 (18); Mountain View-2,876 (18); Little Rock AFB-5,938 (12); North Little Rock-62,040 (11); Fayetteville-58,075 (10); Marvell-1,545 (8); Bentonville-19,730 (6); Etowah-366 (5); Hot Springs-35,750 (5); and Keiser-808 (5); Little Rock-182,274 (4); Mt. Vernon-144 (4); Wooster-516 (4); Adona-187 (3); and Nashville-4,878 (3); Bryant-9,764 (2); Beaver-95(2); Van Buren -18,986 (2); Dell-251 (1); Lake Village-2,823(1); Trumann -6,889(1).