

TREE CITY USA IN MASSACHUSETTS



A national recognition program for towns and cities of all sizes

TREE CITY USA is an awards program that provides public attention and national recognition for local commitments to community trees and forests. It is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation and administered in Massachusetts by the Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Any City or Town Can Be a Tree City USA. A Tree City USA is a community of any size that has been formally recognized for its commitment to plant, maintain, and manage tree resources. Tree City USA communities range in population from less than 30 to the millions, all over the country.

The Tree City USA designation brings official recognition from the DCR and the Arbor Day Foundation. More importantly, it provides recognition that your city or town has established trees as a priority and has made good decisions about the management of these resources. It fosters a sense of pride and good will toward the appearance and livability of your community.

Earning the Title

Being awarded the Tree City USA designation requires that communities meet four standards defined by the Arbor Day Foundation. They are:

- **A Tree Board or Department:** This can be a forestry department, a tree warden, or a volunteer tree board or committee that oversees the community's annual work plan.
- **A Tree Care Ordinance:** An ordinance will designate the tree board or department and determine policies for planting, maintaining, and removing public trees. Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 87 will be accepted if it has been adopted by the municipality.
- **Minimum Community Forestry Annual Budget of \$2 per Capita:** All work related to the management of community trees (e.g., planting, tree removal, and maintenance), as well as administrative and equipment expenses and in-kind services are allowable in this budget.
- **Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation:** Arbor Day observances, usually on or around the last Friday in April, give civic leaders, residents, and children occasion to plant trees and celebrate the gifts community trees offer all year long. An official Mayoral or Select Board proclamation is also required.



Tree City USA Mass. Facts

- Longest-running Tree City USA: Wellesley
- Percent of population living in a Tree City USA community: >50%
- Smallest: <1,000 residents
- Largest: ~ 700,000 residents
- Newest Tree City USA: It could be your community!



We Can Help You Become a Tree City USA

- If your community is just beginning to develop a community forestry program, we can help you and your tree committee assess your resources and prioritize your needs. Such planning activities can help build constituencies leading to Tree City USA designation.
- Our Challenge Grants can provide support for the development of management plans, tree committees, or tree surveys and inventories.
- We can provide sample ordinances, model proclamations, and additional information to help you design your own program that meets Tree City USA standards.

Perks and Honors

Promotional items are awarded to Tree City USA communities, including a flag, road signs, and a plaque. Displayed proudly around town, these will remind residents and visitors that your community has earned the honor of Tree City USA. The DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program holds an annual forum and ceremony to present awards and distribute promotional materials. Presentations of awards can also be done in your community if you wish.

In addition, the Urban and Community Forestry Program at the Department of Conservation and Recreation gives preference to grant applicants that are from Tree City USA communities.

For those accomplished communities that have surpassed basic Tree City USA standards, the Growth Award recognizes exceptional growth and imagination in community forestry.

About Applying

Applications are due annually on December 31, but don't wait to prepare the application. Many communities will work a year or more before becoming eligible. Contact the Urban and Community Forestry Program for guidance.

REFERENCES:

Learn more about Tree City USA at the Arbor Day Foundation
www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/

If you would like to find out about other recognition programs from the Arbor Day Foundation, go to www.arborday.org/programs.



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Bureau of Forestry

Urban & Community Forestry Program

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