

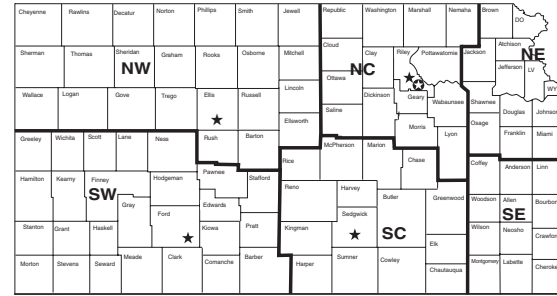
In 1971, Kansas was one of the first states to recognize the importance of managing urban and community forests and has been involved in the Tree City USA Program since its inception in 1976. In 2006, the following communities spent \$12.1 million improving and managing the community forest resource. These communities planted more than 15,668 trees, pruned 80,879 trees, and removed more than 10,434 dead and dying or diseased trees in Kansas communities last year. The majority of these efforts were led by citizen volunteer Tree Board members working with local municipalities. Beginning with 11 Tree City USA communities in 1976, the Tree City USA Program has grown to 115 Kansas communities in 2006:

Abilene	15	Haven	27	Oberlin	21
Anthony	22	Hays	28	*Olathe	24
Arkansas City	13	Haysville	7	*Osage City	16
Atchison	25	Herington	18	Osawatomie	2
Atwood	11	Hesston	22	Oskaloosa	12
Augusta	2	Hiawatha	7	Oswego	17
Baldwin City	4	Hillsboro	12	*Ottawa	8
Bel Aire	11	Hoisington	24	*Overland Park	28
Belle Plaine	2	*Hutchinson	13	Oxford	8
Beloit	30	Junction City	31	Ozawkie	1
Blue Rapids	25	Kiowa	11	*Paola	3
Bonner Springs	21	Lake Quivira	12	Park City	8
Burlington	14	Lansing	7	*Parsons	18
Chanute	28	*Lawrence	29	Phillipsburg	20
Clay Center	31	Leavenworth	13	Pittsburg	2
Clyde	5	Leawood	11	Plains	4
Concordia	14	Lenexa	19	Prairie Village	10
Council Grove	11	Liberal	24	*Roeland Park	14
Cunningham	14	*Lindsborg	22	Rose Hill	3
De Soto	5	Louisburg	10	Russell	21
*Derby	14	Lyndon	6	Salina	17
Dodge City	31	Lyons	2	Sedgwick	9
Effingham	13	Maize	8	Shawnee	10
*El Dorado	14	Manhattan	30	South Hutchinson	6
Ellis	7	Mankato	26	Spring Hill	11
Emporia	21	*Marquette	12	*St. John	11
Fairway	22	*Marysville	27	Topeka	21
Forbes Field ANG	10	McConnell AFB	13	Troy	10
Formoso	22	*McPherson	29	Ulysses	28
Ft. Riley	20	Meade	4	Valley Center	13
Ft. Scott	12	Merriam	22	Valley Falls	12
Fowler	3	Mission	5	Wakeeney	18
Garden City	29	Mission Hills	15	Wamego	19
Gardner	4	Morrill	2	Waterville	30
Goodland	28	Mt. Hope	2	Westwood	19
Great Bend	24	*Mulvane	16	Westwood Hills	10
Halstead	29	Neodesha	10	Wichita	21
Harper	11	Newton	31	Windom	14
				Winfield	26

Numbers denote years as a Tree City USA

* Growth Award Recipients

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TREE CITY USA Program in Kansas



sponsored by
Kansas Forest Service
National Arbor Day Foundation
USDA Forest Service



For more information about the Kansas Forest Service, see our Web site at: www.kansasforests.org

Benefits of Trees

Just as streets, sidewalks, public buildings, and recreational facilities are part of a community's infrastructure, so are publicly owned trees. Trees, and collectively the community or urban forest, are important assets that provide many benefits to the community at large. As a benefit to communities, trees:

- ❑ Improve the quality of life by enhancing the beauty of private lots, communities and country landscapes while increasing property values from 13 percent to 21 percent.



Trees soften the outline of cement, metal, and glass of our urban environment.

- ❑ Encourage economic development through visual enhancement, while creating a positive image for the community.



Trees "cool" downtown shopping areas.

- ❑ Combat noise, dust, and pollution.
- ❑ Help prevent wind and water erosion.
- ❑ Increase and sustain diverse populations of birds and animals by providing appropriate habitat.
- ❑ Help replenish groundwater aquifers.
- ❑ Save energy by shading summer sun and reducing winter winds.
- ❑ Mitigate carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels while producing oxygen.
- ❑ Produce renewable resources for such products as paper, wood products, and food.

Program Benefits

Planting a tree can be a proactive act and personal statement that says you care about our environment and our future.

Every community, regardless of size, benefits from becoming a Tree City USA. Tree City USA provides focused direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition to community forestry programs in more than 100 Kansas communities. Program benefits include:

- ❑ **Framework for Action**
Meeting the four standards for becoming a Tree City USA provides the initial direction for a community forestry program and helps get the community started towards an annual, systematic management of its tree resource.
- ❑ **Education**
Assistance and training opportunities provided by the Kansas Forest Service and a variety of other professional resources, aid in supporting the education process throughout the community's involvement in the program.
- ❑ **Public Image**
Becoming a Tree City USA helps to present the kind of image most individuals want to have for the place they live or work. The Tree City USA flag and signs along public highways tell visitors your community cares about the environment.
- ❑ **Citizen Pride**
Gaining and retaining Tree City USA status and recognition is an award to the tree board, city council, volunteers, tree workers, and city managers who work for the care and management of a community's trees.
- ❑ **Financial Assistance**
Preference is often given to Tree City USA communities when allocations of grant money are available for trees or forestry programs because the community has already demonstrated the foresight of proactive management in becoming a Tree City USA community.
- ❑ **Publicity**
Presentation of the Tree City Award at the annual Tree City Recognition Day and the celebration of Arbor Day offer excellent publicity opportunities.

Program Requirements

To qualify for Tree City USA, a community must meet four standards established by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. These standards were established to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree management plan and program. These program requirements are:

- 1. A Tree Board or Department**
Someone must be legally responsible for the care and management of the community's trees. This responsibility may be assigned to a professional forester, arborist, forestry department or tree board. Most Kansas communities utilize a citizen volunteer tree board, charged by a city ordinance with developing and administering a comprehensive tree management program.
- 2. A Community Tree Ordinance**
A municipal tree ordinance should establish general guidelines for tree care and designate a board or city department responsible for public tree care needs and outline responsibilities including writing and implementing an annual plan of work.
- 3. A Community Forestry Budget of at least \$2 per Capita**
Evidence is required that the community has established a community forestry program that is supported by an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita. The budget should address the needs of species diversity, planting and removal needs, hazardous trees, insect and disease problems, and establish a pattern of regular tree care such as pruning and watering.
- 4. An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation**
This is the least challenging and probably the most enjoyable standard to accomplish. The goal is to hold a public event that celebrates Arbor Day and recognizes the importance of trees in our lives. For some communities this is done through the signing of the Arbor Day Proclamation and simple tree-planting event, while others make it an all-day or weeklong celebration and festival.

Program Opportunities

The Kansas Forest Service, in cooperation with the National Arbor Day Foundation, National Association of State Foresters, and the USDA Forest Service, recognizes environmental improvement and encourages higher levels of tree care throughout America. Two established award programs demonstrate practices that protect and enhance America's urban and community forests: Tree City USA Growth Award and Tree Line USA.

The Growth Award is designed not only to recognize achievement, but also to communicate new ideas and help the leaders of all Tree City USAs plan for improving community tree care. Your community may be eligible for the Tree City USA Growth Award if it is a Tree City USA for at least the second consecutive year and has spent at least as much on its community forestry program this year as it did last year. Eligible program activities for the Growth Award include: Education and Public Relations, Partnerships, Planning and Management, and Tree Planting and Maintenance.

Trees and utility service lines are critical components of every community. By necessity they must co-exist in close proximity, and in its own way, each is essential to our standard of living. The Tree Line USA Program is established to promote the dual goals of dependable utility service and healthy trees along America's streets and highways. To meet these goals, criteria have been developed that highlight key practices that must be followed by the public as well as the utility worker. Utilities that meet the requirements of this program are publicly recognized for their contribution to better community forests.



**Kansas State University
Agricultural Experiment Station
and Cooperative Extension Service**

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