



Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

Office of the State Forester

Arizona State Forestry



Jeff Whitney
State Forester

Chris Erickson
Forest Program Specialist
Direct: (602) 771-1407

May 17, 2016

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Chris Erickson
Arizona State Forestry
o) 602.771.1407
f) 602.771.1421
ChrisErickson@azsf.gov
<https://azsf.az.gov/>

RECOGNITION OF ARIZONA'S "TREE CITY USA" COMMUNITIES

Phoenix, Arizona, 17 May 2016 — The Arizona State Forester, Jeff Whitney, is pleased to announce that Arizona State Forestry (AZSF) recognized 29 Arizona cities and towns that received the Tree City USA recognition. They were recognized on April 26, at the Arizona State Government Complex.

Tree City USA—a program sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in collaboration with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service —provides, among other things, national recognition for greener communities. The requirements to be a Tree City USA community are a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observation and proclamation. Benefits of being a Tree City USA are many but include direction and assistance by supporting the framework for a healthy sustainable urban forest that reduces energy costs and consumption, boosts property values, builds strong community ties, and honors the community.

Scottsdale was the first Tree City USA community in Arizona, and the Towns of Eagar and Marana are the newest, joining this year. Scottsdale, at 34 years, is one of the oldest Tree City USA communities in the Southwestern US. Other Arizona cities and towns have been recognized for the following number of years: Avondale (5), Buckeye (8), Camp Verde (2), Casa Grande (9), Chandler (4), Coolidge (13), Flagstaff (8), Florence (10), Gilbert (8), Glendale (20), Kingman (5), Lake Havasu City (15), Litchfield Park (23), Mesa (6), Paradise Valley (20), Patagonia (3), Peoria (8), Phoenix (30), Pinetop-Lakeside (31), Prescott Valley (11), Quartzite (9), Scottsdale (34), Show Low (19), Snowflake (17), Tempe (20), Town of Eagar (1), Town of Marana (1), Tucson (24) and Yuma (8).

This year is a special year for the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA Program as it is the 40th year that they have celebrated municipal dedication to the urban forest. The Arbor Day Foundation, established in 1972, began the Tree City USA program in 1976 to honor and encourage municipalities for urban forest

May 17, 2016

Page 2

management. A program that began with just 42 communities in 15 states now boasts more than 3,400 communities, and represents over 137,000,000 people. Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation, said "Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens make smart investments in urban forests. Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social and environmental benefits. We congratulate not only the (remaining) original sixteen Tree City USA communities celebrating 40 years, but all of the other communities who value urban forestry as well."

In Arizona, the occasion will be marked in each Tree City USA community with the planting of a commemorative tree donated by Arizona Nursery Association members. Arizona State Forestry has also provided each Tree City USA community with two complete sets of the Arbor Day Foundation's urban forestry educational bulletins, which include 80 bulletins covering topics such as "How to Prune Young Shade Trees," "Trees and the Law," and "How to Start an Urban Orchard." We are proud to have 29 recognized communities representing over 4.5 million people, having spent over \$17.2 million on the management of urban forests in Arizona.

RECOGNIZING "TREE CAMPUS USA" INSTITUTIONS OF ARIZONA

Tree Campus USA is a companion program to Tree City USA, which recognizes two- and four-year accredited colleges and universities dedicated to the campus environment. The requirements to be a Tree Campus USA institution are to have a campus tree advisory committee; create and implement a campus tree care plan; have a campus tree program with dedicated annual expenditures; to observe Arbor Day; and to support a service learning project related to trees and the campus or community environment. Benefits of being a Tree Campus USA include, but are not limited to reducing energy use; reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide; providing relaxing and welcoming green spaces for students and faculty, and involving students in service learning projects that encourage sustainable practices. In Arizona, there are currently three Tree Campus USA institutions: Arizona State University (8 years), Northern Arizona University (1 year), and the University of Arizona (7 years).

ARIZONA UTILITIES RECOGNIZED AS "TREE LINE USA" AWARDEES

Tree Line USA is another collaborative program that recognizes utility companies that demonstrate a desire to practice responsible tree care for the benefit of the urban forest. There are five core standards that must be met by utilities in order to be a Tree Line USA that are: provide quality tree care; participate in annual worker training; perform tree planting and public education; develop a tree-based energy conservation program; and celebrate Arbor Day. Communities as well as utilities see many benefits from this program including healthier urban forests, reduced dieback or tree death from improper pruning, collaboration between the utility and the community, and fewer downed lines caused by mismanaged trees along the utility path. Arizona currently has two Tree Line USA utilities that include Arizona Public Service (20 years) and Salt River Project (20 years).

For more information on Arbor Day programs visit:

<http://www.arborday.org/programs/>.

For more information on Arizona State Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Programs visit:

<https://azsf.az.gov/forestry-community-forestry/urban-community-forestry>

- END -