YOUR GUIDE TO JOINING TREE CITY USA IN ILLINOIS



FROM START TO FINISH

Tree City USA
Arbor Day Foundation

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Forest Service U.S. Department of Agriculture

CONTENTS

Use this pdf to find the information you need and print individual sections, pages or the entire booklet as your guide to joining Tree City USA in Illinois.

SECTION 1

JOIN TREE CITY USA IN ILLINOIS

Community pride

About Tree City USA

Illinois Tree City communities

Economics of urban forestry in Illinois

Tree City USA Illinois by the Numbers

SECTION 2

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS: RESOURCES AND GRANTS

Why your community should join Tree City USA

Myths and truths about Tree City USA

SECTION 3

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Free membership

4 community standards

SECTION 4

HOW TO APPLY

5 steps to Tree City membership

Are you ready?

Start your application

Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Administrator contact info

Application materials

SECTION 5

FUNDING AND PROGRAM PARTNERS

ENHANCE YOUR COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

JOIN TREE CITY USA IN ILLINOIS



SECTION 1

- Community pride
- About Tree City USA
- Illinois Tree City communities
- Economics of urban forestry in Illinois
- Tree City USA Illinois by the Numbers

COMMUNITY PRIDE

Becoming a Tree City sends a message that your town, village or city is an advocate for trees and the environment. And by bringing together residents of all ages around a shared interest, trees can be a way to unite your community!

ABOUT TREE CITY USA

Founded in 1976, Tree City USA is led by the Arbor Day Foundation with partners at the USDA Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters. In Illinois, the Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division oversees TCUSA and serves more than 7.5 million citizens.

POINTS OF PRIDE FOR ILLINOIS

200+
TREE CITY USA COMMUNITIES
ILLINOIS RANKS #2 IN THE U.S.

MORE THAN **60%**
OF ILLINOIS RESIDENTS LIVE IN A TREE CITY USA COMMUNITY



LARGEST TREE CITY — CHICAGO POP 2.6 MILLION



SMALLEST TREE CITY — STEWARD POP 256

See all Illinois Tree City USA communities at www.arborday.org/network-directory; in the "Search Partner Directory" box on the left, type in Illinois.

Learn about Tree City USA's annual Growth Award, recognizing current members for their level of tree care and community engagement at www.arborday.org/our-work/tree-city-usa/growth-award

TREES MAKE OUR LIFE BETTER

- Scientifically proven to lower temperatures 7 to 9 degrees in urban areas and cleanse the air we breathe.
- Absorb carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Reduce traffic noise in urban areas by 40%.
- Greenspace plays a major role in improving mental and physical health.
- Reduce energy costs up to 25% by shading buildings and protecting them from winter winds.
- Add more than $550 million annually to property values across Illinois.

ILLINOIS IS AMONG THE TOP 5 STATES IN TOTAL ECONOMIC FOOTPRINT



ECONOMICS OF URBAN FORESTRY IN ILLINOIS

Trees have a tremendous impact on local economies and our quality-of-life.
Here's a peek at how urban trees in your state are contributing.

24,892 people are employed as a result of urban forestry activities in Illinois.

Communities in Illinois enrolled in Tree City USA® invested an average of **$12.19 per resident** for tree planting and care compared to **$3.00 per resident** in non-participating communities nationally.



Tree cover at private homes adds **$560 million** annually to property values across Illinois.

Urban trees in the state contribute **$1.2 billion** in community-wide environmental benefits each year, such as carbon sequestration, air pollution removal, and avoided stormwater runoff.

The urban forestry sector in Illinois has an annual sales and employment footprint worth **$3.6 billion.**

BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH
College of Business Administration

USDA

Arbor Day Foundation®
arborday.org

90480001

Findings are excerpted from the 2021 report, 'The Economic Footprint and Quality-of-Life Benefits of Urban Forestry in the United States.' The report quantifies economic benefits for calendar year 2017, the most recent year available for analysis.

Tree City USA Summary

ILLINOIS

2023

TREE CITY USA®
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

BY THE NUMBERS

200
TREE CITY USA
COMMUNITIES
7 NEW

61.29%
OF STATE
LIVES IN A TREE CITY USA COMMUNITY

97.47% RECERTIFICATION RATE

REPORTED NUMBER OF **TREES PLANTED** **55,468**

LARGEST
Chicago
POPULATION 2,665,039

SMALLEST
Steward
POPULATION 256

LONGEST-RUNNING ACTIVE TREE CITY USA COMMUNITY:
Urbana
48 YEARS

$133,234,122
SPENT ON URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

$16.97
average per capita



95 Growth Award Recipients

LONGEST ACTIVE GROWTH AWARD
Urbana
32 YEARS

4 NEW Growth Award Recipients

BEYOND TREE CITY USA

TREE CAMPUS HIGHER EDUCATION
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

23 Recognized Illinois Schools

1 NEWLY Recognized School

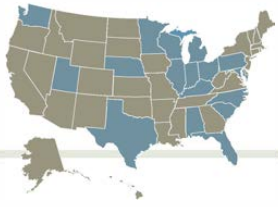
TREE LINE USA.
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

2 Tree Line USA Utilities

LONGEST ACTIVE UTILITY:
ComEd
23 YEARS

TREE CAMPUS HEALTHCARE
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

Recognized Healthcare Facilities:



Arbor Day Foundation®

50085109

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS: RESOURCES, GRANTS AND MORE

SECTION 2

- Why your community should join Tree City USA
- Myths and truths about Tree City USA



WHY YOUR COMMUNITY SHOULD JOIN TREE CITY USA

Tree City USA membership provides a ready-made framework for creating a healthy, sustainable urban forestry program in your community:

- tools to create a community tree inventory
- training, technical advice and assistance
- online resources and publications
- advance notice and access to community grants
- guidance for increasing tree biodiversity and managing pests and diseases
- access to expertise and information from the Illinois state forester and other tree partners
- educational resources and free flags/signage
- networking with other TCUSA communities

Tree City USA membership also ensures that community trees will provide other benefits for your community:

Gain specific direction for your community's action toward annual, systematic management of its tree resources.

Reduce costs for energy, stormwater management and erosion control. Trees yield three to five times their cost in overall benefits to the city.

Preference for financial assistance is sometimes given to Tree City USA communities (through bonus points in grant applications) over other communities when allocations of grant money are made for trees or forestry programs. Your community will also receive advance notice of funding opportunities from the Illinois urban and community forestry administrator.

Educate community residents about the value of trees and the importance of sustainable tree management.

Enhance your image to encourage community vitality for residential and business growth. A community's Tree City USA membership has even been known to be a factor in where meetings or conferences are held.

Increase community pride. Participation in the Tree City USA program helps residents feel good about the place they live and work. Announcing your Tree City designation and annually celebrating Arbor Day are excellent opportunities to publicize and promote your community.

MYTHS AND TRUTHS ABOUT TREE CITY USA

MYTH: WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT TREES.

TRUTH: There is plenty of assistance available and a network of people who are passionate about the role trees play in every community. Get information on courses that will help you form a tree board at www.treeboardu.org/. Materials are available to help you plan an Arbor Day celebration. There is even a suggested proclamation for the mayor to read. Find these sample resources in Section 4: How to Apply.

MYTH: WE CAN'T AFFORD IT.

TRUTH: We think you can. First of all, there are no application or membership fees. Other services are part of what your state forestry department contributes. As for the $2 per capita required, you are probably already spending this much on tree care. For example, in even the smallest of cities, if an employee removes a tree that fell during a storm or that appears dangerous, labor and equipment costs count. And if volunteers help plant trees, their time and expenses can count, too. Of course, the goal is to have community tree care be part of the local budget, but even without that, most communities already meet this part of Tree City's standards.

MYTH: PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY VIEW TREES AS A FRILL OR NICE TO HAVE, BUT THAT'S ABOUT ALL.

TRUTH: This is probably because they don't understand that trees not only lend beauty to our communities, they provide benefits such as cleaner air and water, lower energy costs, stormwater retention, and a host of others. There are also numerous proven public health and economic benefits. Living in a Tree City USA community usually instills a sense of pride among the residents and opens opportunities for education about the benefits of a healthy tree canopy. With a little understanding, trees become viewed not as a frill but as a necessary and profitable part of the city infrastructure.

MYTH: ANOTHER ORDINANCE JUST MEANS MORE RESTRICTIONS AND MORE BUREAUCRACY.

TRUTH: A tree ordinance is needed for systematic and continuous care of your community's public trees – and public safety. However, there is no single ordinance that fits every community.

Tree City USA provides sample templates you can customize. See the sample ordinances in Section 4: How to Apply.

The Morton Arboretum offers a customizable Tree Protection Ordinance Builder at www.mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/chicago-region-trees-initiative/ordinance-builder-for-tree-protection/

MYTH: OUR COMMUNITY IS TOO SMALL.

TRUTH: If there was genius in the founding of the Tree City USA program, it was in the requirement that qualifying expenditures are on a per capita basis. This provides a level playing field for communities ranging from New York City with its population of more than 8 million people to Sibley, North Dakota, and its 28 residents.

MYTH: WE LACK LEADERSHIP.

TRUTH: This thought may be the number one obstacle to achieving Tree City USA recognition. It takes only one motivated individual to get the ball rolling. Maybe that person is you. Whoever starts the Tree City USA process usually finds that there actually is support from others. It may be the mayor, a council member, a park staffer, or someone else affiliated with the community. Or it may be another resident or two who share the desire to move forward. In searching for supportive individuals, you might start with other organizations such as a garden club, civic group, business associations or a group of friends. Kindred spirits are out there.

MYTH: NO ONE HERE WANTS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TAKING CARE OF TREES.

TRUTH: This attitude can hurt in more ways than one. Not only can citizens be injured; there is also potential for legal liability. Cities have the responsibility for public safety. Tree City USA standards help communities be more aware not only of the duty of care owed to citizens and visitors, but how to make conditions safer in the future.

Be watching for new tools and templates being developed to assist disadvantaged communities that need help developing Requests for Proposals for tree work in their communities.

MYTH: THERE IS NO ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION (OR PROCLAMATION) IN OUR COMMUNITY.

TRUTH: Arbor Day is one of the nation's oldest celebrations. The first one was in 1872 and the idea spread quickly to all states in the nation. If your community doesn't have an Arbor Day celebration of some kind, it's time to start. Countless numbers of adults can trace their earliest memories of stewardship to an Arbor Day celebration at school. Ways to celebrate can be as simple as a brief ceremony and planting a new tree near city hall, the library, a home for the elderly, or some other public or private building.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 3

- Free membership
- 4 community standards



FREE MEMBERSHIP

There are 4 community standards required to join Tree City USA:

STANDARD 1: FORM A TREE BOARD OR DEPARTMENT

Delegating responsibility for community-owned trees is the first step.
Get information on courses that will help you form a tree board at www.treeboardu.org.

STANDARD 2: ESTABLISH A TREE CARE ORDINANCE

A public tree care ordinance assigns clear authority over public trees.
Tree City USA provides sample templates you can customize for your community.

See the sample ordinances in Section 4: How to Apply.

The Morton Arboretum offers a customizable Tree Protection Ordinance Builder at www.mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/chicago-region-trees-initiative/ordinance-builder-for-tree-protection/

STANDARD 3: SPEND $2 PER CAPITA ON TREE RELATED WORK

Your community most likely already spends at least $2 per capita between planting, maintenance, removal, brush pickup, equipment and insurance.

See the qualified expenses chart in Section 4: How to Apply.

STANDARD 4: PROCLAIM AND CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY

Activities can range from a simple proclamation at a community building to a school or community-wide event.

See the sample proclamation in Section 4: How to Apply.



HOW TO APPLY

SECTION 4

- 5 steps to Tree City membership
- Are you ready?
- Start your application
- Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Administrator contact info
- Application materials



FIVE STEPS TO TREE CITY MEMBERSHIP

1. Get your community interested; find allies and partners
2. Contact your state urban and community forestry administrator
3. Work together to fulfill the four Tree City USA standards
4. Celebrate Arbor Day
5. Submit your application

ARE YOU READY?

Visit Tree City USA online at www.arborday.org/our-work/tree-city-usa.

Take the Readiness Quiz to see if your community qualifies for Tree City recognition. www.arborday.org/our-work/tree-city-usa/readiness-quiz

START YOUR APPLICATION

The Tree City USA of Illinois team is ready to help you through the process! We can also put you in touch with mentors from other TCUSA communities to help answer questions about the process and why they joined.

The application portal opens each year in early September. Application deadline is December 31.

Start by texting, emailing or calling Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Administrator Mike Brunk:
Michael.Brunk@illinois.gov, 217-361-9033

Find application resources and sample materials on the following pages.

If you need a more specific tree ordinance than the two samples (with and without tree advisory board) provided, The Morton Arboretum offers a customizable Tree Protection Ordinance Builder at www.mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/chicago-region-trees-initiative/ordinance-builder-for-tree-protection/

And on behalf of your community now and for generations to come,

THANK YOU!

TREE CITY USA®
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

Tree City USA® Application Checklist

- This checklist will help you organize everything you need for your application before you apply online
- You can save your application and come back
- Application deadline varies by state; check **arborday.org/treecity** for the official deadline in your state.
- If your community is having difficulty meeting a specific standard, reach out to your state coordinator to learn more.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Information Required for Application

Contact Information for:

☐ Mayor
☐ City Forestry Contact

STANDARD 1: A Tree Board or Department

Do you have an entity responsible for your community's trees?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have a Tree Board?*
Check out **https://treeboardu.org/**

☐ Yes ☐ No

Information Required for Application

☐ Information on Tree Board/Department Meetings
☐ Names/Emails for Tree Board Members of Staff

STANDARD 2: A Tree Care Ordinance

Does your city have a tree ordinance that:

- Establishes a tree board, forestry department, or both, that assigns one of these entities responsibility over public trees?

— AND —

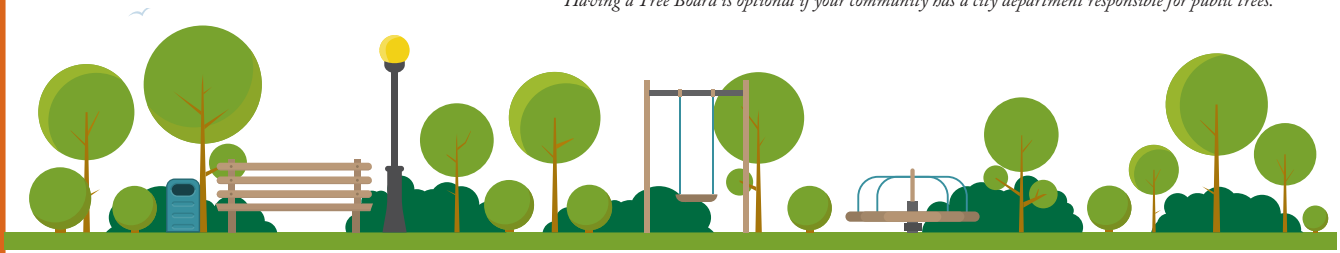
- Provides clear guidance about the planting, removal, and/or maintenance of public trees?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Information Required for Application

☐ Date Tree Ordinance was Adopted
☐ Upload current ordinance

**Having a Tree Board is optional if your community has a city department responsible for public trees.*



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STANDARD 3: A Community Forestry Program With an Annual Budget of at Least $2 Per Capita

Does your community spend $2 or more per capita?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Information Required for Application

Expenditures on:

☐ Tree Planting and Initial Care, Tree Maintenance, Tree Removal, Management, Utility Line Clearance, Volunteer Time (in hours), Hours Other (please explain), and Total Community Forestry Expenditures

☐ Annual Work Plan*

☐ Supporting Budget Documents*

Number of:

☐ Total Trees Planted, Trees Pruned, and Trees Removed

STANDARD 4: An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

Did your community celebrate Arbor Day this year?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Does your community have a signed Arbor Day Proclamation this year?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Information Required for Application

☐ Date of Observation

☐ Evidence of Arbor Day Event activities, photos, and/or news coverage

☐ Signed Arbor Day Proclamation

Verification Information

☐ Mayor or Equivalent's Signature

**If required by your state coordinator.*



Arbor Day Foundation®

90485201

Tree City USA

Arbor Day Foundation

QUALIFIED EXPENSES

The following expenses for public tree care (street, park, cemetery, public buildings) may be counted in meeting the $2 per capita requirement for Standard 3. When reporting budget information on the Tree City USA application, you will be asked to provide annual spending for the following categories: Tree Planting and Initial Care, Tree Maintenance, Tree Removal, Management, Utility Line Clearance, and Volunteer Time.

Things you do yourself

- Tree worker salaries & benefits – use a % if tree care is only part of their job **(D)**
- Time spent on tree care: watering, removing stakes, insect control, mulching **(B)** or **(A)** for new trees
- Time spent pruning **(B)** and removing trees **(C)**
- Leaf & brush pick-up **(B)**
- Biomass recycling **(B)**
- Equipment maintenance **(B)**
- Administrative time **(B)**

Things you bought

- Trees **(A)**
- Supplies: staking, mulch, watering bags, tools, gloves **(A)**
- Prizes for Arbor Day contests **(F)**
- Computer inventory software **(B)**
- Durable equipment: chainsaws, bucket trucks, etc. **(B)** or **(C)**
- Other – tell us!

Educational expenses

- Tree care conferences and workshops attended by city workers **(D)**
- Memberships in and donations to tree organizations **(D)**
- Public education materials: brochures, newsletters, flyer, etc. **(D)**

Things you contracted out

- Tree planting **(B)** or removal **(C)**
- Tree inventory work **(D)**
- Equipment rental **(A, B, C)**
- Consultants to write a plan or give advice **(D)**
- Insurance **(D)**
- Utility line clearance **(E)**

Things other people did

- Volunteer time – at the national volunteer rate – for: Tree board meetings, tree planters, Arbor Day preparations **(F)**
- Item donated by others: Trees or tree planting services **(A)** or discounts by local vendors **(D)**



Legend Tree Planting & Initial Care **(A)** | Tree Maintenance **(B)** | Tree Removal **(C)** | Management **(D)** | Utility Line Clearance **(E)** | Volunteer Time **(F)**

SAMPLE MUNICIPAL TREE ORDINANCE - WITHOUT TREE ADVISORY BOARD

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of:

(City) _____

(State) _____

Section 1. Purpose.

To enhance the quality of life and the present and future health, safety, and welfare of all residents, to enhance property values, and to ensure proper planting and care of trees on public property, the City Council herein delegates the authority and responsibility for managing public trees, establishes practices governing the planting and care of trees on public property, and makes provision for the emergency removal of trees on private property under certain conditions.

Section 2. Definitions.

As used in this Article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings indicated:

Damage – any injury to or destruction of a tree, including but not limited to: uprooting; severance of all or part of the root system or main trunk; storage of material on or compaction of surrounding soil; a substantial change in the natural grade above a root system or around a trunk; surrounding the tree with impervious paving materials; or any trauma caused by accident or collision.

Nuisance – any tree, or limb thereof, that has an infectious disease or insect; is dead or dying; obstructs the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles; or threatens public health, safety, and welfare.

Parkway – the area along a public street between the curb and the sidewalk; or if there is no curb or sidewalk, the unpaved portion of the area between the street right-of-way line and the paved portion of the street or alley.

Public property – all grounds and rights-of-way (ROWs) owned or maintained by the City.

Public tree – any tree or woody vegetation on city-owned or city-maintained property or rights-of-way.

Top or **Topping** – the non-standard practice of cutting back of limbs to stubs within a tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree.

Section 3. Authority and power.

(a) **Delegation of authority and responsibility.** The Director of the (**insert Managing Department**) and/or their designee, hereinafter referred to as the "Director", shall have full authority and responsibility to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees and woody plants growing in or upon all municipal streets, rights-of-ways, city parks, and other public property. This shall include the removal of trees that may threaten electrical, telephone, gas, or any municipal water or sewer line, or any tree that is affected by fungus, insect, or other pest disease.

(b) **Coordination among city departments.** All city departments will coordinate as necessary with the Director and will provide services as required to ensure compliance with this Ordinance as it relates to streets, alleys, rights-of-way, drainage, easements, and other public properties not under direct jurisdiction of the Director.

(c) **Interference.** No person shall hinder, prevent, delay, or interfere with the Director or his agents while engaged in carrying out the execution or enforcement of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Tree planting and care standards.

(a) **Standards.** All planting and maintenance of public trees shall conform to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A-300 "Standards for Tree Care Operations" and shall follow all tree care Best Management Practices (BMPs) published by the International Society of Arboriculture.

(b) **Requirements of franchise utility companies.** The maintenance of public trees for utility clearance shall conform to all applicable utility industry standards.

(c) **Preferred species list.** The Director shall maintain an official list of desirable tree species for planting on public property in two size classes: Ornamental (20 feet or less in height at maturity) and Shade (greater than 20 feet at maturity). Trees from this approved list may be planted without special permission; other species may be planted with written approval from the Director.

(d) **Planting distances.** The Director shall develop and maintain an official set of spacing requirements for the planting of trees on public property. No tree may be planted within the visibility triangle of a street intersection or within 10 feet of a fire hydrant.

(e) **Planting trees under electric utility lines.** Only trees listed as Ornamental trees on the official city tree species list may be planted under or within 15 lateral feet of any overhead utility wire.

Section 5. Prohibition against harming public trees.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to damage, remove, or cause the damage or removal of a tree on public property without written permission from the Director.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to attach any cable, wire, sign, or any other object to any street, park, or public tree.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to "top" any public tree. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, where best pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this provision at the determination of the Director.

(d) Any person, firm, corporation, or city department performing construction near any public tree(s) shall consult with the Director and shall employ appropriate measures to protect the tree(s), according to procedures contained in the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for "Managing Trees During Construction" published by the International Society of Arboriculture.

(e) Each violation of this section as determined and notified by the Director shall constitute a separate violation, punishable by fines and penalties under Section 10, in addition to mitigation values placed on the tree(s) removed or damaged in violation of this section.

Section 6. Adjacent owner responsibility.

(a) The owner of land adjacent to any city street or highway, when acting within the provisions of this Ordinance, may plant and maintain trees in the adjacent parkway area.

(b) No property owner shall allow a tree, or other plant growing on his or her property to obstruct or interfere with pedestrians or the view of drivers, thereby creating a hazard. If an obstruction persists, the Director shall notify the property owner to prune or remove the tree or plant. If the owner fails to comply with the notice, the City may undertake the necessary work and charge the cost to the property owner.

Section 7. Certain trees declared a nuisance.

(a) Any tree, or limb thereof, on private property determined by the Director to have contracted a lethal, communicable disease or insect; to be dead or dying; to obstruct the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles; or that threatens public health, safety, and welfare is declared a nuisance and the City may require its treatment or removal.

(b) Private property owners have the duty, at their own expense, to remove or treat nuisance trees on their property. The City may remove such trees at the owner's expense if the owner does not comply with treatment and/or removal as specified by the Director within the written notification period.

Section 8. Violations and penalty.

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars ($500.00) for each offense.

Section 9. Appeals.

Appeals to decisions by the Director, or to penalties imposed after violations of this ordinance, shall be heard by City Council.

Section 10. Savings and repeal.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 11. Severability.

Should any word, sentence, clause, paragraph, or provision of this Ordinance be held to be invalid or unconstitutional the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SAMPLE MUNICIPAL TREE ORDINANCE - WITH TREE ADVISORY BOARD

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of:

(City) _____

(State)_____

Section 1. Purpose.

To enhance the quality of life and the present and future health, safety, and welfare of all residents, to enhance property values, and to ensure proper planting and care of trees on public property, the City Council herein delegates the authority and responsibility for managing public trees, creates a Tree Advisory Board, establishes practices governing the planting and care of trees on public property, and makes provision for the emergency removal of trees on private property under certain conditions.

Section 2. Definitions.

As used in this Article, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings indicated:

Damage – any injury to or destruction of a tree, including but not limited to: uprooting; severance of all or part of the root system or main trunk; storage of material on or compaction of surrounding soil; a substantial change in the natural grade above a root system or around a trunk; surrounding the tree with impervious paving materials; or any trauma caused by accident or collision.

Nuisance – any tree, or limb thereof, that has an infectious disease or insect; is dead or dying; obstructs the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles; or threatens public health, safety, and welfare.

Parkway – the area along a public street between the curb and the sidewalk; or if there is no curb or sidewalk, the unpaved portion of the area between the street right-of-way line and the paved portion of the street or alley.

Public property – all grounds and rights-of-way (ROWs) owned or maintained by the City.

Public tree – any tree or woody vegetation on city-owned or city-maintained property or rights-of-way.

Top or **Topping** – the non-standard practice of cutting back of limbs to stubs within a tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree.

Section 3. Authority and power.

(d) **Delegation of authority and responsibility.** The Director of the (**insert Managing Department**) and/or their designee, hereinafter referred to as the "Director", shall have full authority and responsibility to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees and woody plants growing in or upon all municipal streets, rights-of-ways, city parks, and other public property. This shall include the removal of trees that may threaten electrical, telephone, gas, or any municipal water or sewer line, or any tree that is affected by fungus, insect, or other pest disease.

(e) **Coordination among city departments.** All city departments will coordinate as necessary with the Director and will provide services as required to ensure compliance with this Ordinance as it relates to streets, alleys, rights-of-way, drainage, easements, and other public properties not under direct jurisdiction of the Director.

(f) **Interference.** No person shall hinder, prevent, delay, or interfere with the Director or his agents while engaged in carrying out the execution or enforcement of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Tree advisory board.

The City Council hereby creates a "Tree Advisory Board," hereinafter referred to as the "Board."

(a) **Duties**. The Board shall act in an advisory capacity to the Director and shall:

(1) Coordinate and promote Arbor Day activities;

(2) Review and update a five-year plan to plant and maintain trees on city property;

(3) Support public awareness and education programs relating to trees;

(4) Review city department concerns relating to tree care;

(5) Submit an annual report of its activities to the city council;

(6) Assist with the annual application to renew the Tree City USA designation;

(7) Recommend a list of tree species for planting on city property, and a list of prohibited species; and

(8) Other duties that may be assigned by City Council.

(b) **Membership.** The Board shall consist of seven members approved by City Council. Members of the Board will serve without compensation.

(c) **Term of office.** Board members shall be appointed for three-year staggered terms[1]. If a vacancy shall occur during the term of any member, a successor shall be appointed by City Council.

(d) **Officers.** The Board shall annually select one of the members to serve as chair, may appoint a second member to serve as vice-chair, and may appoint a third member to serve as secretary.

(e) **Meetings.** The Board shall meet a minimum of four times each year. All meetings shall be open to the public. The Board chair may schedule additional meetings as needed.

Section 5. Tree planting and care standards.

(f) **Standards.** All planting and maintenance of public trees shall conform to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A-300 "Standards for Tree Care Operations and shall follow all tree care Best Management Practices (BMPs) published by the International Society of Arboriculture.

(g) **Requirements of franchise utility companies.** The maintenance of public trees for utility clearance shall conform to all applicable utility industry standards.

(h) **Preferred species list.** The Director shall maintain an official list of desirable tree species for planting on public property in two size classes: Ornamental (20 feet or less in height at maturity) and Shade (greater than 20 feet at maturity). Trees from this approved list may be planted without special permission; other species may be planted with written approval from the Director.

(i) **Planting distances.** The Director shall develop and maintain an official set of spacing requirements for the planting of trees on public property. No tree may be planted within the visibility triangle of a street intersection or within 10 feet of a fire hydrant.

(j) **Planting trees under electric utility lines.** Only trees listed as Ornamental trees on the official city tree species list may be planted under or within 15 lateral feet of any overhead utility wire.

Section 6. Prohibition against harming public trees.

(f) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to damage, remove, or cause the damage or removal of a tree on public property without written permission from the Director.

(g) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to attach any cable, wire, sign, or any other object to any street, park, or public tree.

(h) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to "top" any public tree. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, where best pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this provision at the determination of the Director.

(i) Any person, firm, corporation, or city department performing construction near any public tree(s) shall consult with the Director and shall employ appropriate measures to protect the tree(s), according to procedures contained in the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for "Managing Trees During Construction" published by the International Society of Arboriculture.

(j) Each violation of this section as determined and notified by the Director shall constitute a separate violation, punishable by fines and penalties under Section 10, in addition to mitigation values placed on the tree(s) removed or damaged in violation of this section.

Section 7. Adjacent owner responsibility.

(c) The owner of land adjacent to any city street or highway, when acting within the provisions of this Ordinance, may plant and maintain trees in the adjacent parkway area.

(d) No property owner shall allow a tree, or other plant growing on his or her property to obstruct or interfere with pedestrians or the view of drivers, thereby creating a hazard. If an obstruction persists, the Director shall notify the property owner to prune or remove the tree or plant. If the owner fails to comply with the notice, the City may undertake the necessary work and charge the cost to the property owner.

Section 8. Certain trees declared a nuisance.

(c) Any tree, or limb thereof, on private property determined by the Director to have contracted a lethal, communicable disease or insect; to be dead or dying; to obstruct the view of traffic signs or the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles; or that threatens public health, safety, and welfare is declared a nuisance and the City may require its treatment or removal.

(d) Private property owners have the duty, at their own expense, to remove or treat nuisance trees on their property. The City may remove such trees at the owner's expense if the owner does not comply with treatment and/or removal as specified by the Director within the written notification period.

Section 9. Violations and penalty.

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars ($500.00) for each offense.

Section 10. Appeals.

Appeals to decisions by the Director or the Tree Advisory Board, or to penalties imposed after violations of this ordinance, shall be heard by City Council.

Section 11. Savings and repeal.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 12. Severability.

Should any word, sentence, clause, paragraph, or provision of this Ordinance be held to be invalid or unconstitutional the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

[1] At the first appointment of Tree Advisory Board members, Council will appoint all members at once. A staggered board can be arranged by giving the initial members different term lengths. For a seven-member board, two members can be given one-year terms, two members can be given two-year terms, and the remaining three members given three-year terms. After the initial members' terms expire, all future members would be given three-year terms.

Arbor Day Proclamation

Whereas, In 1872, the Nebraska Board of Agriculture set aside a special day for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, this 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, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving 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 community 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 trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Dated this _____ day of _____

Mayor _____

FUNDING AND PROGRAM PARTNERS

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Tree City USA

Arbor Day Foundation

Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture



Illinois Department of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity provider.

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