



Forestry Awards

Tree City USA Recognition and Tree City USA Growth Award

The Village of Wheeling has earned numerous forestry awards and recognitions from the National Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. The Village has received the Tree City USA recognition for 20 consecutive years and 8 Tree City USA Growth Awards (through 2009).

To qualify for Tree City USA, a town or city must meet four standards established by The 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. It is important to note that they were also designed so that no community would be excluded because of its size. For more information see the Arbor Day Foundation website regarding Tree City USA information at: <http://www.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/index.cfm>

The Tree City USA Program recognizes communities who meet the following criteria:

- **A Tree Board or Department**
- **A Tree Care Ordinance**
- **A Community Forestry Program With an Annual Budget of at Least \$2.00 Per Capita**
- **An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation**

Every community, regardless of size, benefits in different ways from being a Tree City USA. A community's public image is important in many ways. Being a Tree City USA helps present the kind of image that most citizens want to have for the place they live or conduct business. The Tree City USA signs at community entrances tell visitors that here is a community that cares about its environment.

The Tree City Growth Award is awarded to communities that have been a Tree City USA for at least two consecutive years and has spent at least as much on its community forestry program this year as last year, demonstrating improvements on its community forestry program.