



Tree City USA

What is Tree City USA?

Tree City USA (TCUSA) is a national program of the Arbor Day Foundation that is administered locally by state foresters. TCUSA provides recognition for community forestry in cities and towns across the United States. The program started in 1976 through the Arbor Day Foundation, National Association of State Foresters, and the USDA Forest Service. The idea was to expand the concept of Arbor Day from tree planting to more comprehensive tree care.

To qualify for TCUSA, a town or city must meet four core standards. 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 size.

Core Standards Communities must meet for Tree City USA Recognition

Standard 1: Maintaining a tree board or department

Standard 2: Having a public tree care ordinance

Standard 3: Spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry

Standard 4: Having an Arbor Day observance and proclamation

Find more information on becoming an official Tree City on the Arbor Day Foundation website.

California Tree City USA Program

California has a dedicated State Urban Forester and several Regional Urban Foresters (RUFs) at CAL FIRE throughout the state to help coordinate the TCUSA Program. These foresters provide urban forestry technical assistance, education, and grants to help advance urban forestry in California. In addition, the RUFs help recruit new TCUSA applicants and provide information about the benefits of being a TCUSA.

Trees provide urban environments with many benefits, including decreased temperatures, cleaner water and air, increased property value, improved urban wildlife habitat, among many other social, health, and economic benefits. It has even been proven that being around trees reduces stress and crime, improves academic performance, and creates jobs! By earning a TCUSA recognition, your city will bring all these benefits, and more, to its residents.

California's RUFs are also available to guide you through the TCUSA application process. Once your application is submitted, your local RUF will review your application for regional approval. Upon regional approval, the application will then be reviewed by the State Urban Forester. Once the State Urban Forester approves the application, it will be reviewed and approved by the Arbor Day Foundation. If any changes need to occur along the way, your local RUF will work with you to make the necessary corrections or guide you on how to meet the requirements for the following year. Once the application has been fully approved, your RUF may be available to attend your current year's Arbor Day event and present you with your TCUSA recognition.



www.fire.ca.gov

www.arborday.org/our-work/tree-city-usa

Tree City USA



Other Recognition Programs



TREE CITY USA®



TREE CITY USA®

The TCUSA Growth Award is an annual recognition to participating TCUSA communities that demonstrate higher levels of tree care and community engagement during the calendar year.



The Tree Line USA program helps forward-looking utility providers to be seen as community partners, by outlining best practices in public and private utility arboriculture.



The Tree Campus Healthcare program provides healthcare facilities with a clear framework to create a healthier campus and community through urban forestry, helping providers create an environment of total wellness.



Tree Campus K-12 recognizes schools that lead the way in tree stewardship. When you make trees part of your curriculum and your campus, you make your school a better place to learn and live.



Tree Campus Higher Education is a sustainable forestry program tailored for colleges and universities. With a clear, simple framework, education leaders can craft a program that makes their campus healthier and happier.

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