TREE CITY USA 2005: SOUTHEAST STATES
INFORMATION SHEET

In 1976, Tree City USA was established to recognize communities that were effectively managing their trees. Over time, four basic standards necessary to qualify to become a Tree City USA were set up and the program's goal grew to also encourage the implementation of well-planned local forestry programs. Tree City USA is the result of the partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, National Association of State Foresters and The National Arbor Day Foundation. The U.S. Forest Service provides financial assistance and technical advice, the state foresters provide local assistance as well as serving as key promoters, certifiers and coordinators in each state, and The National Arbor Day Foundation provides educational materials and management of the cooperative venture. In addition to hundreds of professionals and volunteers work together on behalf of Tree City USA, and the program is endorsed and promoted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities. The National Arbor Day Foundation has identified six benefits of Tree City USA for a community: Framework for Action, Education, Public Image, Citizen Pride, Financial Assistance and Publicity.

A community can obtain assistance from their state forester's office to organize or improve their community forestry program and to help their community become a Tree City USA. The National Arbor Day Foundation presents a beautiful walnut-mounted plaque, a large Tree City USA flag, and special highway signs for community entrances to each Tree City USA.

Qualifications
To qualify for Tree City USA, a community must meet four standards that were established to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree management plan and program. Importantly, they were also designed so that no community would be excluded because of size. The four standards are:
1. A Tree Board or Department
   A forester, city department, or tree board is designated by ordinance to be responsible for tree care and management of the community's trees.
2. A Community Tree Ordinance
   The tree ordinance must designate the establishment of a tree board or forestry department and give this body the responsibility for writing and implementing an annual community forestry work plan.
3. A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at least $2 per capita
   Evidence is required that the community has established an active community forestry program that is supported by an annual budget of at least $2 per capita. At first, this may seem like an impossible barrier to some communities. However, a little investigation usually reveals that more than this amount is already being spent by the municipality on its trees.
4. An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation
   An Arbor Day celebration can be simple and brief or an all-day or all-week observation. Arbor Day is a golden opportunity for publicity and to educate homeowners about proper tree care.

The National Arbor Day Foundation address   http://www.arborday.org/
To receive a free Tree City USA booklet and application packet, contact your state urban forester or call: The National Arbor Day Foundation at: 888-448-7337

Listing of Tree City USA cities across the Southeast, as of 2005
Alabama	80 communities; oldest: Mobile for 26 years
Arkansas	23 communities; oldest: Eureka Springs for 23 years
Florida	119 communities; oldest: Orlando for 28 years
Georgia	104 communities; oldest: Columbus for 27 years
Kentucky	33 communities; oldest: Lexington-Fayette for 17 years
Louisiana	23 communities; oldest: New Orleans for 23 years
Mississippi	29 communities; oldest: Laurel for 22 years
North Carolina	62 communities; oldest: Brevard/Edenton/Farmville/Laurinburg/Wake Forest for 26 yrs
Oklahoma	24 communities; oldest: Pauls Valley for 24 years
South Carolina	36 communities; oldest: Cheraw for 27 years
Tennessee	31 communities; oldest: Norris for 26 years
Texas	57 communities; oldest: Ft. Worth for 26 years
Virginia	44 communities; oldest: Falls Church for 27 years

Tree City USA communities across the Southeast range in population from Beaver, AR; population of 95 to Houston, TX; population of 2,009,690
State Listing of Tree City USA Communities: http://www.arborday.org/programs/treecitydirectory.cfm