

Mayor Mark Eckert
101 South Illinois Street
Belleville, IL 62220

Dear Tree City USA Supporter,

On behalf of the Arbor Day Foundation, I write to congratulate Belleville on earning recognition as a 2018 Tree City USA. Residents of Belleville should be proud to live in a community that makes the planting and care of trees a priority.

Belleville is one of more than 3,500 Tree City USAs, with a combined population of 150 million. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

If ever there was a time for trees, now is that time. Communities worldwide are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, and energy use. Belleville is stepping up to do its part. As a result of your commitment to effective urban forest management, you are helping to provide a solution to these challenges.

We hope you are excited to share this accomplishment. Enclosed in this packet is a press release for your convenience as you prepare to contact local media and the public.

State foresters coordinate the presentation of the Tree City USA recognition materials. We will forward information about your awards to your state forester's office to facilitate presentation. It would be especially appropriate to make the Tree City USA award a part of your community's Arbor Day ceremony.

Again, we celebrate your commitment to the people and trees of Belleville and thank you for helping to create a healthier planet for all of us.

Best Regards,



Dan Lambe
President

cc: Jason Poole

enclosure

For more information, contact:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Arbor Day Foundation Names Belleville Tree City USA

Belleville, IL, was named a 2018 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Belleville achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community first hand," said Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education."

Trees provide multiple benefits to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

More information on the program is available at arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

About the Arbor Day Foundation: The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information is available at arborday.org.