



TREE NEWS

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YOU CAN USE

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

TREE CAMPUS, TREE CITY, TREE WHAT?

Getting connected to community organizations to promote healthy urban forests can be difficult. One way to get involved is to look for institutions in your town or city that participate in one of the programs offered by the [Arbor Day Foundation](#). These community programs include Tree Campus Higher Education, Tree Campus Healthcare, Tree Campus K-12, Tree City USA, and Tree Line USA.

Tree Campus Higher Education is designed for colleges and universities. It provides a framework for creating and maintaining sustainable campus forests and enhancing the health and beauty of college campuses. Institutions in this program commit to meeting five standards, including a campus tree advisory committee, a campus tree care plan, a campus tree care program with dedicated expenditures, a service learning project, and observing Arbor Day.

Tree Campus Healthcare links the health benefits of trees to healthcare facilities through community engagement, tree planting, and education.

Tree Campus K-12 focuses on K-12 schools and encourages them to integrate trees into their curriculum and campus environment.

Tree City USA is for cities and towns promoting effective urban forestry management. To become a Tree City USA, a community must meet four standards, including having a tree board or department, adopting a tree care ordinance, establishing a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita, and observing Arbor Day.

Tree Line USA recognizes utility companies demonstrating best practices in public and private utility arboriculture. It encourages utilities to protect trees during line clearance, conduct annual worker training, and engage in tree planting and public education efforts.

Other ways to get involved in local tree initiatives and contribute to the health of your community's urban forests might include the following:

- Find out if your city or town has a tree board and begin attending meetings.
- Join local or statewide tree advocacy groups such as Tennessee Urban Forestry Council, Trees Knoxville, Root Nashville, Greenspaces Chattanooga, and The Works, Inc.
- Participate in tree planting events hosted by local community groups or schools providing hands-on experience and a direct impact.
- Attend educational workshops on urban forestry and tree care, often offered by non-profit organizations, to help you gain valuable knowledge.
- Volunteer with parks and recreation departments or support reforestation projects to help make a difference in your local area.



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