15 Reasons to Be One:

1. Encourages better care of community forests.
2. Touches the lives of people within the community who benefit daily from cleaner air, shadier streets, and aesthetic beauty that healthy, well-managed urban forests provide.
3. Recognizes and rewards communities for annual advancements in urban forestry practices.
4. Increases public awareness of the many social, economical and environmental benefits urban forestry practices.
5. Provides education to improve current urban forestry practices.
6. Builds cooperation between public and private sectors to effectively manage urban forests.
7. Encourages, supports, and strengthens effective urban forestry programs in diverse communities nationwide.
8. Can make a strong contribution to a community’s pride.
9. Serves as a blueprint for planting and maintaining a community’s trees.
10. Puts people in touch with other communities/resources that can help them improve their program.
11. Brings solid benefits to a community such as helping to gain financial support for tree projects and contributing to safer and healthier urban forests.
12. Helps present the kind of image that most citizens want to have for the place they live or conduct business.
13. Tells visitors, through signage, that here is a community that cares about its environment.
14. Sometimes gives preference over other communities when allocations of grant money are made for trees or forestry programs.
15. Provides a way to reach large numbers of people with information about tree care.

www.arborday.org
TREE CITY USA
Standards 1 and 2

Standard 1: Tree Board or Department

Professional arborist or forester, or entire forestry department, or volunteer
tree board

Standard 2: Public Tree Care Ordinance

At minimum:

• Establishes a tree board or department
• Defines the role of the board or department
• Takes responsibility for ALL public trees
• Defines who is designated for tree care
• Addresses issues other than initial development
• Lists prohibitions, penalty, appeal

Look for a model public tree care ordinance tutorial at
http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu
The following expenses for public tree care (street, park, cemetery) may be counted in meeting the $2 per capita requirement for Standard 3:

- city workers' salaries (or percentage thereof if tree care is only a portion of their job)
- contract work
- tree board salaries (most are volunteer, some are paid)
- tree purchases
- watering
- fertilizing
- insect control
- staking
- mulching
- dead tree removal
- stump removal
- pruning by city employees
- leaf and brush pick-up
- biomass recycling
- survey or inventory expenses
- computer inventory software
- equipment purchases
- equipment rental
- equipment maintenance
- Arbor Day program
- prizes for Arbor Day contests
- tree care conferences and workshops attended by city workers
- memberships in and donations to tree organizations
- public education materials - brochures, newsletters, etc.
- administrative time
- insurance
- grant monies expended for any of the above items may be counted
- volunteer contributions—labor and materials—(figure volunteer work at minimum wage or with some other reasonable, uniformly applied formula)
- You can include tree work by public utilities, if the utility is a partner in the city's tree program and has implemented a tree planting program and proper pruning methods as recommended in the Tree Line USA program

Gretchen Riley, Program Coordinator
200 Technology Way, Suite 1281
College Station, TX 77845
979-458-6650 Fax 979-458-6655
griley@tfs.tamu.edu
http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu
Tree City USA Standard 3 Worksheet

Community: ________________________________                          Year: _____

Number of trees planted_____
Number of trees pruned_____
Number of trees removed_____

MUNICIPAL FORESTRY EXPENDITURES

Tree Planting and Initial Care
Include cost of tree purchases, labor and equipment for planting, planting materials, stakes, wrapping, watering, mulching, competition control, etc. $ ________________

Tree Maintenance
Include pruning, insect and disease management, fertilization, watering, etc. + $ ________________

Tree Removals
Include cost of equipment, supplies, labor, etc. + $ ________________

Management
Include public education, professional training, memberships, salaries, street and park tree inventory. + $ ________________

Other
Include any other expenses not already mentioned.
Briefly describe.
______________________________________________
______________________________________________ + $ ________________

TOTAL MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES         = $ ________________

OTHER COMMUNITY FORESTRY EXPENDITURES

Utility Line Clearance
Utility trimming expenses are allowed only if the utility is a partner in the city’s tree program and has implemented a tree planting program and proper pruning methods as recommended in the Tree Line USA program. $ ________________

Donated Labor and Materials
Value of volunteer labor and other contributions from civic organizations. $ ________________

TOTAL EXPENDITURES (Municipal + Other)   = $ ________________

COMMUNITY POPULATION
To qualify for Tree City USA total expenditures must be at least twice population.
Transfer these two numbers to Standard 3 on application and upload this sheet with application

Texas A&M Forest Service · 979-458-6650 · http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu · www.arborday.org
Arbor Day Proclamation

Whereas, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

Whereas, the holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, lower our heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

Whereas, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal,

NOW, THEREFORE, I __________________________ Mayor of the City of __________________________, do hereby proclaim __________________________ as

Arbor Day

in the City of __________________________, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

Further, I urge all citizens to plant and care for trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Dated this __________________________ day of __________________________ in the year __________________________

Mayor __________________________