

# COMMUNITY PRIDE

Becoming a Tree City sends a clear message that your village, town or city is an advocate for trees and the environment.

And by bringing together residents of all ages around a shared interest, trees can be a way to unite your community!



Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Forestry Division  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702



## ENHANCE YOUR COMMUNITY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME



**JOIN TREE CITY USA  
IN ILLINOIS**



# ABOUT TREE CITY USA

Tree City USA (TCUSA) is led by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters. In Illinois, the Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division oversees TCUSA and serves more than 7.5 million citizens.

Founded  
**1976**

## RESOURCES & GRANTS

TCUSA membership provides a ready-made framework to help you manage your public trees more effectively:

- Tools to create a community tree inventory
- Guidance for increasing tree biodiversity and managing pests and diseases
- Advance notice about community forestry grants
- Access to expertise and information from the Illinois state forester and other tree partners
- Educational resources and flags/signage
- Networking with other Illinois TCUSA communities



## POINTS OF PRIDE FOR ILLINOIS

**200+**

**TREE CITY USA COMMUNITIES**  
ILLINOIS RANKS #2  
IN THE U.S.

MORE  
THAN

**60%**

OF ILLINOIS RESIDENTS  
LIVE IN A TREE CITY  
USA COMMUNITY



**LARGEST  
TREE CITY**

**CHICAGO**  
POP 2.6 MILLION



**SMALLEST  
TREE CITY**

**STEWARD**  
POP 256

## TREES MAKE OUR LIFE BETTER!

Scientifically proven to lower temperatures 7 to 9 degrees in urban areas and cleanse the air we breathe.

Absorb carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Reduce traffic noise in urban areas by 40%.

Greenspace plays a major role in improving mental and physical health.

Reduce energy costs up to 25% by shading buildings and protecting them from winter winds.

Add more than \$550 million annually to property values across Illinois.



# FREE MEMBERSHIP

There are only 4 requirements to join Tree City USA:

- 1 Form a tree board or department**
- 2 Establish a tree care ordinance**  
Tree City USA provides a template you can customize for your community.
- 3 Spend \$2 per capita on tree related work**  
Your community most likely already spends at least \$2 per capita annually between planting, maintenance, removal, brush pickup, equipment and insurance.
- 4 Proclaim and celebrate Arbor Day**  
Activities can range from a simple proclamation to a school or community-wide event.

## GET STARTED

The Tree City USA team in Illinois is ready to help you!

We can also put you in touch with mentors from other TCUSA communities to help answer questions about the process and why they joined.



SCAN FOR  
**INFO**

**Begin here!**

SCAN CODE OR GO ONLINE  
[dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/forestry.html](http://dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/forestry.html)

TEXT OR EMAIL  
[Michael.Brunk@illinois.gov](mailto:Michael.Brunk@illinois.gov)  
217-361-9033

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