

Celebrating our Planet



Michigan Communities Honored

Celebrating Urban Trees

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment and Arbor Day Foundation have announced that 119 Michigan communities received the "Tree City USA" designation for their promotion of urban forestry in 2009. Communities are certified for work accomplished in 2009 and will be presented with their awards materials during the month of April.

This year's total includes the following four newly certified communities: Farmington Hills, Kingsley, Lexington, and Owosso. Michigan ranks eighth among all states in total number of communities certified.

The Tree City USA program promotes proper tree care and management in urban areas and calls attention to the economic, health, and aesthetic benefits trees offer.

To be eligible to participate, a community must meet the following four requirements:

- Have a designated tree board or department for its urban forest program
- Have a community tree ordinance
- Have a budget for community tree care equivalent to \$2 per capita
- Have an annual Arbor Day celebration and official Arbor Day proclamation.



Since the program began in 1976, Michigan has seen a steady increase in the number of communities being certified as a Tree City. "It is important to recognize community forestry programs for their commitment to managing natural resources for the public benefit. Tree City USA is a great achievement that citizens can take pride in," said DNRE Urban Forestry Coordinator Kevin Sayers.

Along with the Tree City USA program, the DNRE recertified four Michigan utilities --Lansing Board of Water and Light, DTE Energy, International Transmission Company, and Upper Peninsula Power Company -- through the Tree Line USA program. Two universities, University of Michigan and Western Michigan University, also were recertified through the Tree Campus USA program. These programs encourage utility companies and universities to offer tree care education programs and sponsor tree planting events as part of their commitment to maintaining healthy urban forests and trees locally. To find out more about the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree USA programs, visit www.arborday.org/programs.

A complete list of communities certified for 2009 is available online at: <http://www.michigan.gov/>

documents/dnr/2008TC-TLUSA_ 271029_7.pdf

For questions on DNRE's Urban and Community Forestry program, contact Kevin Sayers at 517-241-4632 or sayersk@michigan.gov, or visit DNRE's Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnrucf.

The DNRE is committed to the conservation, protection, management, accessible use and enjoyment of the State's natural resources for current and future generations.

State Arbor Day Celebration

Join Us For a Great Event

We are once again hosting the State Arbor Day Celebration at Potter Park Zoo in Lansing. The event will take place April 30th from 10am to 2pm. Over 1200 second and third graders with teachers and chaperones are expected to attend. Volunteers from Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Consumers Energy, City of Lansing-Forestry Department, Lansing Board of Water and Light and numerous environmental education groups will make the event a success. Sheri Jones from WLNS News will serve as the Master of Ceremonies for the noontime tree planting ceremony. The ceremony will include presentation of awards, a juggler, and the planting of a London Plane donated by Ayles Tree Service.



In addition to the event at Potter Park, Michigan Arbor Day Alliance has partnered with Michigan State Federal Credit Union to plant 200 trees in the Greater Lansing Area. Residents can get involved with the tree planting effort by participating in the Go Green Challenge. Visit our website to learn more about the Go Green Challenge, www.miarbordayalliance.com.

The first Arbor Day was celebrated in Nebraska on April 10, 1872. J. Sterling Morton, a pioneer and journalist championed the idea of a "tree planting" holiday in the Nebraska Territory. In the 1800's, the plains had been cleared for building materials, fuel and farming. It is estimated that Nebraskans planted over 1 million trees that first Arbor Day. Michigan has been celebrating Arbor Day since 1885.

Thank you to our 2010 Arbor Day Sponsors: Adams Outdoor Advertising, Arboriculture Society of Michigan, Ayles Tree Service, City of Lansing-Department of Forestry, Parks and Rec., DTE Energy, Eaton Conservation District, Ingham County Parks and Rec., ITC Holdings Corporation, Lancour & Associates, Lansing Board of Water and Light, Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment, Michigan State Federal Credit Union, Potter Park Zoo, Consumers Energy, Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association, Metropolitan Forestry Consultants, and Van Pines Nursery.

Everyday Green Tips

Quick and Easy Ways to Live Green

Have you ever thought about how much waste junk mail generates? Sixty-two billion pieces of junk mail

are produced each year (an average of 41 pounds per household). And 44% of this junk mail goes directly into our landfills unopened! The good news is you can do something to end the waste. Tell the consumer credit reporting companies to take you off their mailing lists at www.optoutprescreen. In the mean time a lot of communities have started offering magazine and mail recycling.

Have you ever thought about where your food comes from and the miles it travels before reaching your plate? On average food in the U.S. travels a distance of 1,500 miles before being consumed. If each U.S. citizen ate one meal a week from locally grown produce 1 million barrels of oil could be conserved each week. The year 2006 marked the first time in American history that the value of the food imported into the United States exceeded the value of the food exported from the United States. What can be done? Take a trip to a farmers market. Locally grown produce requires less fuel to transport and its fresher! Visit www.localharvest.org to find a market near you. To learn more about the facts of American consumption and agriculture visit www.farmland.org.



Have you ever thought about the value of trees? Trees are natural air filters. Their foliage reduces particulate matter from the air, including dust, micro sized metals, and pollutants such as ozone, nitrogen oxides, ammonia and sulfur dioxides.

Trees take in carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. Combined with the cooling effect of trees, these processes can have significant impact on reducing smog and overall air pollution. Every 40 trees removes 80 lbs of air pollutants annually. 1 Million trees equals \$5 Million in Annual Air Pollution Clean-Up. We know that trees improve our communities economically, provide human health benefits, and improve the environment. What can you do to support greener communities? Support your local tree organization, become a volunteer and plant trees.

Upcoming Events

Eaton Conservation Tree Sale

April 23rd

8am to 5pm

Jansons Tractor Supply

Charlotte, MI

State Arbor Day Celebration

April 30th

10am to 2pm

Potter Park Zoo

Lansing, MI

Earth Day Lansing

April 22nd - 24th

Downtown Lansing

Visit our booth April 24th for free seedlings!

Full event schedule www.earthdaylansing.com

Go Green Challenge

Ends April 30th

Get Involved

www.miarbordayalliance.com

