Tree City USA:
Growing Strong Communities
Introduction

• Value
• Program
• Benefits
• Standards
WHY ARE WE HERE?

South Central Florida is a void for Tree City USA.

Six county area with only one Tree City (La Belle)
VALUE
Trees...

• Infrastructure
• Health
• Legacy
• Wise Investment

Worth Our Time.
Worth Our Resources.
Humans instinctively prefer natural settings

- Increases employee productivity
- Reduces symptoms of ADHD
- Decreases crime
- Eases stress and anxiety
• Increased property value
• Treed streets = more frequent and longer shopping
• Shoppers spend more for goods and parking
VALUE

100 = 1,000
100 mature trees catch 200,000 gallons of rainwater/year.
100 Trees Over 40 Years:

Benefits = $161,000
- Energy
- Air Quality
- Runoff
- Real Estate

Costs = $89,000
- Planting/Pruning
- Removal/Disposal
- Irrigation
- Sidewalk Repair
- Litter
- Legal/Administration

Pay Off: $72,000
PROGRAM
PROGRAM

Tree City USA Provides Community Forestry Program:

• Direction
• Technical assistance
• Public attention
• National recognition
PROGRAM

Longevity – Launched in 1976

Impact – Over 135 million people live in/near a Tree City

Network – Support from over 3,400 recognized communities
BENEFITS
Framework for Action

- Provides direction
- Systematic management of tree resources
BENEFITS

Education

• Assistance through the application process
• Online resources
• Technical advice
Public Image

- Quality of life
- Influence
- Desirability
BENEFITS

Citizen Pride

- Willingness to volunteer
- Public tree care
- More pride
- Pride in community
- Better care of personal trees
BENEFITS

Publicity

• Presentation of the Tree City USA award
• Arbor Day celebration
• Public education
STANDARDS
1. Tree Board or Department
2. Tree Care Ordinance
3. Community Forestry Program
   With Annual Budget of at Least
   $2 Per Capita
4. Arbor Day Observance
   and Proclamation
1. Tree Board or Department

- May be a professional forester/arborist, an entire forestry department or a tree board
- Group of volunteer citizens charged by ordinance with developing and administering a tree management program
- Legally responsible for the management of the community’s trees
2. Tree Care Ordinance

- Establishes a tree board and gives it responsibilities
- Guidance for planting, maintaining and removing trees on public property
- Provides an opportunity to set good policy that is legally enforceable
- PLEASE DO NOT REFERENCE THE FFS OR AF CHAMPION TREE PROGRAM.
3. Community Forestry Program With Annual Budget of at Least $2 Per Capita

- Percentage of city workers’ salaries spent on tree care
- Tree planting/watering/fertilizing
- Equipment rental/purchase/maintenance
- Arbor Day expenses
- Tree care conferences, workshops, memberships
- Value of volunteer labor
4. Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

Opportunity to inform and engage the broader community through:

• Tree Planting
• Awards Ceremony
• Education
Steps to become a Tree City USA

• Meet the Four Standards

• Complete and upload application documents each year by November 15th - *No Fee!*

• Apply at [arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://arborday.org/TreeCityUSA)
Summary

• Value
• Program
• Benefits
• Standards
Purpose through Process

Trees...

Worth Our Time. Worth Our Resources.

“A town is saved, not more by the righteous men in it than by the woods...that surround it.”

-Henry David Thoreau
ENERGY SAVING TREES

• FFS in cooperation with ADF. Looking for municipal partners.

• 1 free tree per household.

• 50/50 Match up to $5000!

• Reduces energy costs and greenhouse emissions.

For more information contact:
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URBAN FOREST STRIKE TEAM

- Storm Damage Assessment
- Quantifies debris and canopy damage for FEMA reimbursement
- Team of certified arborists

For more information contact:
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Thank You

Learn more at arborday.org/treecityusa

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