

City of Irving Recognized for its Commitment to Urban Forestry

Measures implemented by the Irving Parks and Recreation Department have earned the City of Irving recognition as a Tree City USA from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The Tree City USA designation recognizes Irving's commitment to urban forestry and confirms that the city is a national leader in tree care practices.

Requirements satisfied by the City of Irving to earn the designation include an investment in urban forestry programs that is proportionate to the population, and the establishment of a tree board and tree care ordinance.

"I'm thrilled that the City of Irving has pursued and achieved the Tree City USA designation," said City of Irving Tree Board Member Lorraine Taylor. "This will bring the spotlight to the way the city takes care of its trees and hopefully more residents will mirror these best practices in their own yards."

The city is planning its Arbor Day celebration for November, which is the best time to plant trees in this region. In addition, an Arbor Day proclamation will be issued by Mayor Herbert A. Gears later this year.

"The importance of trees cannot be emphasized enough—they promote environmental wellness, and contribute greatly to the overall beauty of Irving neighborhoods," said Parks Manager and City Arborist Mike Griffith. "The Tree City USA designation recognizes the commitment of volunteers and staff who work to ensure the preservation and best care of trees in our community."

In April, 100 trees were planted at Northwest Park through a partnership between the city and the Boy Scouts of America in celebration of their 100th anniversary. Now that Irving has obtained its Tree City USA designation, annual observances, community forestry education programs and other initiatives that promote environmental sustainability will be ongoing to preserve the status.

The city periodically offers free tree care classes and provides information on tree care and selection at www.cityofirving.org/begreen.