



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cities, Colleges, Utilities Recognized for Keeping Community Forests Vibrant

LINCOLN, Neb. —Keeping Nebraska trees green and growing doesn't happen by accident but by choice. More than 100 cities, colleges and utilities worked hard during the drought to keep their trees healthy and strong. Collectively, they invested more than \$6.3 million in their communities. The Nebraska Forest Service (NFS) and the Nebraska Community Forestry Council acknowledged their work at the annual Tree City USA Recognition Day in Lincoln, April 2. Award categories include Tree City Growth, Tree City, Tree Campus and Tree Line USA.

"Communities are becoming more sophisticated with the tools they use to manage their tree resources," said Graham Herbst, NFS community forestry specialist for eastern Nebraska. "Tree City USA is a good tool in the community's tool box, which will be a starting point for the looming discovery of emerald ash borer (EAB) that will affect our tree canopy."

Five eastern cities received Tree City Growth awards: Battle Creek, Bellevue, Gretna, Lincoln and South Sioux City.

Recipients of the 2013 Tree City USA award in eastern Nebraska:

Allen	Crete	Humboldt	Omaha	South Sioux City
Ashland	Crofton	Julian	O'Neill	Stella
Atkinson	David City	Kearney	Ord	Stromsburg
Auburn	Dodge	La Vista	Papillion	Sutton
Battle Creek	Doniphan	Laurel	Pender	Tekamah
Beatrice	Fairbury	Lincoln	Pierce	Valley
Bellevue	Falls City	Milford	Pilger	Waco
Bennington	Fremont	Minden	Plainview	Wahoo
Blair	Friend	Nebraska City	Ralston	Wakefield
Boys Town	Grand Island	Neligh	Red Cloud	Wausa
Central City	Gretna	Nelson	Schuyler	Waverly
Columbus	Hartington	Nemaha	Scribner	Wayne
Cook	Hastings	Norfolk	Seward	Wisner
Creighton	Hickman	Odell	Shelton	York

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Recipients of the 2013 Tree City USA award in western Nebraska:

Alliance	Chappell	Kimball	Potter
Arapahoe	Cozad	Lexington	Rushville
Bassett	Curtis	McCook	*Scottsbluff
Bayard	Farnam	Mitchell	Sidney
Benkelman	*Gering	Morrill	Sutherland
Brady	Gothenburg	North Platte	Trenton
Broken Bow	Grant	*Ogallala	Wallace
Cambridge	Holdrege	Paxton	Wauneta
Chadron	Imperial		

*Ogallala has now received 30 years of Tree City USA awards. Gering and Scottsbluff received Tree City Growth Awards for practicing higher levels of tree management.

“These award winners demonstrate the enthusiasm and foresight to advocate for a community resource whose value is often difficult to immediately quantify and challenging to prioritize among the many needs of a community,” said Amy Seiler, NFS community forestry specialist for western Nebraska. “Our communities continue to prove that for every dollar spent on planting and caring for a tree we reap benefits up to five times that investment.”

Seven college campuses received Tree Campus USA awards. This was the first year the University of Nebraska Medical Center received the Tree Campus USA award.

Creighton University	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Metropolitan Community College in Omaha	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture	University of Nebraska at Omaha.
Nebraska Wesleyan University	

Four public utilities were Tree Line USA recipients: Lincoln Electric System, Nebraska City Utilities, Nebraska Public Power District and Omaha Public Power District.

The Nebraska Forest Service, an affiliate of the University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR), works to enrich lives by protecting, restoring and utilizing Nebraska's tree and forest resources.

For more information about tree-related awards, contact Jessica Kelling at 402-472-0220 or visit nfs.unl.edu.

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