



City of Florence
A City in Motion

Press Release

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ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION NAMES FLORENCE TREE CITY USA

FLORENCE – Earlier this year Florence was named a 2019 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. Florence joins more than 3,400 cities and towns across the country that have been recognized as Tree City USA communities.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

Florence achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program’s four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Trees are assets to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

“Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers, and committed citizens in communities like Florence make smart investments in urban forests,” said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social, and environmental benefits.”

Mayor Henry has proclaimed April 24, 2020, as Arbor Day in the City of Florence. Due to physical distancing measures in place for COVID-19, the City will not be hosting an Arbor Day event in April. The formal presentation of the Tree City USA designation will be rescheduled for this fall. It is the goal of the City of Florence to host Arbor Day celebratory activities later this fall, once guidelines allow for small gatherings, in coordination with the formal presentation.

Throughout the week of Arbor Day, the City will be posting some helpful resources related to the Tree City USA designation online at <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/bc-emas/arbor-day-2020>. More information on the Tree City USA program is available at www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

ABOUT THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION: The Arbor Day Foundation is a million-member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information is available at www.arborday.org.

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