



Mayor Troy Trulock  
100 Hughes Road  
Madison, AL 35758

Dear Tree City USA Supporter,

On behalf of the Arbor Day Foundation, I write to congratulate Madison on earning recognition as a 2014 Tree City USA. Residents of Madison ought to be proud to live in a community that makes the planting and care of trees a priority.

Your community joins more than 3,400 Tree City USAs, with a combined population of 140 million. 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.

As a result of your commitment to effective urban forest management, you already know that trees are vital to the public infrastructure of cities and towns throughout the country, providing numerous environmental, social and economic benefits. In fact, trees are the one piece of community infrastructure that actually increases in value over time.

We hope you are excited to share this accomplishment. Enclosed in this packet is a press release for your convenience as you prepare to contact local media and the public.

State foresters are responsible for the presentation of the Tree City USA flag and other materials. We will forward information about your awards to your state forester's office to coordinate presentation. It would be especially appropriate to make the Tree City USA award a part of your community's Arbor Day ceremony.

Again, we celebrate your commitment to the people and trees of Madison and thank you for helping to create a healthier planet for all of us.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Harris".

Matt Harris  
Chief Executive

cc: Levoneia Ayers

enclosure

For more information, contact:  
Anthony Marek, 402-473-9563  
amarek@arborday.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Arbor Day Foundation Names Madison Tree City USA**

Madison, AL was named a 2014 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Madison 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.

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"Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities like Madison 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."

Cleaner air, improved storm water management, energy savings and increased property values and commercial activity are among the benefits enjoyed by Tree City USA communities.

More information on the program is available at [arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://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 [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).