

# Tree Cities of the World™

*Celebrating greener cities worldwide*



## A Programme Partnership Between the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The Arbor Day Foundation inspires people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees in order to solve some of the world's biggest challenges: poverty, hunger, clean water and air, climate change, and species loss.

FAO supports the development of urban and peri-urban forestry actions, projects, and strategic planning tools that promote a sustainable and resilient model for city development around the world.

NOW MORE THAN EVER, trees and forests are a vital component of healthy, livable, and sustainable cities around the globe. Urban forests help define a sense of place and well-being where people live, work, play, and learn.

We invite your city to become part of the **Tree Cities of the World™** programme, an international effort to recognize cities and towns committed to ensuring that urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and duly celebrated. This is your opportunity to connect with cities around the world in a new network dedicated to sharing and adopting the most successful approaches to managing urban trees and forests.





## STANDARDS FOR RECOGNITION

Recognition through the Tree Cities of the World programme represents the first step toward achieving a green vision for your city. To receive recognition, a town or city must meet five core standards:

- **STANDARD 1: Establish Responsibility** – The city has a written statement by city leaders delegating responsibility for the care of trees within the municipal boundary to a staff member, a city department, or a group of citizens — called a Tree Board.
- **STANDARD 2: Set the Rules** – The city has in place a law or an official policy that governs the management of forests and trees. These rules describe how work must be performed — often citing best practices or industry standards for tree care and worker safety — where and when they apply, and penalties for noncompliance.
- **STANDARD 3: Know What You Have** – The city has an updated inventory or assessment of the local tree resource so that an effective long-term plan for planting, care, and removal of city trees can be established.
- **STANDARD 4: Allocate the Resources** – The city has a dedicated annual budget for the routine implementation of the tree management plan.
- **STANDARD 5: Celebrate Achievements** – The city holds an annual celebration of trees to raise awareness among residents and to acknowledge citizens and staff members who carry out the city tree programme.

## BENEFITS OF RECOGNITION

By becoming a Tree City, you will:

- **Use the five core standards** to build a program to care for city trees.
- **Educate people** living in your city about the value of trees and the importance of sustainable tree management.
- **Improve citizen pride** by using recognition to show that trees, conservation, and the environment are important to your city.
- **Demonstrate your commitment** to a healthier environment by displaying Tree Cities of the World recognition materials.

## GAIN WORLDWIDE RECOGNITION

Join this new, global network of cities recognized as leaders in the sustainable management of urban trees and forests. You may already be using innovative practices that keep city trees healthy. Now you can share your successes in planting and tending the urban forest of your city and learn from others around the world.

Learn more about becoming a recognized Tree City at [TreeCitiesoftheWorld.org](http://TreeCitiesoftheWorld.org)

