



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Communities to Celebrate Tree City USA Recognition *National program encourages commitment to urban forests*

FRANKFORT, Ky. – (April 4, 2012) – This year, Arbor Day will have special meaning to several communities across the Commonwealth that are being recognized in the Tree City USA program. The cities of Bellevue, Kingsley and Lyndon will be recognized for their 10th consecutive year as a Tree City USA, while the cities of Carrollton, Florence and Paducah will be recognized for their 20th consecutive year.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters, the USDA Forest Service, and state forestry agencies. Tree City USA communities must have a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a community forestry program with annual expenditures of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

“Kentucky has more than 30 cities with Tree City USA designation, and we are especially proud of the communities that have remained committed over the years,” said Leah MacSwords, director of Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF). “These communities are made up of local officials, volunteers and citizens who understand that trees have value in the urban setting because they help reduce pollution, conserve energy, provide wildlife habitat, and improve quality of life for the people who live there.”

KDF has been an active participant in the Tree City USA program for many years and is currently working with 31 communities to manage urban forests. For more information about the division’s Urban Forestry Assistance Program, contact 1-800-866-0555 or visit the Web site at <http://www.forestry.ky.gov/programs/urban/>.

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