



For Immediate Release –

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Eustis receives 2008 Tree City USA recognition, Growth Award *Award marks 17th year of this national recognition*

EUSTIS – The City of Eustis has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to the community forestry. It is the seventeenth year the City has received this national recognition and is the result of Eustis meeting the four standards of the Arbor Day Foundation: having a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance.

Eustis is also the recipient of a Tree City USA Growth Award for demonstrating progress in its community forestry program in the following activity areas:

- Education and Public Relations
- Literature distribution
- Continuing education for tree workers
- Partnerships
- Utility partnership
- Publications
- Community-wide tree event
- Tree worker safety program
- New project or organization

The prestigious Growth Award recognizes environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care in Tree City USA communities.

The City’s success in its tree program and selection for this award is due to the City Commission’s initiative in adopting a tree preservation ordinance and their support of the hard work and dedication of the Eustis Public Works Department and the Building Department. Public Works is responsible for tree planting on City property and in public rights of way, tree trimming, tree removal and replacement, care of newly planted trees, identifying critical areas of concern in need of immediate attention (both for tree trimming, removal and re-planting), and public notification regarding proposed City action affecting individual properties or trees. The Building Department is responsible for tree removal permitting and inspection on private property.

“A community, its elected officials, and its citizens that provide needed care for its trees deserves recognition and thanks,” said John Rosenow, Chief Executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “They recognize that trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in our cities and towns, providing environmental and economical benefits. Trees moderate climate, conserve water and provide habitat for wildlife. Trees in urban areas reduce the heat island effect caused by pavement and buildings. Properly placed trees can increase property values. Communities that are recognized with a Tree City USA designation and Growth Award go to great lengths to plant and care for the community forest.”

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. More information about Tree City USA can be found at www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

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