

Avon Recognized as a Tree City USA Community

(April 7, 2008) The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry (DoF), has recognized the Town of Avon and 60 other Hoosier cities and towns as Tree Cities USA for outstanding management of their urban forests.

Of those recognized, 14 also have received the Growth Award, which exemplifies a higher standard of excellence for urban forestry management activities.

"In 2007, Indiana's 61 Tree Cities planted over 10,938 trees, removed 6,269, and pruned 19,296," said John Seifert, state forester. "These municipalities are to be commended for utilizing the urban forest as a tool to enhance economic development, environmental health, and quality of life in their community."

The Tree City USA program has been in existence in Indiana since 1984, when Bloomington met the criteria and became the first Tree City in Indiana. In 2007, six new cities earned recognition for the first time: Avon, Dyer, Geneva, Russiaville, Westfield and Vincennes.

To achieve Tree City USA status, communities must draft and pass a public tree-care ordinance, designate a municipal department and tree advisory committee, spend at least \$2 per capita on their tree-care program, and have an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Becoming and remaining a Tree City is not an easy task," said Pam Louks, state community and urban forestry coordinator (CUF). "Since 2004, we have lost two Tree Cities each year. Out of the 568 cities and towns in the state, these 61 are truly unique in that they are making a concentrated effort to care for their urban forest, which cleans the air we breathe and the water we drink."

Tree Cities for 2007, with an asterisk denoting a Growth Award: Anderson, Angola, Auburn, Avon, Beech Grove, Bedford, Berne, Bloomington*, Carmel*, Chesterton, Columbia City, Crown Point, Culver*, Decatur, Delphi*, Dyer, East Chicago, Edgewood, Elkhart, Evansville*, Fort Wayne*, Fortville, Fremont, Geneva, Goshen, Greencastle, Greendale, Greenfield, Grissom Air Reserve Base, Huntington*, Indianapolis*, LaPorte, Lafayette, Madison*, Michigan City*, Middlebury*, Mishawaka, Montpelier, Mount Ayr, Muncie, Munster, Nappanee, Nashville, New Harmony, Noblesville*, North Manchester, Richmond, Rochester, Russiaville, Salem, South Bend, Syracuse*, Terre Haute*, Tipton, Valparaiso, Vincennes, West Lafayette, Westfield, Whiting, Winamac and Zionsville.

These communities will be formally recognized by DoF staff during this month and next at Arbor Day ceremonies throughout the state. The National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters sponsor the program, which now includes 3,216 Tree Cities nationally with 503 receiving the Growth Award.

Source: Indiana Department of Natural Resources