



Cincinnati Park Board

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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WHO: City of Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners

WHAT: Cincinnati Named Tree City USA® and Receives Prestigious Growth Award

Cincinnati has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry. Cincinnati was first named a Tree City USA community in 1981, so 2008 is the 28th consecutive year Cincinnati has received this national recognition!

In addition, Cincinnati also received the Tree City USA Growth Award. The prestigious Growth Award recognizes environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care in Tree City USA communities. Cincinnati Parks' Urban Forestry has demonstrated progress in key growth award areas: community partnerships, green industry partnerships, and planning and management.

"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."

Highlights from Cincinnati Parks 2008 Urban Forestry program include:

- Planted 3,083 trees in 2008, far exceeding the goal of 2,000 trees established by Parks in Mayor Mallory's Green Cincinnati Initiative.
- Developed a pioneering tree recycling partnership with Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) and Hamilton County to utilize wood from blighted ash trees to be milled locally. CPS purchases the lumber at below market cost to make into floors and furniture for new and remodeled school buildings. Proceeds support the local sawmill and supplement tree planting programs.

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About the Arbor Day Foundation

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. The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit, environmental, education organization of nearly one million members, with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information on the Foundation and its programs can be found at www.arborday.org.

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