



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WINDY HILLS EARNS 2024 TREE CITY USA RECOGNITION FROM ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION

WINDY HILLS, Kentucky (2/13/2025) – The Arbor Day Foundation named Windy Hills a 2024 Tree City USA in honor of its commitment to plant, grow, and maintain trees to benefit its community.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a global nonprofit with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. Its network of more than a million supporters and partners has helped the organization plant more than 500 million trees in forests and communities across more than 60 countries since 1972. The Tree City USA program has recognized cities and towns that leverage urban forestry to enhance the livability and sustainability of their local area for over 40 years.

"We all have a role to play in shaping our future and tree champions like Windy Hills are leading the way," said Michelle Saulnier, Vice President of Programs at the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees are critical infrastructure, building resiliency and fostering good health in our nation's cities. We're proud Windy Hills is among the Arbor Day Foundation's growing network of communities dedicated to creating positive impact through trees."

In cities and neighborhoods, trees are proven to help mitigate the urban heat island effect, reduce stormwater runoff, improve air quality, and boost mental and physical health. When the right trees are planted in the right places, they can also reduce traffic noise, increase property values, and lower energy costs for homeowners.

{OPTIONAL QUOTE FROM CITY OFFICAL/LOCAL TREE CITY REPRESENTATIVE}

To earn Tree City USA recognition, a city must uphold four core standards including maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and participating in an Arbor Day celebration.

The Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program is operated in partnership with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. To learn more about the program or how to apply, visit arborday.org.

About the Arbor Day Foundation

The Arbor Day Foundation is a global nonprofit inspiring people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. They foster a growing community of more than 1 million leaders, innovators, planters, and supporters united by their bold belief that a more hopeful future can be shaped through the power of trees. For more than 50 years, they've answered critical need with action, planting more than half a billion trees alongside their partners. And this is only the beginning.

The Arbor Day Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit pursuing a future where all life flourishes through the power of trees. Learn more at arborday.org.

Mayor John Roberts
Summit Executive Suites, Suite 110
4350 Brownsboro Road
Windy Hills, KY 40207

Dear Mayor John Roberts,

On behalf of the Arbor Day Foundation, I'm happy to extend my warmest congratulations to Windy Hills on successfully achieving 2024 Tree City USA status. This well-deserved recognition is a testament to your community's unwavering commitment to the planting, care, and celebration of trees.

In an era where cities and towns are facing increasing challenges related to air quality, public health, and climate resilience, nurturing urban forests has never been more important. By prioritizing tree stewardship, you've not only helped enhance Windy Hills's beauty and livability, but you've also invested in a healthier, more sustainable future for your residents.

The Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program has a long legacy of supporting a nationwide network of passionate organizers and tireless tree planters. Since 1976, we've connected with more than 3,500 communities of all sizes to create and maintain green spaces. While we may all work in different corners of the country, we are all working in unison to create positive change through trees.

To be named a Tree City USA is to be part of something bigger.

Whether Windy Hills is newer to the Tree City USA recognition program, or you've been part of our network for decades, we hope you are as excited as we are to share this accomplishment with your local media and your residents. To that end, we've included a press release for you to distribute at your convenience. A digital copy of the press release and other materials can be found in the Tree City USA Resource Center online at arborday.org/TreeCitytoolkit.

Once again, congratulations on this outstanding achievement and thank you for your dedication to Windy Hills's tree canopy. We believe cities that take care of their trees, take care of their people.

Best Regards,



Dan Lambe
Chief Executive of the Arbor Day Foundation