



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Lafayette to Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day! City of Lafayette receives national/international tree recognition awards.

LAFAYETTE, INDIANA – April 18, 2024 – Next week the City of Lafayette, in conjunction with Tree Lafayette, will celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day with various events throughout the city. On Monday, April 22 at 10:00 am, Earth Day will be celebrated at Armstrong Park at 809 Beck Lane, with the planting of 15 trees by SIA volunteers. Mayor Roswarski will also read a proclamation to commemorate Earth Day 2024.

To celebrate Arbor Day, 59 trees will be planted on Saturday, April 27 at 8:30 am along 26th Street in Lafayette. A proclamation will be read by Mayor Roswarski for Arbor Day activities. Volunteers are needed to plant trees on April 27. To sign-up, pre-register at www.treelafayette.org/arbor-day.



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The City of Lafayette is excited to announce that based on its efforts to protect the environment and help mitigate climate change, the city has recently received three (3) tree designation awards for 2023. Lafayette has achieved **Tree City USA** recognition, for the **32nd straight year**, by meeting the programs four requirements:

1. Forming a tree board or department
2. Creating a tree-care ordinance
3. Having an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita
4. Observing Arbor Day with a city proclamation

“Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities like Lafayette make smart investments in urban forests,” states Dan Lambe, Chief Executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social and environmental benefits.”

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. More information on this program is available at www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

The **Tree City USA Growth Award** is presented by the Arbor Day Foundation to participating Tree City USA communities that demonstrate higher levels of tree care and community engagement throughout the year that help our urban forest grow and develop. This is the **seventh year** Lafayette has received this award.

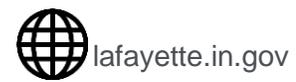
The **Tree Cities of the World** program is an international effort to recognize cities and towns committed to ensuring that their urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and duly celebrated. Lafayette, for the **third year**, is one of only three cities in Indiana to have earned this designation and one of only 200 cities throughout the world. To be recognized as a Tree City of the World, a community must meet five core standards that illustrate a commitment to caring for its trees and forest on a higher level. These standards include:



1. Establish responsibility for the care of trees within the municipal boundary to a staff member, a city department, or a group of citizens called a Tree Board.
2. Set the rules for the city to have in place a law or an official policy that governs the management of forests and trees. These rules describe how work must be performed, often citing best practices or industry standards for tree care and worker safety.
3. Know what you have in your city's inventory or assessment of the local tree resource so that an effective long-term plan for planting, care, and removal of city trees can be established.
4. Allocate the resources for a dedicated budget for the routine implementation of the tree management plan.
5. Celebrate achievements recognized at annual celebration of trees to raise awareness among residents and to acknowledge citizens and staff members who carry out the city tree program.

The Tree City of the World award was implemented at the 2018 World Forum on Urban Forests in Mantova, Italy where world leaders issued the Mantova Green Cities Challenge and a call-for-action that included joining the Tree Cities of the World program, which will connect cities around the world in a new network dedicated to sharing and adopting the most successful approaches to managing community trees and forests.

“Lafayette is very proud to receive these three tree designation awards from the National Arbor Day Foundation after many months and years of work by so many individuals and groups,” states Mayor Tony Roswarski. “Through our work with the city forester, other city departments, Tree Lafayette, and community partners, I’m excited to announce that we have a goal to plant over 1,000 trees by 2028 in Lafayette that will play an integral part in the work of the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan. By working together, we can make Lafayette greener.”



To learn more about the services of Lafayette's urban forest, click on the link at: <https://www.lafayette.in.gov/2025/Urban-Forestry>. This site will inform citizens on the process for planting, pruning and removal of 'right of way' trees in the City of Lafayette. For further information on Lafayette's urban forest, please contact Kris Brown, Lafayette's City Forester, at kbrown@lafayette.in.gov.

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