



An Innovative Community; Authentically Hometown

Mount Vernon Receives Tree City USA Growth Award

City a recipient of Arbor Day Foundation honor for 8th year in a row

MOUNT VERNON, April 27, 2023 – The City of Mount Vernon has once again received a Tree City USA Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of the City’s commitment to effective urban forest management.

A Growth Award is bestowed upon a community alongside its Tree City USA recognition for demonstrating environmental improvement and a higher level of tree care. The Growth Award recognizes major milestones and annual activities in five categories on a point-based system to build sustainable community forestry programs over the long term such as building a team, measuring trees and forests, planning the work, performing the work and building the community framework.

James Brown, chair of Mount Vernon’s Shade Tree and Beautification Commission, noted that this year’s Growth Award for the City was just one of 11 in the central Ohio region, which encompasses 15 counties and 45 Tree City USA communities.

For almost 30 years now, the City of Mount Vernon has also been lauded for preserving its tree canopy for future generations. In recognition of these continuing efforts, the City has received a Tree City USA designation every year since 1993. Mount Vernon continues to achieve Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program’s four requirements of maintaining a tree board or department, having a tree care ordinance, dedicating an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and hosting an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

“Tree City USA communities see the positive effects of an urban forest firsthand,” said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “The trees being planted and cared for by Mount Vernon are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program brings residents together and creates a sense of civic pride, whether it’s volunteer engagement or public education.”

With the additional recognition of a Growth Award, the City’s eighth consecutive such honor, Mount Vernon has demonstrated its expediency towards building a framework for sustainable urban forest management. Urban tree plantings help reduce energy consumption by up to 25 percent, which will reduce general energy costs and help with the overall cooling of the City as well. In addition, members of the community benefit from properly placed trees as they increase property values from 7 percent to 20 percent. Trees also positively affect the local ecosystem by helping to clean water and create animal habitats to encourage biodiversity.

The Tree City USA program was created in 1976, and is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities and the National Association of State Foresters. For more information on the program, visit arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

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ABOUT THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON:

The City of Mount Vernon is an innovative community with an authentic hometown feel. The City is dedicated to providing modern services with an emphasis on continual improvement, customer service and equitable laws that support our citizens and visitors, while retaining and attracting investors in our community. Home to 17,000 people, Mount Vernon is the county seat for Knox County and boasts historic buildings and districts as well as business and professional, educational and recreational opportunities through many adaptive reuses of the community's infrastructure and spaces. The City has strong ties to higher education, with Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Kenyon College and Central Ohio Technical College operating satellite locations in the historic downtown. Located 40 miles northeast of Columbus, Mount Vernon is near the geographic center of Ohio and has connections all over the globe.

CONTACT: Todd Hill
PHONE: (740) 393-9517
DATE: April 27, 2023