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The City of Harrisonburg Recognized with 14th Tree City USA Designation

Harrisonburg, Va.-- The Arbor Day Foundation has once again recognized Harrisonburg's extensive urban forest management by designating it with the title of Tree City USA. Harrisonburg is one of approximately 3,500 cities that have earned the designation, but **this marks the fourteenth time Harrisonburg has captured the honor.**

The City of Harrisonburg achieved this recognition by meeting Tree City USA's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has first-hand," said Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it is through volunteer engagement or public education."

In 2018 alone, the City of Harrisonburg planted more than 144 trees; 62 of those trees, planted at Purcell Park and Heritage Forest, were part of grant entitled "Trees for Water Quality," funded by the Virginia Department of Forestry.

While the Tree City USA requirements set a budget of at least \$2 per capita, Harrisonburg far exceeded those efforts, totaling \$11 per capita for tree care and planting.

"Trees provide the City with many benefits, such as clean air and carbon sequestration, stormwater management and water quality improvements, to name a few," Wes Runion said, environmental specialist for the department of public works. "Our team is currently in the process of writing the City's Environmental Action Plan, which will set future tree canopy expansion goals. This action plan will ultimately support many new tree plantings into the future."

For the upcoming 2019 Arbor Day Celebration on April 13, five trees will be planted in conjunction with Blacks Run Cleanup Day.

About the Arbor Day Foundation: The Arbor Day Foundation is a million-member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. More information about the program is available at arborday.org/TreeCityUSA

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to almost 55,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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