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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Arbor Day Foundation Honors Newark with Tree City USA®
Recognition, Growth Award**

Newark, DE (April 30, 2012) – City of Newark earns national recognition for 11th year from the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA community for its commitment to urban forestry. Newark also received a Tree City USA Growth Award for demonstrating progress in its community forestry program.

The prestigious Growth Award honors environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care in Tree City USA communities. 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.

Newark has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community. Tree City USA communities must have a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program with annual expenditures of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. Newark is spending \$6.56 per capita on their tree program.

In 2011, Newark's Parks and Recreation Department received two grants to start a multi-phase reforestation program. The grants from the Delaware State Forest Service and the Rotary Club covered the entire cost to purchase and plant 182 trees as well as water them for the first season. Both deciduous and evergreen trees were selected for each of eight sites planted throughout the city. Considerations at each site included soil type, drainage, sun/shade patterns and mowing patterns.

This year's Arbor Day observance will take place at Downes Elementary School on Wednesday, May 2 at 1:00 p.m. One 'Anne' Magnolia tree will be planted in the front lawn area of the school. A small group of fifth grade students will be instructed by city Parks and Recreation staff on how to properly plant a containerized tree and the value of trees.

"Communities that are honored with a Tree City USA designation and a Growth Award make a strong commitment to planting and caring for trees, and we applaud their efforts," said John Rosenow, Chief Executive and Founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. "We also commend a community's elected officials, volunteers and its citizens for providing needed care for its trees. They recognize that trees provide numerous environmental, economical and health benefits for the community every day."

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