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Arbor Day Foundation Names Newark Tree City USA, Growth Award Winner

Newark, DE (May 2, 2013) – City of Newark earns national recognition for 12th 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 environmental improvement and higher level of tree care.

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. “The City of Newark is committed to maintaining a healthy and diverse urban forest canopy. We are proud to have been named for the 12th year a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation,” says Newark Parks and Recreation Director Charlie Emerson.

National Arbor Day was celebrated in Newark on Wednesday, May 1, with a tree planting and pruning at West Park Elementary School. A 7-foot Snowdrift Crabapple tree was planted in front of the school and a Purple Leaf Plum tree which was planted as part of Arbor Day five years earlier was pruned, thinning out the tree and removing the water sprouts.

A group of fourth grade students took part in this year's planting assisting two of the Parks and Recreation Department horticulture staff in placing soil in the hole and putting down mulch. Students were taught the proper method to plant a tree as well as how to care for the tree after planting. Students received Loblolly Pine seedlings to take home to plant and care for courtesy of the Delaware State Forest Service.

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

(Attached photo: Students from West Park Elementary School water the newly planted Snowdrift Crabapple tree.)

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