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### **City of Newark Recognized, Rewarded for Environmental Efforts**

Newark, DE - Recognizing its commitment to urban forest management, the Arbor Day Foundation recently presented the City of Newark with the 2015 Tree City USA Growth Award. This is the 15th year Newark has been honored as a Tree City USA, and the 12th year the city received the Growth Award, highlighting an ongoing effort to incorporate environmental improvements, while providing a higher level of tree care.

"Part of what makes Newark a great place to live, work and recreate is our commitment to ensuring a high quality of life for our residents," said city manager Carol Houck.

"Taking care of our abundant open spaces and protecting our natural resources supports that and we are proud our efforts are continuously recognized."

To build on the City's efforts, Newark recently applied for and was awarded an Urban and Community Forestry Program grant through the Delaware Forest Service. The \$5,000 grant will help to fund the removal of hazardous trees at Dickey Park and White Chapel Park. At Dickey Park, two scarlet oak trees will be removed and their stumps will be ground out. Two white oak trees will be removed at White Chapel Park. The trunk of the larger white oak will be left standing for wildlife to use as a food and habitat resource.

"The beautification of our parks is extremely important, but the safety of those who visit our parks is paramount," said parks and recreation director Joe Spadafino. "This grant funding will help us achieve our goals and we are grateful to the Department of Agriculture for its support in these efforts."

Newark's Parks and Recreation Department manages more than 300 acres of forested land within the city limits and employs two arborists, certified through the International Society of Arboriculture, who are skilled in plant knowledge, tree removal/pruning, tree pest and disease identification/control, and installation. Trees within 25 feet of a trail are closely monitored for signs of decline. Whenever necessary, dead, dying or broken tree limbs are trimmed or entirely removed.

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