

# From Quartzsite to Phoenix, You Too Can Become a Tree City USA



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Development & Sustainability Department



## What is it?

- Sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters
- Provides direction, technical assistance, public attention
- No charge or fees to apply or maintain designation



# Tree City USA



## Benefits

1. Cleaner air, shadier streets, reduce greenhouse gases and aesthetic beauty
2. Serves as a blueprint for planting and maintaining a community's trees
3. Encourages better care of urban forests
4. Tells visitors, through signage, that here is a community that cares about its environment
5. Increases potential for being awarded federal and state tree grants



## Standards Required

1. Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at Least \$2 Per Capita
2. Community Tree Ordinance
3. Tree Advisory Panel
4. An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation



# Tree City USA



## Standards Required

1. Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at Least \$2 Per Capita

### TREE CITY USA STANDARD 3 WORKSHEET 2012

Department	TREES			Tree Planting & Initial Care	Tree Maintenance	Tree Removals	Management	Other	TOTALS	
	Planted	Pruned	Removed							
Facilities	75	457	134	\$8,678	\$17,745	\$25,557	\$0	\$2,575	\$54,555	
Transportation	599	1,204	30	\$221,630	\$485,210	\$7,820	\$62,996	\$0	\$777,656	
Parks	35	10,500	114	\$8,750	\$324,938	\$36,661	\$100,000	\$251,909	\$722,258	
Environmental & Sustainability	0	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,086	\$0	\$4,086	
<b>TOTALS</b>	709	12,161	278	\$239,058	\$827,893	\$70,038	\$167,082	\$254,484	<b>\$1,558,555</b>	
								<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>468,960</b>	<b>\$3.32</b>

<b>Volunteers</b>	Youth	Adults
<b>Numbers</b>	16	39
<b>Hours</b>	48	235



# Tree City USA



## Standards Required

## 2. Community Tree Ordinance

**Tree City USA Standard 2  
Community Tree Ordinances ~ Mesa, AZ**

The City of Mesa has multiple ordinances and policies in place that require tree planting or tree preservation:

1. Mesa Zoning Ordinance (Landscaping Standards and Requirements)
2. Mesa General Plan (Environmental Planning)
3. Mesa Form-Based Code (Thoroughfare Standards)
4. Citrus Sub-area Plan (Plan Recommendations)
5. Mesa Central Main Plan (Environmentally Conscious Community)
6. West Main Street Area Plan (Design Imperatives and Illustrations)
7. Subdivision Regulations (Desert Uplands Developmental Standards)
8. Desert Uplands Design Guidelines (Landscaping)
9. Mesa Proving Grounds Community Plan (Landscaping Standards)

1. *Mesa Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 33: Landscaping*

**11-33-2: General Requirements**

(B.) **Tree Size.** Required trees shall be a minimum size as specified in the Arizona Nursery Association "Recommended Tree Specification" latest edition, a copy of which will be maintained on file by the Planning Division.

(C.) **Tree Substitution.**

1. **Palm.** Palm trees may be substituted for 20% of the total required trees along streets and driveways according to the following table.

Required Tree Size	Substitute Palm Tree Heights (in feet)
15 Callon	15
24-inch box	20
36-inch box	25

(H.) **Selection of Plant Materials.** The physical characteristics of the species and variety of plants selected, at maturity, shall correspond closely with the design objectives listed for each of the respective landscape requirements, including the following:

3. Trees designated to meet the shading requirements of the ordinance shall meet at least 50% of the required shading within 4 years and the full shading within 8 years.

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# Tree City USA



## Standards Required

### 3. Tree Advisory Panel

- Engineering
- Parks
- Facilities
- Transportation
- Environmental & Sustainability
- Mesa Arts Center





# Tree City USA



## Standards Required

### 4. An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation







# Tree City USA



Our Story:

Once upon a time...



Park of the Canals



# Tree City USA



## Our Story:

2009: Sponsors



2010: Grant



2011 & 2012: Partnerships





## Our Story - Observance

- Arbor Day Proclamation & Reading at Council Meeting
- Tree Planting
- Reading of The Lorax at Mesa Public Schools  
(first year, included a nursery program)

# Arbor Day Proclamation & Reading at Council Meeting



# Tree Planting – Monterey Park 2010



## Tree Planting – Monterey Park 2010



# Tree Planting – Monterey Park 2010



# Tree Planting – Augusta Ranch Park 2011





# Tree Planting – Augusta Ranch Park 2011



# Tree Planting – Augusta Ranch Park 2011



## Tree Planting – Augusta Ranch Park 2011



# Tree Planting – Augusta Ranch Park 2011



# Tree Planting – Falcon Hill Park 2012



# Tree Planting – Falcon Hill Park 2012



# Tree Planting – Falcon Hill Park 2012



04/27/2012

# Tree Planting – Monterey Park 2012 – Girl Scouts





# Tree Planting – Monterey Park 2012 – Girl Scouts



04/26/2012

# Tree Planting – Monterey Park 2012 – Girl Scouts



# Lorax Reading at Mesa Public Schools



# Lorax Reading at Mesa Public Schools



# Lorax Reading at Mesa Public Schools

**Blue Palo Verde  
Tree Seeds**

**Planting Instructions:**

1. Rub seed against sand paper or a fingernail file until you see a little bit of the white center. This breaks through the hard seed coat so it can soak up water.
2. Soak seeds in water for 24 hours (opt).
3. Plant 2 seeds per pot, 3/4-inch deep.
4. Keep soil moist, but not soggy. Seeds should sprout within one week.
5. Thin to 1 plant per pot when finger-length.
6. Transplant to a larger pot or into the ground (be sure to pick a place that will give the tree plenty of room to grow).

 **mesa·az**  
BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE  
COMMUNITY



**2012 Mesa Arbor Day Celebration**

Partners include:

- The City of Mesa
- Mesa Public Schools
- U of A Master Gardeners
- WildSeed, Incorporated

[www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability](http://www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability)



# Why is my title from Quartzsite to Phoenix?

Population Quartzsite = 3,600  
Population Phoenix = 1.4 million



TREE CITY USA®

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# Building a Sustainable Community



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