



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Morro Bay

MAR 08 2022

Administration

Arbor Day Foundation Recognizes Morro Bay as a Tree City USA®
Morro Bay earns the Tree City USA recognition for their commitment to urban forestry

LINCOLN, Nebraska (2/16/2022) – Morro Bay was named a 2021 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Morro Bay achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: forming a tree board or department, creating a tree-care ordinance, having an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

"Tree City USA communities benefit from the positive effects that an urban tree canopy has year after year," said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The trees being planted and cared for by Morro Bay ensure that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program helps cultivate a sense of stewardship and pride for the trees the community plants and cares for."

Planting trees in an urban space comes with a myriad of [benefits](#) past the recognition of this program. Urban tree plantings help reduce energy consumption by up to 25%, which will reduce general energy costs and help with the overall cooling of the city as well. In addition, members of the community benefit from properly placed trees as they increase property values from 7–20%. Trees also positively affect the local ecosystem by helping to clean water and create animal habitats to encourage biodiversity.

More information on the program is available at arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

About the Arbor Day Foundation

Founded in 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation has grown to become the largest nonprofit membership organization dedicated to planting trees, with more than one million members, supporters and valued partners. Since 1972, almost 500 million Arbor Day Foundation trees have been planted in neighborhoods, communities, cities and forests throughout the world. Our vision is to lead toward a world where trees are used to solve issues critical to survival.

As one of the world's largest operating conservation foundations, the Arbor Day Foundation, through its members, partners and programs, educates and engages stakeholders and communities across the globe to involve themselves in its mission of planting, nurturing and celebrating trees. More information is available at arborday.org.



Mayor Heading John Heading
595 Harbor Ave
Morro Bay, CA 93442

Dear Tree City USA Community Member,

On behalf of the Arbor Day Foundation, I congratulate Morro Bay on earning recognition as a 2021 Tree City USA. We are so thrilled that Morro Bay takes pride in creating a community that places unique value on the planting and caring of trees.

Morro Bay is part of an incredible network of more than 3,600 Tree City USA's, with a combined total population of 155 million. The Tree City USA program is one of the Arbor Day Foundation's earliest programs. We are proud to partner with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters to maintain this community.

Over the last few years, it has become increasingly clear of the value and importance that trees hold for our future. Cities and towns across the globe are facing challenges when it comes to air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, and energy use. Morro Bay shows its residents and peers that they are forward-thinking and eager to combat these issues. By showing your dedication to urban forestry, you demonstrate a commitment to a brighter, greener future.

We hope you are as excited as we are to share this accomplishment with your local media and your residents. Enclosed in this packet is a press release for you to distribute at your convenience.

State foresters will receive the Tree City USA recognition materials and coordinate on how to distribute them. We will forward information about your awards to your state forester's office to facilitate the presentation. Your community's Arbor Day ceremony would be the best time to mention the Tree City USA award.

Again, we are excited to celebrate your commitment to the people and trees of Morro Bay and thank you for helping us plant, nurture and celebrate trees.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Lambe'.

Dan Lambe
Arbor Day Foundation Chief Executive