

# State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources



Public Information Center  
550 W. 7th Ave., Ste 1260  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Phone: 907.269.8400  
Fax: 907.269.8901  
TTY: 907.269.8411

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## Alaska towns, campuses and utilities recognized by Arbor Day Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Anchorage, AK) – The Division of Forestry is pleased to announce that eight Alaska communities, three electric utilities and one university have been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation for their efforts to protect and enhance community forests. Community forests help create healthy cities by reducing air and water pollution, reducing runoff and flooding, countering climate change, and supporting retail activity. Many of the communities, utilities and campus will be celebrating their achievements on Alaska's Arbor Day, Monday, May 16. This year is the 50th anniversary of Arbor Day in Alaska.

Anchorage, Juneau, Sitka, Wasilla, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Fort Wainwright and Eielson Air Force Base have been recertified as Tree City USA. To receive the Tree City USA designation, a community must:

- Establish a board, commission, or department charged by ordinance to develop and administer a comprehensive city tree management program.
- Establish and follow a tree ordinance that gives a body responsibility for writing and implementing an annual community forestry work plan.
- Have a community forestry program with a budget of at least \$2 per capita.
- Proclaim and celebrate Arbor Day

University of Alaska Anchorage has been recertified as Tree Campus USA. To receive the Tree Campus USA designation, a campus must:

- Have a campus tree advisory committee,
- Have a campus tree care plan
- Dedicate funds to a tree management program
- Celebrate Arbor Day
- Have a service learning project that engages the student population.

The utilities recertified as Tree Line USA are Chugach Electric Association, Golden Valley Electric Association, and Matanuska Electric Association. To receive this recognition, utilities must:

- Follow industry standards for pruning, planting, removals, and trenching and tunneling near trees
- Have an annual worker training program
- Sponsor and participate in a public education and tree planting program
- Have a tree-based energy conservation program and,
- Sponsor and/or participate in an Arbor Day celebration.

For more information about these programs, visit the Division of Forestry's Community Forestry Program website at <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/>. A statewide calendar of Arbor Day events can be found <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/news>.

CONTACT: Stephen Nickel, 907-269-8466, [stephen.nickel@alaska.gov](mailto:stephen.nickel@alaska.gov)

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