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## **CITY OF BRANSON**

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# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## **BRANSON GETS TREE CITY USA AWARD**

*City holds Arbor Day celebration April 24*

For the 14th consecutive year, the city of Branson has been named a Tree City USA community by the National Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry.

Branson has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community: having a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Branson's Arbor Day festivities are Friday, April 24 at the Town Square in Branson Landing starting at noon.

"It's truly an honor to again receive this environmental recognition," said Tara Norback, Branson city forester. "It's an award that underscores the commitment our city officials and residents have made to plant, maintain and protect trees so we can pass on an enduring heritage of a vital natural resource to succeeding generations."

John Rosenow, chief executive of the National Arbor Day Foundation, stressed the importance of trees to cities and towns.

"A community, its elected officials and its citizens that provide needed care for its trees deserves recognition and thanks," Rosenow said. "Trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in our cities and towns, and they also provide environmental and economical benefits. Cities like Branson that are recognized with a Tree City USA designation go to great lengths to plant and care for the community forest."

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.

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