



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highlands Ranch Named Tree City USA for 29th Consecutive Year

The Arbor Day Foundation named Highlands Ranch a Tree City USA in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. This is the 29th year the Highlands Ranch Metro District has earned this national designation.

The Metro District achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements. Tree City USA communities must have a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, a community forestry program with annual expenditures of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"This exemplifies our commitment to environmental stewardship, and it is an honor to be recognized as a Tree City USA for 29 consecutive years," said Dennis Donovan, forestry supervisor.

The Tree City USA program recognizes cities, communities and towns committed to planting and nurturing trees. It is sponsored by The Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the US Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

The Metro District supports a thriving urban forest through a variety of practices including maintaining the health of existing trees, fighting tree-related insects and diseases, tree and limb recycling, a tree planting program and annual Arbor Day activities. Highlands Ranch boasts more than 16,000 trees in its urban forest located in parks, along roadways and in open space areas of the community.

This year the Metro District's Arbor Day observance will take place Tuesday, April 18 at Plum Valley Park. Local volunteers will assist forestry staff to plant trees and mulch at the park. Free oak tree seedlings will be given to volunteers to take home and plant.

The Arbor Day planting will be followed by a spring tree recycling event on Sunday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The recycling event will take place in the parking lot of Shea Stadium at Redstone Park, 3280 Redstone Park Circle. Residents can recycle discarded tree limbs and woody plant materials. Free mulch will also be available on a self-serve basis.

For more information about tree care in Highlands Ranch, visit highlandsranch.org/forestry. For information about The National Arbor Day Foundation, visit arborday.org.

Founded in 1981 as the local government in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, the Metro District provides a variety of municipal services to this planned community of 96,000 people. Learn more about the Metro District at www.highlandsranch.org.

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