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January 20, 2010

Tree efforts earn designation for city

Staff Report

Wintry weather may have residents feeling blue, but Palm Coast just got a little greener.

The city was recently re-certified as a Tree City USA and has also been honored with a Tree City USA Growth award from the National Arbor Day Foundation. The Tree City USA Growth award was given in conjunction with the U.S Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

The Tree City USA program provides direction, technical assistance, public attention and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs.

The city was first recognised as a Tree City USA for its efforts to promote environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care by enforcing a specific tree-care ordinance. In addition, the city's efforts included a comprehensive forestry program, establishment of a "Green Team" and sponsoring an annual Arbor Day observance. This marks the fifth Tree City USA honor bestowed on the city. It was the fourth time the city has been recognized with the Tree City USA Growth award.

"These Tree City USA awards acknowledge our mayor and City Council's commitment to provide environmental benefits for all of our citizens," said Nestor Abreu, director of the city's Urban Forestry/Green Team division and community development department. "We're honored that the National Arbor Day Foundation continues to recognize our efforts."

The awards are part of the city's overall effort to "go green," which also includes recognition by the Florida Green Building Coalition of a "silver" status in the city's efforts to increase environmentally friendly building methods. The city recently passed an ordinance offering builders and developers incentives to include green building methods and is seeking a "gold" designation from the Florida Green Building Coalition

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