

**TOWN OF WEAVERVILLE
Tree Board
Organizational Meeting
Monday, June 10, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Agenda**

1. Call to Order & Introductions Tamara Mercer Town Clerk

2. Set date and time for meetings

3. Elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

4. Code of Ordinances Chapter 2- Administration Tree Board, Article IV- Boards, Commissions and Committees, Division 4. Tree Board pg. 2 Tamara Mercer

5. Tree City USA - standards overview pg. 6 Tamara Mercer

6. Adjournment

Town Hall Council Chambers, 30 S. Main Street

**ORDINANCE AMENDING WEAVERVILLE TOWN CODE
CHAPTERS 2 AND 32 CONCERNING THE TREE BOARD**

WHEREAS, pursuant to authority granted by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-174 and as a participant in the Tree City USA program, the Weaverville Town Council wishes to reorganize and reestablish its Tree Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by Town Council of the Town of Weaverville, North Carolina, as follows:

1. The attached Division 4, entitled "Tree Board", is hereby added to Article IV of Chapter 2 of the Town's Code Ordinances.
2. That Article II of Code Chapter 32 is hereby repealed.
3. It is the intention of Town Council that the sections and paragraphs of this Ordinance are severable and if any section or paragraph of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining paragraphs or sections of this Ordinance, since they would have been enacted by Town Council without the incorporation in this Ordinance of any such unconstitutional or invalid section or paragraph.
4. These amendments shall be effective immediately upon adoption and codified.

ADOPTED THIS the 20th day of May, 2024, by a vote of 7 in favor and 0 against.



PATRICK FITZSIMMONS, Mayor

ATTESTED BY:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



TAMARA MERCER, Town Clerk



JENNIFER O. JACKSON, Town Attorney

CHAPTER 2 – ADMINISTRATION
ARTICLE IV – BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES
DIVISION 4. TREE BOARD

Sec. 2-171. Establishment.

- (a) The town council establishes a tree board of the town, which board shall consist of seven (7) regular members and up to two (2) alternate members who shall all serve at the pleasure of town council. The tree board members shall primarily consist of residents of the Town of Weaverville, with a majority of the board being residents of the Town of Weaverville. Members shall be appointed by town council.
- (b) Except as provided for the first tree board or a newly constituted tree board, the term of office of each member of the tree board shall be for three years. To provide for staggered terms, in appointing original members or in filling vacancies caused by the expiration of the terms of existing members, town council may appoint certain members for less than three years so that the terms of all members do not expire at the same time. Vacancies occurring on the tree board shall be filled for the unexpired term only.
- (c) Members of the tree board shall receive no compensation for their services.
- (d) Any member of the tree board who is absent without good cause from three consecutive meetings of the board shall be reported to the mayor and may be removed from the board and replaced in the manner prescribed for appointments.
- (e) In addition to the seven members appointed to the tree board, the town manager or their designee, shall serve as an ex officio non-voting member of the board.

Sec. 2-172. Records.

The tree board shall keep records of its meetings and proceedings and may certify attendance of board members to the town council.

Sec. 2-173. Officers.

The tree board shall elect a chair and a vice-chair from its membership, who shall each serve for one year or until reelected or until their successors are elected. The town staff member to the board shall serve as secretary and provide staff support to the tree board.

Sec. 2-174. Rules of procedure.

The tree board may adopt appropriate rules of procedure for transaction of its business, as long as the same are not inconsistent with North Carolina law, and shall keep a record of its members' attendance, and of its resolutions, discussions, findings and recommendations in the form of meeting minutes and, as appropriate, formal recommendations and reports. All records of the tree board shall be subject to public records law.

Sec. 2-175. Purpose.

The tree board is intended to be a citizen led group, that works with town public officials and staff to improve the health of the urban and community forest within the municipal limits of Weaverville through tree plantings, advocacy, education, management and maintenance activities.

Sec. 2-176. Duties and Limitations.

The tree board shall primarily act in an advisory capacity to town council and town staff is primarily responsible for the planning, implementation, and coordination with other agencies and boards regarding projects undertaken by the board.

The tree board is to be primarily focused on trees and vegetation within public street rights-of-way, town parks, and town-owned property and shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (1) To periodically review the regulations within the town's code of ordinances related to trees and vegetation, including specifically Code Chapter 32, and make recommendations concerning revisions, additions, and/or repeal;
- (2) To study and make recommendations on land use regulations, such as a tree canopy or protection ordinances and other conservation minded regulation, with the goals of enhancing aesthetics, reducing urban heat islands, reducing stormwater run-off, providing wildlife habitats, lowering building energy costs, and increasing property values;
- (3) To seek advice, as needed, from qualified landscape architects, arborists, foresters, horticulturists, or other knowledgeable individuals;
- (4) To consult with certified residential and commercial arborists and foresters on an inventory of existing trees within town street rights-of-ways and on town-owned property with data collected on species, size, and general health of each tree;
- (5) To designate heritage trees, which are understood to be individual trees with unique value based on age, rarity, size, and/or aesthetic, botanical, ecological, or historical value, and are considered irreplaceable;
- (6) To organize educational programs and workshops, sponsor information booths, and develop/distribute informational materials on topics related to planting, maintenance, health, and protection of trees within the urban and community forests of Weaverville;

- (7) To foster communication among citizens of the town that would provide community education programs, and increased awareness of urban forestry, protection of trees, and to coordinate active measures to support tree health and growth within the town;
- (8) To investigate available grants, loans, or contributions from other governmental agencies, public or private corporations, or individuals, and to recommend the expenditures of any proceeds toward the accomplishment of the tree board's duties and responsibilities;
- (9) To study, investigate, counsel, develop and/or update periodically a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas once a tree inventory has been completed. The plan is to be presented to the Town Council and its acceptance and approval constitutes the official comprehensive Town tree plan.
- (10) To approve voluntary planting plans on Town property or in Town street rights-of-way by private citizens or groups.
- (11) To submit an annual report of its activities and recommendations to town council;
- (12) To perform any other related duties that town council may direct, either through ordinance or action.

Tree City USA®

Creating greener communities nationwide



TREE CITY USA®
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

Cooler temperatures. Cleaner air. Healthier residents.

The benefits trees bring to urban environments are endless — and by meeting the four Tree City USA standards, your community can experience them firsthand.



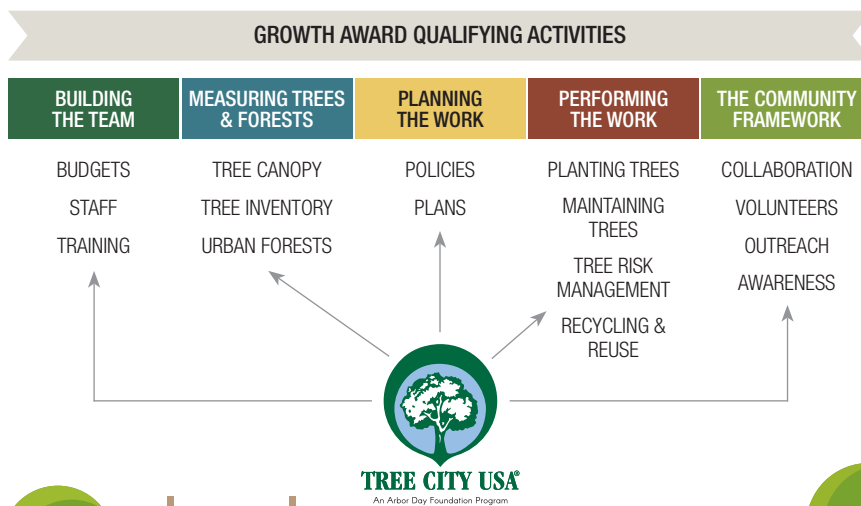
PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Tree City USA program was founded in 1976 to celebrate towns and cities committed to growing their urban canopy. Led by the Arbor Day Foundation, with partners at USDA Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters, it provides the foundational framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their tree cover.

Program applications are completely free. Many cities renew their Tree City USA status every year, making them eligible for a Growth Award and other urban forestry opportunities.

THE FOUNDATION OF URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The Tree City USA program has helped more than 3,600 communities across the country build out their urban forests. Recognition forms the base layer for five different areas of growth, including expansion of personnel, financial investment, defined policies and plans, and engagement with residents.



STANDARDS FOR RECOGNITION

To receive recognition, a community must meet four core standards for its public trees:

✓ Standard 1: Form A Tree Board Or Department

Delegating responsibility for city- or town-owned trees is the first official step to becoming a Tree City. By forming a tree board or department, cities can create a more organized and effective urban forestry plan.

✓ Standard 2: Establish A Tree Care Ordinance

A public tree care ordinance assigns clear authority over public trees and provides clear guidance for planting, maintaining, and/or removing trees from streets, parks, and other public spaces.

✓ Standard 3: Maintain A Community Forestry Program With An Annual Budget Of At Least \$2 Per Capita

Your community most likely already spends at least \$2 per capita on the planting, care, and removal of trees. This is intended to demonstrate an ongoing investment into your public trees.

✓ Standard 4: Proclaim and Observe Arbor Day

Celebrating Arbor Day and passing an official holiday proclamation helps create pride for your city's entire urban forestry program.



BENEFITS OF RECOGNITION

By becoming a Tree City, your community will:

- Receive flags, signs, and other materials to proudly display your award
- Educate residents about the value of trees and green space
- Gain national recognition for your commitment to environmental stewardship
- Create a cleaner, healthier, and more beautiful urban landscape

GETTING STARTED

Interested in joining, but not quite sure where to begin? It's as simple as following these five steps!

1. Make the case to friends and leaders in your community
2. Contact your state's urban and community forestry coordinator
3. Work together to fulfill the four Tree City USA standards
4. Celebrate Arbor Day
5. Submit your free application!



Learn and apply today at arborday.org/treecityusa

