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MENASHA NAMED A TREE CITY USA COMMUNITY BY THE NATIONAL ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION FOR THE 27TH YEAR

MENASHA, WI – April 23, 2010. The City of Menasha was recognized by the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA community for its commitment to urban forestry. Menasha's urban forest provides many benefits to its citizens including: filtering the air, providing wildlife habitat, reducing heat islands, reducing energy use, adding beauty to our neighborhoods, and increasing property values.

This is the twenty-seventh year Menasha has earned the national designation.

"We commend Menasha's elected officials, volunteers and its citizens for providing vital care for its urban forest," said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees provide numerous environmental, economical and health benefits to millions of people each day, and we applaud communities that make planting and caring for trees a top priority"

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

This year's Menasha Arbor Day observation will be held on April 30, 8:30 AM, at Tayco & Third Streets. Following the reconstruction of Third Street in 2009, the City of Menasha will be replanting the street trees along this important gateway stretch of roadway into our community. The observation will celebrate not only trees but the generosity of SCA Tissue and their employees who will donate and plant 29 trees in the neighborhood near their Menasha facility. Students from Butte des Morts school will participate in the planting and ceremony.

Longtime advocate of the city's forestry program Mayor Merkes thanked SCA, its volunteers, and the dedicated forestry staff at the city for their efforts in the improved quality and healthier more sustainable world this year's plantings will provide for all of us and future generations.

More information about Tree City USA can be found at: www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA