



As we emerge from the pandemic after a long year, there is a lot to be grateful for and to celebrate. The leafing out and blooming of our village trees, such as the crabapples that line Main Street, bring us hope through the most challenging times.

Our community can indeed celebrate our trees. For the sixth straight year, Essex Junction has received the Tree City USA award from the Arbor Day Foundation. This designation recognizes the village's commitment to enhancing and effectively managing our urban forest. Essex Junction achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

The establishment of the Essex Junction Tree Advisory Committee by the Village Trustees in 2013 demonstrates the village's commitment to our urban forest. The Tree Advisory Committee has worked with the Village Tree Warden to promote the improvement and preservation of a healthy environment as it relates to public trees. Since its inception, the Tree Committee has overseen the planting of nearly 200 trees. A key component of the Tree Advisory Committee's mission is to engage citizens in the stewardship, management, and recognition of the Village's tree resources.

To ensure our urban forest is maintained well into the future, the Tree Advisory Committee has made it a priority to engage our young community members. Each year the committee has collaborated with one of our local schools to hold an Arbor Day event. By involving students in the planting of a tree, the goal is to help them gain a greater appreciation of their connection to nature.

This year Timiny Bergstrom's third grade class at Summit Street School planted an Autumn Blaze maple, donated by Horsford's Nursery. The students learned about the history of Arbor Day and the benefits of planting trees. After planting the tree, the students shared poems that they had written for the event. Along with seeing new signs of growth in the spring, it is this kind of excitement over the planting of a new tree in our urban landscape that continues to bring us a great sense of hope.

For further information, check out the [Tree Advisory Committee page](#) on the Village of Essex Junction website.



