



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 21, 2010**

**Arbor Day Foundation names the City of Mount Vernon as a Tree City USA Community.**

MOUNT VERNON –The nonprofit organization Arbor Day Foundation recently recognized the City of Mount Vernon as a Tree City USA community for its commitment to urban forestry. It is the fifteenth year Mount Vernon has earned this national designation. The Arbor Day Foundation sponsors the Tree City USA program in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

Mount Vernon 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.

“We commend Mount Vernon’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.”

Mount Vernon Mayor Bud Norris said “We are pleased that the Arbor Day Foundation has once again recognized us as a Tree City USA Community. Our Parks Department and Director Larry Otos do an outstanding job of overseeing our local Arbor Day event, which by the way is scheduled for this Saturday, April 24th, from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at Hillcrest Park. This year we will be pulling invasive English Ivy from the trees in the lower Park. Please join us if you can.”

For further information, contact:

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