



### **Contact Information**

Jim Culotta  
City Administrator  
301 Walnut Street  
Washington, IL 61571  
[jculotta@ci.washington.il.us](mailto:jculotta@ci.washington.il.us)  
309-444-3196

### **Elected Officials**

Gary Manier, Mayor  
Bob Brucks, Alderman  
Mike Brownfield, Alderman  
Carol Moss, Alderman  
Tyler Gee, Alderman  
Brian Butler, Alderman  
Dave Dingledine, Alderman  
Jim Gee, Alderman  
Jon Moehle, Alderman  
Pat Brown, City Clerk  
Ellen Dingledine, Treasurer

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 11, 2016

## **Arbor Day Foundation Names Washington Tree City USA**

The City of Washington has been named a 2015 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. The Arbor Day Foundation is a million-member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees.

“It’s great to be recognized with the Tree City USA designation,” stated Mayor Gary Manier. “It’s particularly gratifying considering we lost thousands of trees to the November 17, 2013 tornado. Residents, volunteers, and local organizations played a key role in planting new trees throughout the city.”

Started in 1976, the Tree City USA program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.

Washington 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. Assistance has been provided by various organizations, including Trees Forever, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Bethany Community Church, University of Illinois Master Gardeners, and volunteers from Caterpillar, Brookfield Zoo, and the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association.

“Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community first hand,” said Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it’s through volunteer engagement or public education.”

Trees provide multiple benefits to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

More information is available at [arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://arborday.org/TreeCityUSA) or contact Danny Cohn at [dcohn@arborday.org](mailto:dcohn@arborday.org).

### **Washington, Illinois**

*The City of Washington is a vibrant community offering a high quality of life supported by excellent schools, safe neighborhoods, diverse parks and recreation offerings, and a resident population motivated by volunteerism and community involvement. Our traditions include our historic downtown square, service oriented businesses, and family friendly amenities. For more information, visit [www.ci.washington.il.us](http://www.ci.washington.il.us)*