

Feb 18, 2020  
Presentation

Susan,

How we got the awards:

City of Lompoc's Urban Forestry Division has recently received two distinguished awards: Tree City USA and Tree Line USA. This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year that the City of Lompoc can claim the distinguished Tree City USA award and over 15 years for the Tree Line USA award!

**Tree City USA** is a national recognition program that began in 1976 and is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters. Tree City USA provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees, providing the framework for a healthy, sustainable urban forestry program. The benefits of this is substantial:

- Reduced costs for energy, storm water management, and erosion control. Trees yield 305 times their cost in overall benefits to the city. (*americanforests.org*)
- Studies indicated that carefully positioned trees can reduce a household's energy consumption for heating and cooling by up to 25%. As few as three additional trees planted around a home can save an average household between \$100 and \$250 in energy costs annually. (*Energy.gov*)
- Homes that are landscaped with trees are worth 4 - 15% more and sell faster than homes without trees. Trees can also increase the property values of a whole neighborhood or business district. (*americanforests.org*)
- Studies have shown that people walking or driving down a street lined with trees are willing to pay up to 12% more for goods and services, and the presence of trees encourage patrons to spend a longer time shopping. (*americanforests.org*)
- Among minor crimes, there is less graffiti, vandalism and littering in outdoor spaces with trees as a part of the natural landscape than in comparable plant-less spaces. (*University of Washington*)
- Trees enhance the beauty of communities and help to attract tourists and business. (*americanforests.org*)

**The TreeLine USA** program recognizes best practices in public and private utility arboriculture, demonstrating how trees and utilities can co-exist for the benefit of communities and citizens. Benefits include:

- Healthier and more abundant community forest.
- Reduced tree mortality resulting from proper pruning and trenching/tunneling practices.
- Increased reliability of service because properly pruned and maintained trees result in fewer downed lines during storms.
- Reduced energy costs to consumers through strategically planted trees for energy conservation and a broader urban forest canopy.
- Reduced heat island effect as a result of a more shaded pavement.

I hope this is helpful.

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