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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arbor Day Foundation Names Reading Tree City USA

Reading, PA – April 22, 2015 – Mayor Vaughn D. Spencer is announcing that Reading, PA was named a 2014 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

In conjunction with this honor and the 30th Anniversary of Arbor Day, the city will celebrate Arbor Day at 1:00 PM on Friday, April 24, 2015 at the 16th and Haak Elementary school, where three new Zelkova trees will be planted in their playground.

"The City of Reading is proud to be a community that makes the planting and care of trees a priority. Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social and environmental benefits," Spencer said.

"Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities like Reading make smart investments in urban forests," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social and environmental benefits."

Cleaner air, improved storm water management, energy savings and increased property values and commercial activity are among the benefits enjoyed by Tree City USA communities.

More information on the program is available at arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

About the Arbor Day Foundation: 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. More information is available at arborday.org.

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