



TREE CITY USA®

CITY OF BEL AIRE 2015 TREE CITY USA



2015 CITY OF BEL AIRE TREE CARE REPORT

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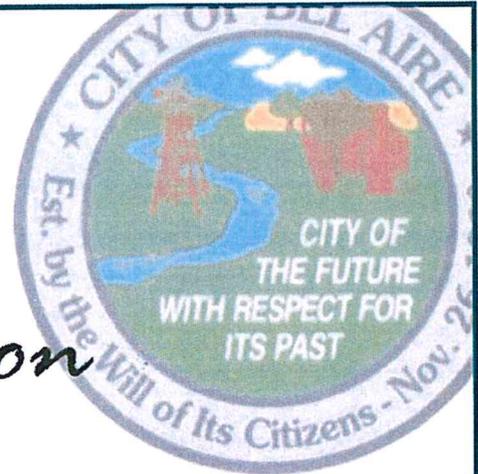
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Proclamation

Arbor Day 2015

TO THE CITIZENS OF BEL AIRE, KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special date be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, 2015 is the 143rd anniversary of the holiday and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and beautify our community; and

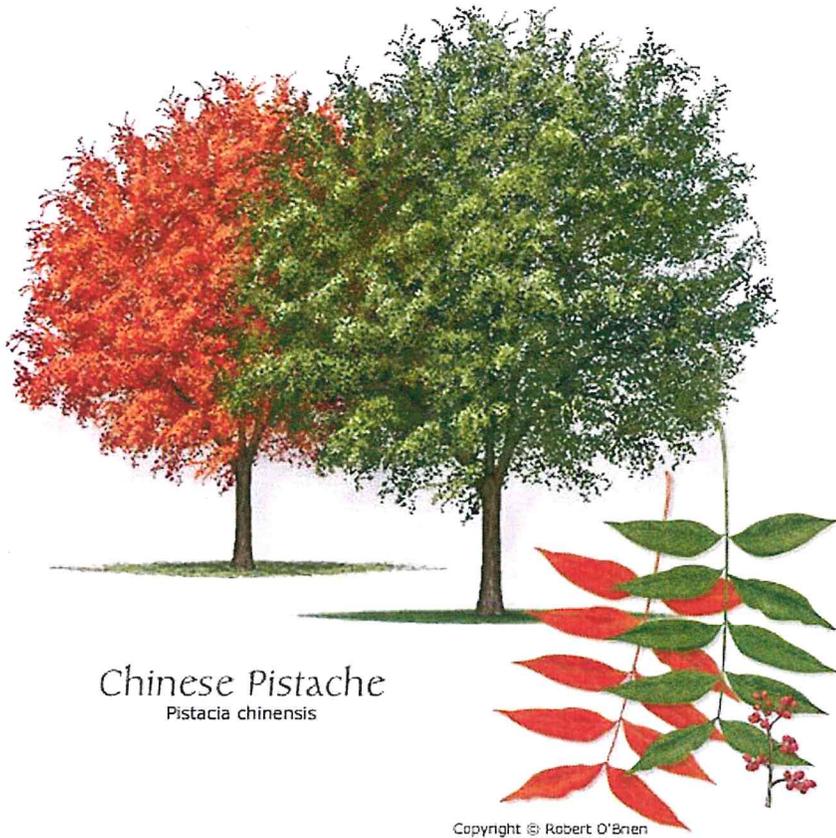
WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

THEREFORE, I David Austin, Mayor, do hereby proclaim April 25th as the 143rd anniversary celebration of **Arbor Day** in the City of Bel Aire and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of Bel Aire, Kansas this 21st day of April, 2015.

David Austin, Mayor



Chinese Pistache
Pistacia chinensis

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ARBOR DAY

**SATURDAY AT 10:00 AM
APRIL 25, 2015**

Bel Aire Tree Board will be hosting the event

A Chinese Pistache will be planted in honor of Moe and Kathy Terrebonne, long time Tree Board members and active Bel Aire volunteers.

Please join us to celebrate Arbor Day at 10:00 am. Refreshments will be served.



TREE CITY USA

The Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*) is very resistant to insect and disease problems and has extremely hard, durable wood which helps to protect the tree from wind, ice, and decay.

**BEL AIRE HAS
PROCLAIMED
SATURDAY, APRIL
25TH AS ARBOR
DAY**

**LOCATION:
CENTRAL PARK
AVE. (JUST West
of the playground)**

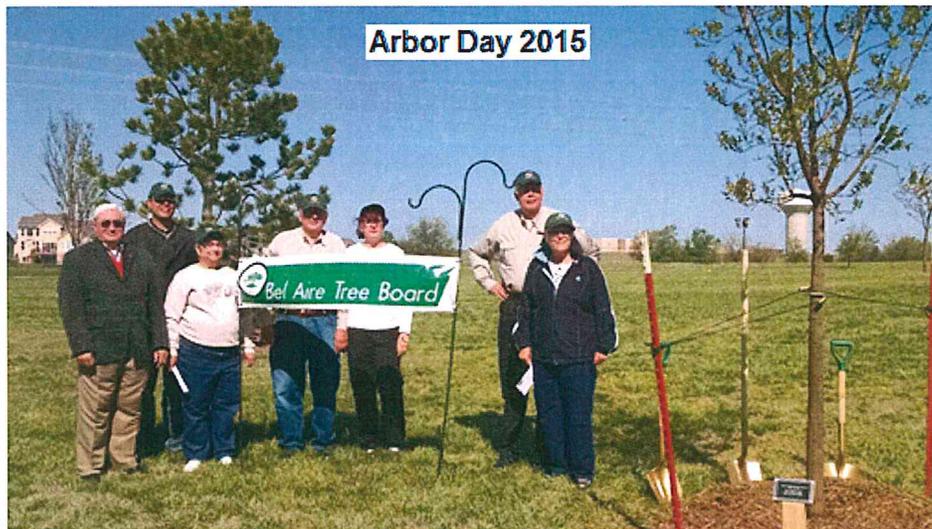
2015 Community Highlights

The Bel Aire Tree Board hosted the 2015 Arbor Day celebration which was held at Central Park. A Chinese Pistache was planted in honor of Moe and Kathy Terrebonne, long time Tree Board members and active city volunteers.

The Tree Board and city staff worked together to plant seventeen trees. In addition, we mulched approximately 133 trees in five city parks. Ninety one cubic yards of mulch was used in this project.

In early May, city staff and Tree Board members fluffed the mulch beneath one hundred trees in East Central Park.

To encourage the wise use of our water resources the city is working to implement a program to promote the use of drought resistant plants and trees.



2015 Citywide Tree Mulching Program

This spring, the Tree Board and city staff worked together to complete a citywide Tree Mulching Program. This program included mulching trees in Bel Aire Park, Brookhouser Park, Denise Park, Quail Ridge Park, and Eagle Lake Park, in all 163 trees were mulched! The Tree Board and city staff used approximately 91 cubic yards of mulch to complete this project.

Thank you Tree Board members and Guy MacDonald for help taking care of these trees. Your dedication and commitment to help trees remain healthy is appreciated throughout the community, and staff really appreciates your help as well.



(Left to right) Guy MacDonald, Connie Cabala, Gary Northwall, Hilde Yops, Gary O'Neal

Benefits of Mulching

- Helps reduce soil moisture loss through evaporation
- Helps control weed germination and growth
- Insulates soil, protecting roots from extreme summer and winter temperatures
- Can improve soil biology, aeration, structure (aggregation of soil particles), and drainage over time
- Can improve soil fertility as certain mulch types decompose
- Inhibits certain plant diseases
- Gives planting beds a uniform, well-cared-for look

Survivor Tree Project

Bel Aire Tree Board

A continuing priority of the Bel Aire Tree Board is our Survivor Tree Project. The “Survivor Tree” is an American elm tree growing near the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. This “Survivor Tree” survived the bombing of that building on April 19, 1995. Almost given up for dead, the tree was nursed back to health and is now a symbol of hope and resilience after tragedy. For a number of years Tree Board members have obtained saplings grown from the seeds of this tree and have given them to various peoples and organizations. Among others, we have gifted these trees to: The City of Greensburg, KS, the VA Hospital here in Wichita, Wichita State University, and Botanica. In addition, one of the “Survivor Trees” is planted in front of Bel Aire City Hall.

In the spring of 2015, two of the Survivors Trees that we gifted in 2014 were planted. The first was given to the City of Joplin, Missouri. This tree is dedicated to the survivors and to those people who were lost due to the tornado that hit Joplin on May 22, 2011. The tree was planted at Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center in Joplin. The second tree was gifted in memory of “K9 Ditto”, a search and rescue dog that participated in the search for survivors of the Murrah Federal Building bombing. This tree was planted in Nathanael Green Park in Springfield, Missouri, a park near where Ditto was trained.

Joplin Globe: Local News

Cities united by American elm tree, tragedies

By ANDRA BRYAN STEFANONI astefanoni@joplinglobe.com | Posted: Monday, April 13, 2015 7:13 pm



Cities united by American elm tree, tragedies

Mike McDaniel, city of Joplin arborist, checks out a "survivor tree" planted Monday in the park at Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center in Joplin. The tree is a descendant of the elm that survived the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Oklahoma City Murrah Federal Building. GLOBE | ROGER NOMER

The slender sapling doesn't look like much now. Standing at just 5 feet tall, its trunk is no bigger than about an inch in diameter. It provides no shade for picnicking schoolchildren, no sturdy branches in which birds can nest.

But the American elm just planted at Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center is the descendant of a survivor, and one day might offer Joplin area residents the same measure of hope that its parent does in Oklahoma City.

At least that's the goal of Steve Bieberich, Gary Northwall and a host of other volunteers.

A survivor

The story begins about 100 years ago when an American elm seed takes root somewhere in or near Oklahoma City. The U.S. House has just rejected a proposal to give women the right to vote. Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, is established. World War I is raging in Europe.

Someone transplants the tiny seedling, it is believed, from a private yard to downtown Oklahoma City. Wind blows across the plains and bends it. It survives the Dust Bowl.

Decades later, in 1977, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building is completed across the street from the elm, which by now is sizable. Workers on lunch breaks enjoy its shade.

And then, on April 19, 1995, the tree is shaken to its roots by a 4,000-pound truck bomb blast that kills 168 and injures hundreds. Cars thrown like rag dolls by the blast are pushed up against its trunk and catch fire. Pieces of glass are embedded in its bark.

It looks, in a word, rough — like the trees left behind in the wake of the tornado that ground across Joplin on May 22, 2011, leaving a mile-wide scar on the Joplin and Duquesne landscape.

Oklahoma law enforcement investigating the explosion consider cutting the tree down to collect evidence embedded in it. But people notice the tree survived — it is leafing out. They see it as living proof that, when all seems lost, there can be rebirth. Family members of those killed, survivors and rescue workers come together to write the mission statement for the new Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, and include a resolution that the tree must be a part of the memorial.

They call upon Mark Bays, Oklahoma City urban forester, to not only save the tree, but see it thrive.

Living on

Fast forward to April 19, 2000: The Oklahoma City Memorial, a part of the National Park System, opens and begins attracting what eventually will be more than 1.5 million

visitors. Many of them can be seen in photographs and videos stopping at the Survivor Tree to touch its bark, and stand in a moment in silence.

Under Bays' care, it is one of the best cared-for trees in America. But there's more.

Bays pioneered a sapling program using seeds from the Survivor Tree, as it has come to be called.

"I wanted to make sure the tree's spirit would live on," he said in a video created by the Memorial Museum. "One way to do that is collect seeds off the tree."

Every spring, memorial staff do just that. Bieberich, who owns Sunshine Nursery in Clinton, Oklahoma, plants them and cares for them until they are young saplings. He does it, he says in the video, in honor of his mother, who died the same day as the Oklahoma bombing.

Each April, a service is held at the Memorial Museum, and Bieberich and his staff distribute the saplings to anyone who wants them. In 2008, that included members of the Bel Aire (Kansas) Tree Board.

Northwall, who chairs the board, said that first year his board got seven and planted them at City Hall, the local arboretum, and elsewhere, then decided to make a project out of it.

Survivor saplings have been distributed to Columbine High School, New York City, Virginia Tech, New Jersey and Greensburg, Kansas, among others. Northwall contacted Mike McDaniel, arborist for the city of Joplin, in hopes Joplin would like one.

"It does show a nice solidarity between two communities that have sustained a loss," McDaniel said. "We have a connectedness with trees — it's hard to put your finger on — but I like the idea of planting something, putting something in the ground that will outlive me, that will echo way beyond my lifetime."

Oklahoma City has experienced its own share of losses after numerous tornadoes. On May 20, 2013, an EF-5 tore through 17 miles of central Oklahoma and leveled hundreds of homes.

Ann Leach, who lost her home in the tornado and is a grief counselor, said she appreciates the volunteers who tended to the seeds and nurtured them, just as survivors had to do with their future plans and dreams.

"There couldn't be a more perfect expression of hope than in the gift of these trees," Leach said. "It's all about growing again and emerging from the seeds that were planted

so long ago. Out of tragedy can come not only individual but community growth. As we accept the tree, we're receiving roots to build a strong foundation again; individually and as a community.”

Anniversary

April 19, 2015, marks the 20th anniversary of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. Numerous events are planned this week in observance of the occasion. Learn more at www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org.

CITY OF BEL AIRE

2015 TREE CARE EXPENDITURES

COMMUNITY POPULATION – 6916

TREE PLANTING AND INITIAL CARE

Tree Planting Labor \$1,550.00

Watering \$1,070.00

Tree Purchases \$2,100.00

Total \$4,720.00

TREE MAINTENANCE

Pruning Labor \$3,875.00

Mulch \$1,200.00

Mulch Labor \$1,325.00

Insect Control \$325.00

Total \$6,725.00

TREE REMOVALS

Labor \$775.00

Total \$775.00

MANAGEMENT

Training and Conferences (Shade Tree Conference & Summer Field Day)

Certified Arborist Membership

Total \$544.61

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS (Tree Board) - 7

Volunteer Hours – 136

Total \$3,003.04

COMMUNITY FORESTRY EXPENDITURESE

TOTAL \$15,767.65

COMMUNITY TREE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS

TREES PLANTED - 17

TREES PRUNED - 155

TREES REMOVED – 84

Print this page

Tree City USA

2015 Application for Certification



The Tree City USA award is in recognition of work completed by the community during the 2015 calendar year.

As Mayor or Equivalent of the Community of Bel Aire

I herewith make application for this community to be officially certified/recertified as a Tree City USA for 2015, having achieved the standards set forth by the Arbor Day Foundation as noted below.

Standard 1: A Tree Board or Department
Community has a Tree Board only

Tree Board Chair

Gary Northwall Tree Board Chairperson 316-744-0682 gnorthwall@sbcglobal.net

Standard 2: A Community Tree Ordinance
 Our community ordinance is on record

Standard 3: A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at Least \$2 Per Capita

Total Community Forestry Expenditures \$15767.65
Community Population 6916
Per Capita Spending \$2.28

Standard 4: An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation
 Official Arbor Day proclamation is on record

Mayor or Equivalent Signature

Mayor

Title

12/15/15

Date

Application Certification

To Be Completed By The State Forester:

Bel Aire

The above named community has made formal application to this office. I am pleased to advise you that we reviewed the application and have concluded that, based on the information contained herein, said community is eligible to be certified as a Tree City USA community, for the 2015 calendar year, having in my opinion met the four standards required for recognition.

State Forester Signature

ASSISTANT PW DIRECTOR

Title

12/15/2015

Date



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