



**NEWS RELEASE  
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## **PURCELLVILLE RECEIVES TREE CITY RECOGNITION AND GROWTH AWARD**

**PURCELLVILLE, Va. March 12, 2021** — In honor of its commitment to community forestry and the environment, the Town of Purcellville has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation. This is the Town's 13<sup>th</sup> year to receive this national recognition. The Town also received a Tree City USA Growth Award for demonstrating continued environmental improvement and higher level of tree care.

Mayor Kwasi Fraser stated, "We remain committed to the planting and caring of trees in Purcellville for it is an essential part of environmental sustainability and our slow growth strategy. It's a pleasure to celebrate this 13<sup>th</sup> annual Tree City designation and Growth Award with the entire community."

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.

"Tree City USA communities see the positive effects of an urban forest firsthand," said Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation. "The trees being planted and cared for by Purcellville are ensuring generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program brings residents together and creates a sense of civic pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education."

It is through the continued support of the Town Council that Purcellville is able to remain committed to sustain a culture of tree and environmental preservation. Additionally, the Tree City Growth Award was obtained through the amazing work of the Tree and Environmental Sustainability Committee (TESC) and Town staff. COVID-19 may have altered how celebrations and outreach were completed in 2020; however, the dedication of TESC, Town staff, as well as many volunteers ensured the Purcellville community could continue to celebrate trees and the environment. This was accomplished through the Wonder of Trees poster contest, the virtual Purcellville Green Expo/Hail to the Trail celebration, nature walks, tree plantings and trail maintenance, as well as many other efforts.

Joel Grewe, Purcellville Town Council member and council liaison for TESC noted, "The Tree and Environmental Sustainability Committee has done excellent work showcasing Purcellville's commitment to our forests and community health. The Town of Purcellville should be rightfully proud of the hard work of its residents and town staff in their work to

plant and care for the trees in our community. The investment in our trees will help maintain our town's natural beauty and health for generations to come."

Molly O'Liddy, Community Forestry Partnership Coordinator, Virginia Department of Forestry, thanked the Town of Purcellville "for setting a wonderful example of urban forest management for communities across the Commonwealth."

### **The Town of Purcellville, Virginia**

"Purcellville-your small Town, where history and progress intersect and people prosper," is an award-winning town of over 10,000 residents located in Loudoun County, approximately 50 miles west of Washington, DC. Having received the prestigious Siemens Sustainability Award for Small Communities, Purcellville continues to be honored for its green initiatives with most recently being the Tree City USA recipient for the 13<sup>th</sup> year. The Town was reaffirmed as a AAA rated community by S&P Global Ratings, the highest credit rating possible, and is ranked "Safest City" in Virginia in 2020. Once a stop along the W&OD rail line, which has been converted to a multi-use trail from Alexandria, VA to Purcellville, the Town has maintained its historic old-town feel through the restoration and maintenance of its many downtown structures, reflecting the Victorian architecture popular during the early 1900s. Today, Purcellville is the economic hub of western Loudoun County and a popular weekend destination for antiquing, equestrian activities, farmer's markets, wineries, breweries, distilleries and restaurants. More info at [www.purcellvilleva.gov](http://www.purcellvilleva.gov).

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