CARROLLTON IS A TREE CITY U.S.A.

Carrollton received national recognition when the National Arbor Day Foundation recently named the city as a Tree City U.S.A. for the second year in a row. The Tree City U.S.A. designation reflects Carrollton's priorities and commitments to environmental issues, including stormwater management, air quality, and energy conservation.

Trees provide significant stormwater management functions. They slow runoff by intercepting water with their leaves and branches. Under their crowns, they create highly permeable soils that allow water to soak into the land rather than rapidly over the surface. Their root systems absorb polluting nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous that would otherwise be deposited into city drainage. Trees are very effective at moderating the negative effects of a city's built infrastructure, and their effectiveness at doing so can be calculated and used for managing urban stormwater. By maintaining a healthy green infrastructure, a city makes a sound investment in its future. Trees are indicators of the quality of the overall city environment. According to a recent article in the Carrollton Leader Star, City Arborist Bob Schantz is quoted as saying, "We are required to spend about \$2 per capita. Since the city is around 114,000 people, we must spend over \$228,000 per year on tree related projects." The city also had to agree to observe Arbor Day, which is the last Friday in April.

To qualify for Tree City U.S.A., a town or city must meet four standards established by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. The standards are as follows:

- 1. A Tree Board or Department
- 2. A Tree Care Ordinance
- 3. A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at Least \$2 Per Capita
- 4. An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

Carrollton's Tree Board consists of 7 members and it is composed of members from other City boards or commissions: two each from the Planning & Zoning Commission, the Wildlife & Environmental Advisory Committee, & the Parks Board and one from the Development Ordinance Advisory Committee. The board assists city staff in preparing recommendations to the City Council regarding the application, membership, and ongoing participation in the Tree City U.S.A. Program, assists staff in the development of a comprehensive tree management program and makes recommendations to the City Council in regard to appeals, variances, and amendments to the Tree Preservation Ordinance.

On June 6, 2000, the Carrollton City Council approved an ordinance intended to encourage the preservation & replacement of certain trees which might otherwise be thoughtlessly destroyed during development. According to the Tree Preservation Ordinance, no clear-cutting of land is allowed and prior to construction or development on a site that contains one or more protected trees, a tree preservation plan must be approved by the city.

For more information, please contact:

City Arborist Bob Schantz at 972-466-9821 about tree programs or Water Quality Coordinator Marina Giggleman at 972-466-4913 about stormwater management