

Post celebrating Tree City April 24

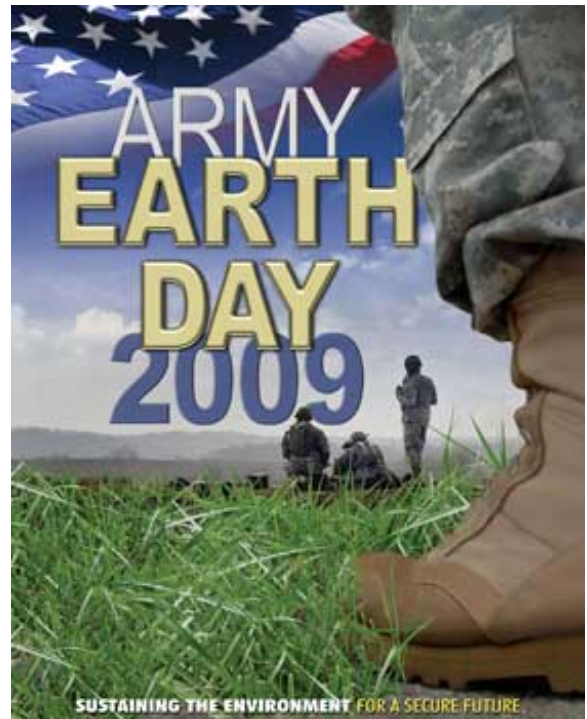
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Post celebrating Tree City, Earth Day April 24

April 8, 2009 – Carlisle Barracks will celebrate its dedication to the environment during a celebration of Tree City USA, Arbor Day and Earth Day April 24 at 10 a.m. at the Delaney Field Clubhouse. An appearance by Smokey Bear, the planting of a tree and the sounds of CDC children singing song will round out the event.

Each year, the U.S. Army celebrates Earth Day at approximately 200 major commands, installations and organizations in the continental United States and around the world.

During the event Carlisle Barracks will be recognized for being a Tree City USA for the 18th consecutive year. To qualify for the Tree City USA award, the post had to meet certain criteria. The installation established a tree board, a community tree ordinance and a comprehensive community forestry program. Each year the post must apply for the certification.



Why are trees important?

Trees provide more than just shade on a sunny day, check out these facts from the Arbor Day Foundation.

- The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day
- Landscaping can reduce air conditioning costs by up to 50 percent, by shading the windows and walls of a home
- If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in 5 years your energy bills should be 3 percent less. In 15 years the savings will be nearly 12 percent

- A mature tree can often have an appraised value of between \$1,000 and \$10,000."
- In one study, 83 percent of realtors believe that mature trees have a "strong or moderate impact" on the salability of homes listed for under \$150,000; on homes over \$250,000, this perception increases to 98 percent
- Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent.
- One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people.
- There are about 60-to 200- million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO2 every year, and saving \$4 billion in energy costs.
- Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20 - 50 percent in energy used for heating.
- Trees can be a stimulus to economic development, attracting new business and tourism. Commercial retail areas are more attractive to shoppers, apartments rent more quickly, tenants stay longer, and space in a wooded setting is more valuable to sell or rent.
- The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams.

Arbor Day history

The idea for Arbor Day originally came from Nebraska. A visit to Nebraska today wouldn't disclose that the state was once a treeless plain. Yet, it was the lack of trees that led to the founding of Arbor Day in the 1800's.

Among pioneers moving into the Nebraska territory in 1854 was J. Sterling Morton. He and his wife had a great love of nature. As Morton was a journalist and soon became editor of Nebraska's first newspaper, he was able to spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees to an equally enthusiastic audience.

Arbor Day was officially proclaimed by the young state's Governor Robert W. Furnas on March 12, 1874. Later in 1885, the date was switched to Morton's birthday, April 22, for permanent observance.

Earth Day history

On April 22, 1970, the Environmental Teach-In held a nationwide day of environmental education and activism that it called Earth Day. The event was inspired and organized by environmental activist and U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin. Nelson wanted to show other U.S. politicians that there was widespread public support

for a political agenda centered on environmental issues.

Nelson began organizing the event from his Senate office, assigning two staff members to work on it, but soon more space and more people were needed. John Gardner, founder of Common Cause, donated office space. Nelson selected Denis Hayes, a Harvard University student, to coordinate Earth Day activities and gave him a staff of volunteer college students to help.

Following the Earth Day celebration inspired by Nelson, which demonstrated widespread grassroots support for environmental legislation, Congress passed many important environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, as well as laws to protect wilderness areas. The Environmental Protection Agency was created within three years after Earth Day 1970.

In 1995, Nelson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton for his role in founding Earth Day, raising awareness of environmental issues, and promoting environmental action.