

**Susana Martinez**

Governor

**John H. Bemis**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Brett F. Woods, Ph.D**  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**Tony Delfin**  
State Forester  
Forestry Division



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Contact:**

Dan Ware, Fire Prevention and Outreach Program Manager  
505-476-3336 | daniel.ware@state.nm.us

**New Mexico Communities Nationally Recognized For Stewardship Efforts**

SANTA Fe - Several New Mexico communities have received national recognition for their outstanding community forestry programs through the National Arbor Day Foundations' Tree City USA program, according to State Forester Tony Delfin. The Tree City USA program helps provide direction, technical support, and national recognition for community forestry programs across the country.

Trees continue to be an ever-important part of our culture and heritage," said Delfin. We congratulate New Mexico's Tree City USA participants for their dedication toward making their community forests and priority." Participating communities include:

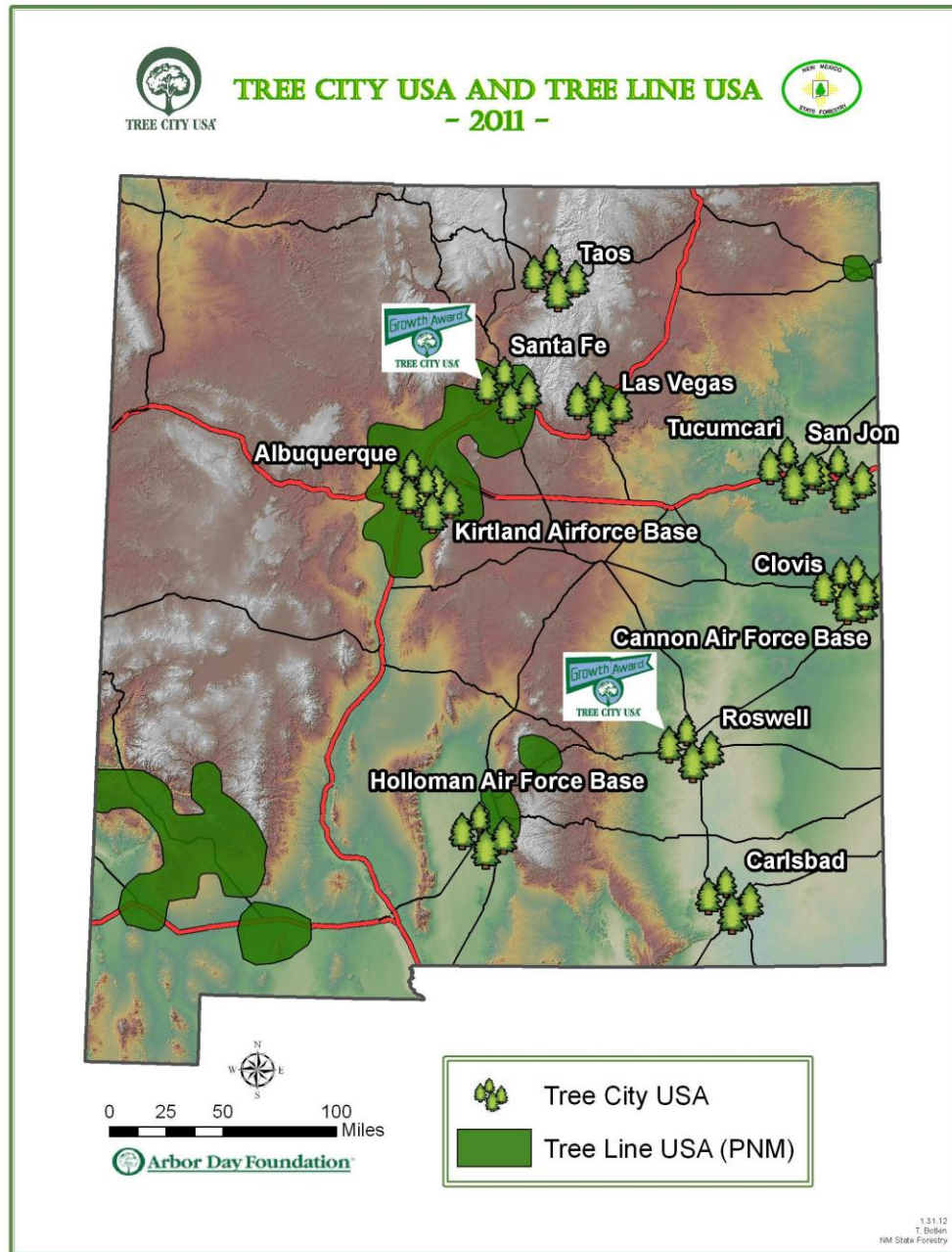
Roswell	22 years	Kirtland Air Force Base	12 years
Albuquerque	15 years	Holloman Air Force Base	9 years
Cannon Air Force Base	14 years	Santa Fe	3 years
Tucumcari	13 years	Taos	2 years
San Jon	13 years	Carlsbad	2 years
Las Vegas	13 years	Corrales	2 years

In addition to receiving recognition as Tree City USA communities, Santa Fe and Roswell also received a Tree City USA 'Growth Award' for their exemplary efforts to plan and properly manage the trees within their communities. The City of Roswell was named a "Sterling Tree City USA," a prestigious designation awarded to communities that have participated in the Growth Award program for ten years.

The Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) was also recognized in 2011 for their continued participation in the Tree Line USA Program. The Tree Line USA program promotes the dual goals of safe, reliable electric service and abundant, healthy trees across utility service areas.

Urban and community forests provide numerous values to communities throughout New Mexico including improved aesthetics, quality of life for community residents and increased property values. They also provide numerous environmental benefits including reduction of heat intensity and building energy use; reduced soil erosion and storm water run-off; improved air quality; wildlife habitat and much more. The New Mexico State Forestry Division, Urban and Community Forestry Program is dedicated to empowering communities to develop and sustain their urban and community forests for the benefit of their citizens and the environment.

For further information about Tree City USA and Urban and Community Forestry in your community contact Kelly Washburn, NM State Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager at 505-476-3332 or email [kelly.washburn@state.nm.us](mailto:kelly.washburn@state.nm.us) .



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***The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.***

Forestry Division  
1220 South St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505  
Phone (505) 476-3325 • Fax (505) 476-3330 • [www.emnrd.state.nm.us/FD](http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/FD)

