



**Town of Amherst**  
**Hon. Shawn A. Lavin**  
**Supervisor**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 24, 2026

## **Town of Amherst Celebrates 30 Years as a Tree City USA Community**

**(Amherst, NY)**— The Town of Amherst proudly announced its 30th year of recognition as a Tree City USA community, an honor bestowed by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

“As Amherst marks three decades as a Tree City USA, we celebrate both our accomplishments and our ongoing commitment to a greener, healthier community,” said Supervisor Shawn A. Lavin. “Trees are an essential part of what makes Amherst a great place to live, work, and play.”

“We are extremely grateful to the many community groups that have made the commitment to plant trees in our town year after year, including the volunteer members of the Amherst Tree Board, local scout troops and religious organizations,” said Mary-Diana Pouli, Executive Director of the Amherst Youth & Recreation Department. “It is their hard work and dedication that ensures the continued preservation of recreational spaces in our town and sets the example for the next generation of conservationists.”

To mark this milestone, a Tree City USA sign has been erected at Bassett Park, symbolizing Amherst’s commitment to urban forestry and the vital role trees play in the community.

Since first earning the designation in 1996, the Town of Amherst has demonstrated a sustained commitment to managing and growing its urban tree canopy. The Town continues to meet the rigorous standards of the Tree City USA program, which include maintaining a community tree board or department, establishing a public tree care ordinance, dedicating annual funding for tree care, and holding an Arbor Day observance. These ongoing efforts are made possible through the hard work and dedication of the Town of Amherst Highway Department.

Tree City USA recognition shows a community’s investment in environmental health and quality of life. Through this program, Amherst has helped contribute to a nationwide effort in which more than 3,500



communities are recognized for their commitment to trees, resulting in nearly a million trees planted annually and billions of dollars invested in urban forestry.

Trees provide significant economic, environmental, and social benefits for communities like Amherst. They improve air quality, help manage stormwater runoff, reduce energy costs, and enhance property values. In addition, mature trees create shade, lower urban heat, and contribute to public health by filtering pollutants and improving mental well-being.

The Town invites residents and visitors to join in recognizing this milestone and to learn more about the role trees play in supporting environmental sustainability, community beauty, and overall quality of life.

For more information about Amherst's urban forestry efforts, please use this [link](#) to view the Community Tree Management Plan.

To learn more about the Arbor Day Foundation, or their Tree City USA Initiative, please visit: [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).