

The City of Griffin (COG) is honored to receive the Outstanding Community Merit Award from the Georgia Urban Forest Council (GUFC). The award is in recognition of Griffin's Urban Forest Management Program, which is involved in managing the thousands of trees located on public lands and right of ways. The award was presented at the GUFC 16th Annual Conference, November 15-17, 2006 in Jekyll Island, GA. Kreg Jenkins, environmental technician with the COG Stormwater Department, accepted the award from Dan Whitehead, GUFC president, and Ken Stewart, director of the Georgia Forestry Commission, at the Awards Luncheon on Nov. 16th.

The COG received its first "Tree City USA" designation in 1991 and has gotten the title annually for the fourteenth straight year. In addition, the City received a grant for its first tree inventory in 1996 and scheduled yearly removals, plantings, and maintenance with its developed urban forest management plan. Tree inventories in 1999 specified the City tree location and determined tree canopy on a GIS map, and in 2004 showed the value of the City's street trees exceeding \$10 million dollars.

The City commissioners, City managers, department heads, and employees have taken steps to perpetuate the beauty and environmental benefits of the city's trees. These steps included establishing a tree ordinance, a tree board, three tree inventories and management of the tree removals and tree plantings along 26 miles of street right of ways and 47 acres of public parks.