



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY OF GRIFFIN: OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY

The City of Griffin recently received 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 involves managing the thousands of trees located on public lands and right of ways within the city limits. The award was presented at the GUFC 16th Annual Conference, November 15-17, 2006 in Jekyll Island, GA. Kreg Jenkins, environmental technician with the City of Griffin Stormwater Department, accepted the award from GUFC president, Dan Whitehead, and director of the Georgia Forestry Commission, Ken Stewart, at the Awards Luncheon on November 16th.

The City of Griffin has recognized the importance of comprehensive tree management for many years. The City received its first "Tree City USA" designation in 1991 and has maintained 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 in accordance with the previously adopted urban forest management plan. Subsequent tree inventories, conducted in 1999 and 2004, were used to illustrate the City's specific tree locations and canopies on a GIS map. The most recent inventory determined the value of the City's street trees to be in excess of \$10 million dollars.

The City commissioners, 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 the 26 miles of street right of ways and 47 acres of public parks. Citizens may play a part in Griffin's Urban Forest Management Program by reporting tree problems by phone (770-229-6424) or by the internet (www.griffinstorm.com/pw/trees.htm).