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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Arbor Day Foundation's Kentucky Community Tree Recovery Campaign  
Distributes Free New Trees this March and April to Local Residents**

*Arbor Day Foundation Helps Rebuild and Beautify Communities One Tree at a Time*

**Frankfort, KY, March 11, 2016** – The Kentucky Community Tree Recovery Campaign – a partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the Kentucky Division of Forestry – will distribute up to 25,000 new trees this year to the residents in the Kentucky counties of Lawrence, Rowan, Bath, Montgomery and Grant. These seedlings will be free of charge, and help to replace trees damaged and destroyed by the March 2012 tornadoes.

Arbor Day Foundation's Community Tree Recovery, a national program underwritten by foundation members, aims to replace trees in communities affected by natural disasters throughout the United States. The program assisted more than 200 communities in planting or distributing more than 2.8 million trees since its inception in 2012.

This is the third year of the campaign in Kentucky. In 2014 and 2015, citizens and local governments residing in Campbell, Johnson, Kenton, Magoffin, Martin, Menifee, Morgan and Wolf County were the recipients of tree seedlings. A total of five thousand seedlings have been distributed in each of these counties over the past two years.

This year, the first trees will be distributed in Louisa, Kentucky at 249 Industrial Park Road on March 12 from 9am to 12pm. Five species will be available for 2016 – swamp white oak, northern red oak, smooth sumac, pecan and persimmon. Each county is planning their own distribution events, and there will be more than one opportunity in each county for residents to pick up their seedlings. For more information about the distribution events in Kentucky, contact Sarah Gracey at 502-564-4496 or [sarah.gracey@ky.gov](mailto:sarah.gracey@ky.gov).

“Trees are assets to a community when properly planted and maintained,” said Dan Lambe, president, Arbor Day Foundation. “They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood or shopping district, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.”

On March 2, 2012, nineteen tornadoes tore through more than 100 miles of cities, towns and countryside in Kentucky. The lethal storms killed 22 people, destroyed hundreds of homes and uprooted hundreds of thousands of trees from yards, parks and forests. The destruction was so great that President Barack Obama declared 16 Kentucky counties federal disaster areas.

To donate to the recovery efforts supported by this campaign or other across the country please visit [www.arboday.org/recovery](http://www.arboday.org/recovery). With your help, we can begin to restore this nations beautiful landscapes, including the state of Kentucky.

**About the Arbor Day Foundation:** The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees. More information is available at [arboday.org](http://arboday.org).

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