



**CITY OF CLEVELAND**  
Mayor Frank G. Jackson

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## **City of Cleveland Earns Recognition as 2016 Tree City USA**

*Builds on status as leader in sustainability and urban forest management*

**CLEVELAND, Ohio** – The [City of Cleveland](#), a municipality committed to environmental sustainability, earned recognition as an Arbor Day Foundation [2016 Tree City USA](#). The award recognizes cities with an outstanding commitment to urban forest management. Environmental sustainability is a key initiative of [Mayor Frank G. Jackson](#), who launched [Sustainable Cleveland 2019](#), a ten-year effort to transform Cleveland into a ‘Green City on a Blue Lake.’

“A focus on sustainability helps ensure our city’s longevity,” said Mayor Jackson. “We are working together not only to improve urban forestry, but to design a city that advances environmental, economic and human health for all.”

Cleveland achieves its 37<sup>th</sup> Tree City recognition by meeting the program’s four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

The City operates an Office of Sustainability, responsible for advising policies; leading coordination of the Sustainable Cleveland 2019 initiative; implementing the [Cleveland Climate Action Plan](#) and the [Sustainable Cleveland Municipal Action Plan](#); and reducing the City’s ecological footprint.

“This award recognizes our ongoing efforts to create vibrant greenspace in the midst of urban development,” said Chief of Sustainability Matt Gray. “Growing and maintaining Cleveland’s tree canopy is a key element in the citywide neighborhood revitalization efforts.”

As part of its sustainability efforts, Cleveland also is celebrating the [Year of Vibrant Green Space](#). In recognition of trees as critical infrastructure, the City has partnered with several organizations to develop and implement the Cleveland Tree Plan, a strategy to reforest the

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Forest City through citywide collaboration. Cleveland is one of 3,400 Tree City USA's. The program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. For more information on the City of Cleveland's commitment to sustainability, visit Sustainable Cleveland at [www.sustainablecleveland.org](http://www.sustainablecleveland.org)

### **About the City of Cleveland**

The City of Cleveland is committed to improving the quality of life its residents by strengthening neighborhoods, delivering superior services, embracing diversity and making Cleveland a desirable, safe city in which to live, work and play. For more information on the City of Cleveland, visit online at [www.city.cleveland.oh.us](http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us) , Twitter at [@cityofcleveland](https://twitter.com/cityofcleveland) or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cityofcleveland](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcleveland).

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