



City of Toledo
PO Box 220
Toledo, OR 97391
www.cityoftoledo.org

NEWS RELEASE

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For more information, contact:

Michael E. Adams: 541-336-2247 Ext. 2080

cdcplanner@cityoftoledo.org

City of Toledo

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Arbor Day Foundation Names Toledo Tree City USA For 23rd Year

Toledo, OR, April 19, 2017 – The City of Toledo, Oregon, was named a 23 year Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

The City of Toledo achieved Tree City USA 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 of Toledo has done work on Mill Creek, a primary water source for our City. Protecting and enhancing the riparian area in our watershed has been an important goal of the City Council," said Billie Jo Smith, Mayor of Toledo. "Everything we do that enhances the forest, both urban and rural, effects all of us. Toledo has a history of valuing our trees and the forest industry, so making sure we continue to sustain the forest is critical."

Trees are assets to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

"Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities like Toledo make smart investments in urban forests," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social and environmental benefits."

More information on the program is available at arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

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 arborday.org.

