

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Arbor Day Foundation Names West Cape May Tree City USA**

West Cape May, NJ - April 7, 2017- West Cape May was named a 2017 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. This marks the 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year West Cape May has received this designation.

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.

West Cape May 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.

"Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities like West Cape May 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."

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.

More information on the program is available at [arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://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](http://arborday.org)