

Mayor Mike Blake  
65 Stone Street  
Cocoa, FL 32922

Dear Tree City USA Community Member,

On behalf of the Arbor Day Foundation, I'm thrilled to congratulate Cocoa on earning recognition as a 2022 Tree City USA. Residents of Cocoa should be proud to live in a community that makes the planting and care of trees a priority.

Founded in 1976, Tree City USA is a partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Association of State Foresters. Cocoa is part of an incredible network of more than 3,600 Tree City USA communities nationwide, with a combined population of 155 million.

Over the last few years, the value and importance of trees has become increasingly clear. Cities and towns across the globe are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, and energy use. Cocoa has taken steps to create to a brighter, greener future.

We hope you are as excited as we are to share this accomplishment with your local media and your residents. Enclosed in this packet is a press release for you to distribute at your convenience.

We're excited to celebrate your commitment to the people and trees of Cocoa. Thank you, again, for your efforts.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DL', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dan Lambe  
Arbor Day Foundation Chief Executive

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Arbor Day Foundation Names Cocoa a 2022 Tree City USA®

LINCOLN, Nebraska (12/13/2022) – Cocoa was named a 2022 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Cocoa achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: maintaining a tree board or department, having a tree care ordinance, dedicating an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and hosting an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

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.

“Tree City USA communities see the positive effects of an urban forest firsthand,” said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “The trees being planted and cared for by Cocoa are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy to a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program brings residents together and creates a sense of civic pride, whether it’s through volunteer engagement or public education.”

If ever there was a time for trees, now is that time. Communities worldwide are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, energy use, and extreme heat and flooding. Cocoa is doing its part to address these challenges for residents both now and in the future.

More information on the program is available at [arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](https://arborday.org/TreeCityUSA).<sup>2</sup>

#### **About the Arbor Day Foundation**

Founded in 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation has grown to become the largest nonprofit membership organization dedicated to planting trees, with more than one million members, supporters and valued partners. Since 1972, almost 500 million Arbor Day Foundation trees have been planted in neighborhoods, communities, cities and forests throughout the world. Our vision is to lead toward a world where trees are used to solve issues critical to survival.

As one of the world's largest operating conservation foundations, the Arbor Day Foundation, through its members, partners and programs, educates and engages stakeholders and communities across the globe to involve themselves in its mission of planting, nurturing and celebrating trees. More information is available at [arborday.org](https://arborday.org).