

# Cuyahoga County Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program



Jared Bartley  
Cuyahoga SWCD  
Cleveland, OH







## Mission:

Implement programs and practices that protect and restore healthy soil and water resources.



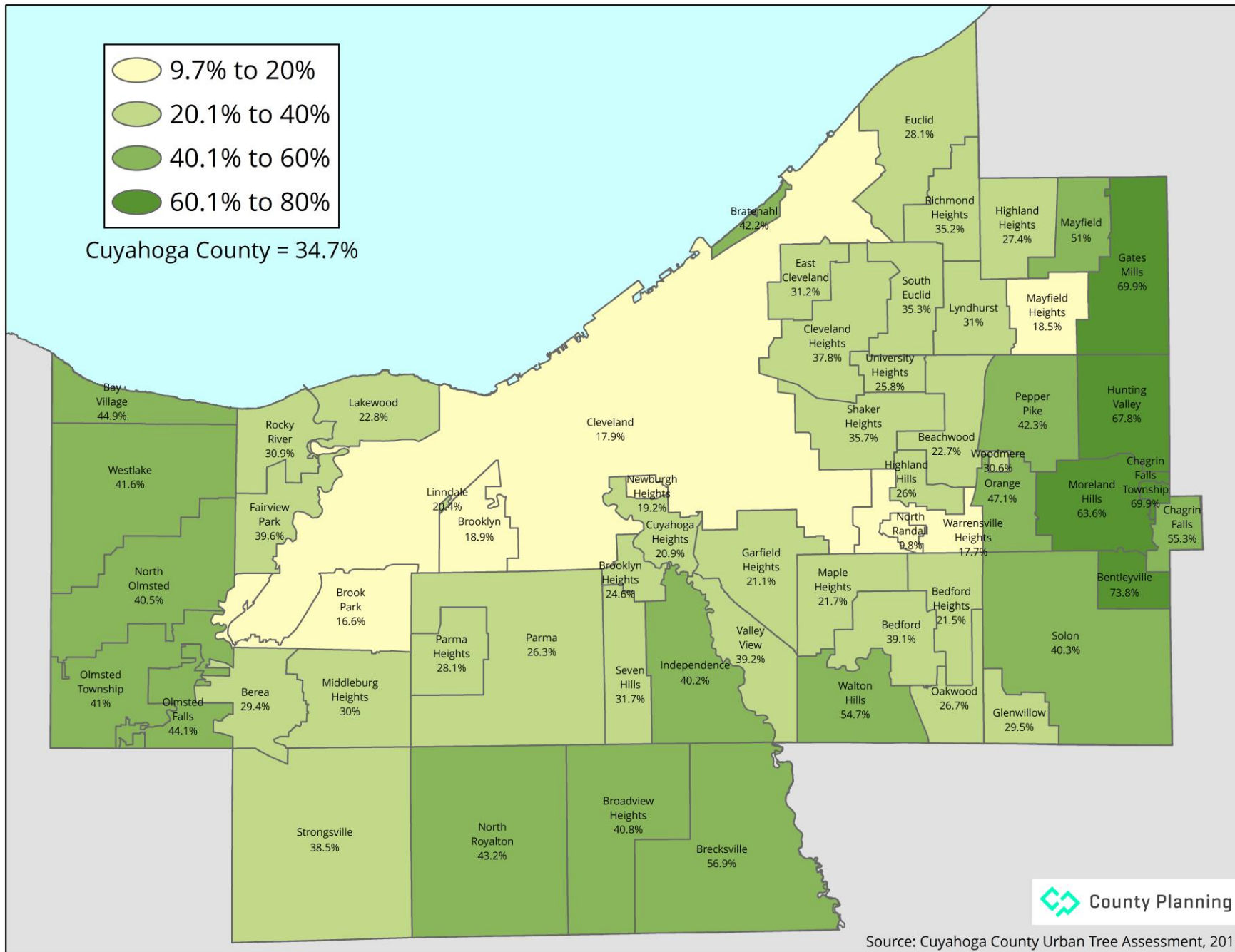


# Program Partners



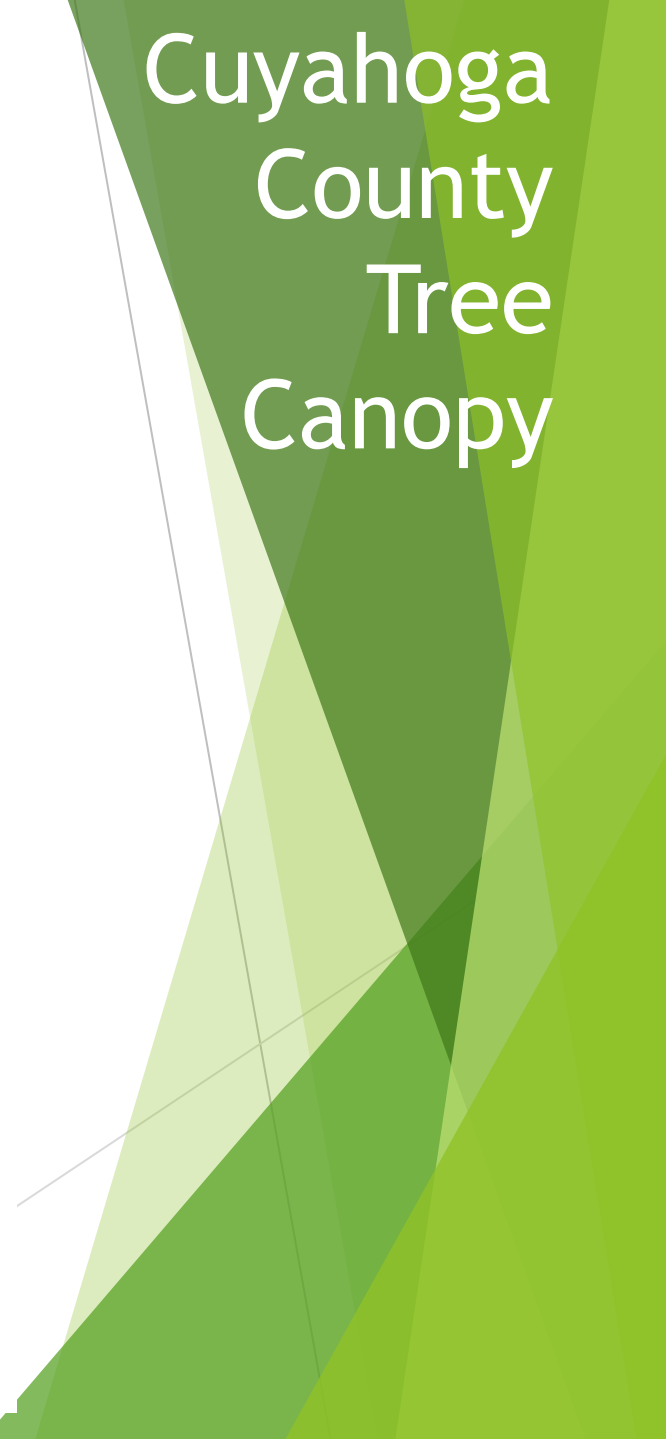


# Cuyahoga County Tree Canopy



Source: Cuyahoga County Urban Tree Assessment, 2019



A graphic featuring a background of overlapping green triangles in various shades, creating a layered, forest-like effect. A thin, light gray line runs diagonally across the left side of the image. The text "Cuyahoga County Tree Canopy" is written in a white, sans-serif font, positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image.

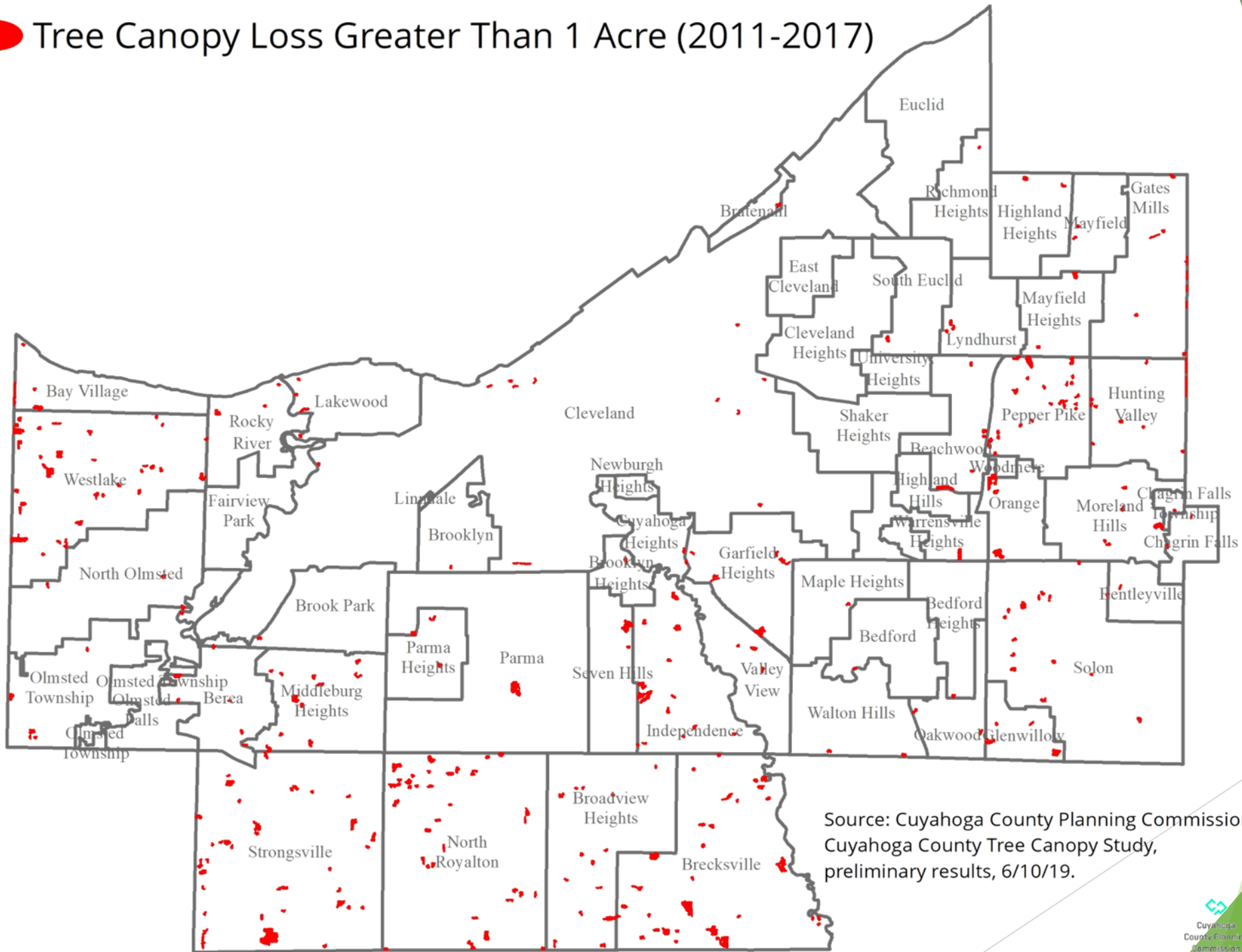
# Cuyahoga County Tree Canopy





## ● Tree Canopy Loss Greater Than 1 Acre (2011-2017)

# Cuyahoga County Tree Canopy



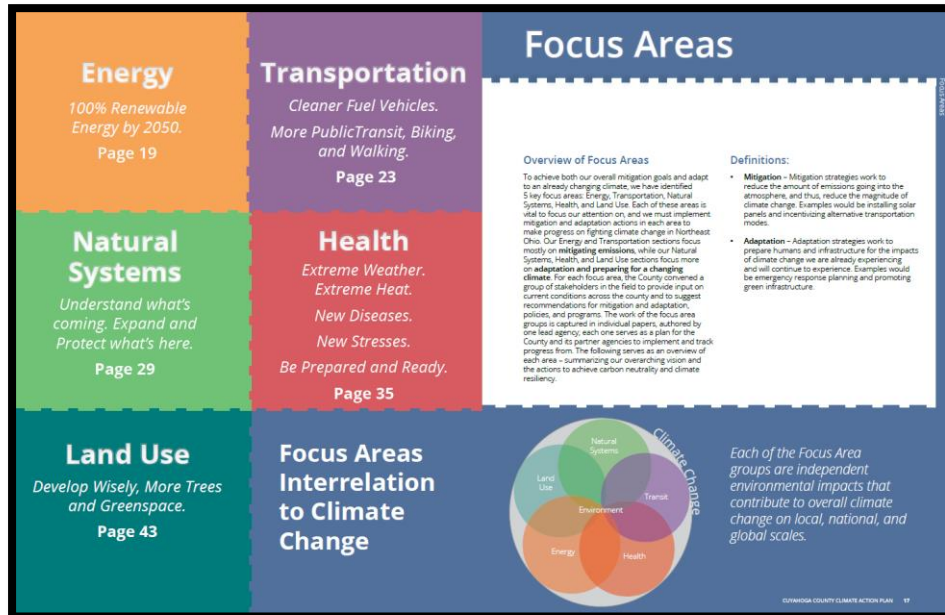
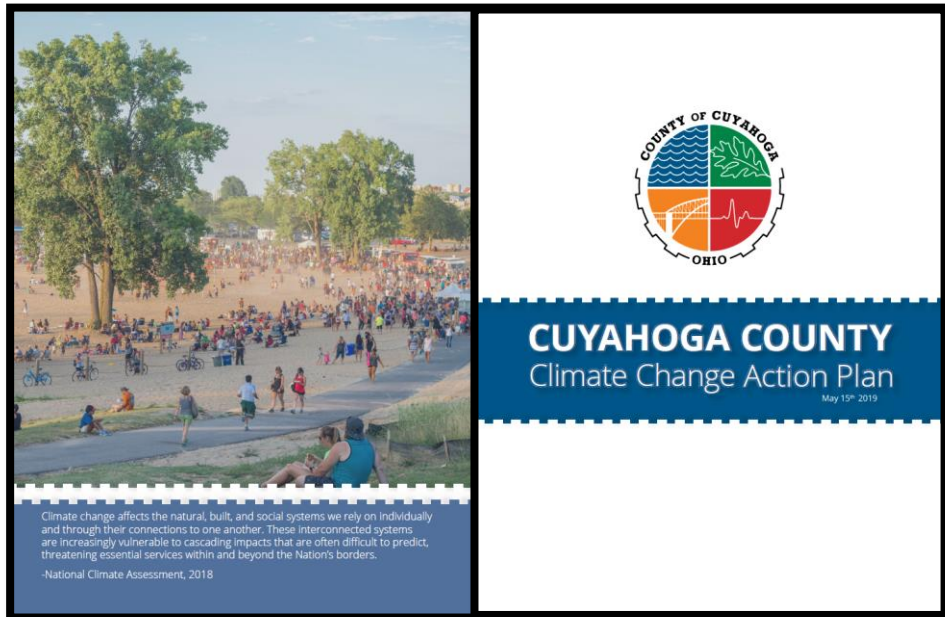
Source: Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, Cuyahoga County Tree Canopy Study, preliminary results, 6/10/19.



# Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan

- ▶ In July of 2017, Cuyahoga County signed the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy. This required us to create a Climate Change Action Plan, and track and report our County's emissions.

- ▶ Aspires to reduce our overall reduction in GHG emissions from 2010 to 2030 by 45%
- ▶ Energy, Transportation, Natural Systems, Health, and Land Use
- ▶ Cleveland and many first ring suburbs have a low tree canopy percentage. Our county's tree coverage is continuing to decrease due to development and clear-cutting.
- ▶ Tree Canopy helps improve water quality, reduces erosion and storm water runoff, saves energy, lowers city temperatures, reduces air pollution, enhances property values, and more!





# Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program

- ▶ Launched in 2019
- ▶ Cuyahoga County committed \$5 million over 5 years to increase canopy.
- ▶ \$950,000/year in competitive grant funds to eligible entities including communities, environmental nonprofit organizations, community development corporations, school districts
- ▶ Cuyahoga SWCD and Cuyahoga County Planning Commission receive \$25,000/year for their roles in administering and monitoring the grant program.
- ▶ Eligible activities include planting, maintenance and urban forestry planning - all in addition to already budgeted activities.



# HUTC Grant Program

## HEALTHY URBAN TREE CANOPY GRANT EVALUATION POINTS

CRITERIA	MAXIMUM POINTS	%
LOCAL MATCH	5	4.5%
READINESS TO PROCEED	10	9.1%
URBAN FOREST INITIATIVES	10	9.1%
QUALIFIED PERSONNEL	10	9.1%
PROJECT PLAN	15	13.6%
MAINTENANCE PLAN	15	13.6%
VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT	15	13.6%
EXISTING TREE CANOPY	15	13.6%
COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT	10	9.1%
PARTNER COORDINATION	5	4.5%
Total	110	100



## Cuyahoga SWCD Roles

- ▶ Serve on grant review and evaluation team
- ▶ Review and approve grantee planting and maintenance plans
- ▶ Review urban forestry plans developed with grant funding
- ▶ Monitor and inspect tree installation and maintenance
- ▶ Serve as a technical resource for project partners and grantees



Site Specific Observations

7 Martin Luther King Junior Drive Cleveland Ohio 44106 United States

Search places

MLK Tennis Courts

Cleveland Museum of Natural History Planetarium & local prehistoric finds

Planting Details (select all that apply)

Trunk Flare Exposed, Hole Dug to Proper Depth (trunk flare at grade), Hole dug to proper width (at least 2 times width of root ball), Tree placed on firm pad, lifting from bottom of root ball, All twine/ties removed from root ball, Wire basket removed from entire root ball, Burlap removed from entire root ball, Girdling/potentially girdling roots not present, Staked properly, Planting hole backfilled with mix of amended and existing soil per approved specs.


Tree Species

Red Oak

Additional Details

Watered both during and after backfilling hole.

Photos





## Results - 2019

- ▶ 26 grants awarded totaling \$950,000
- ▶ The planting of over 1,400 trees through nine implementation grants
- ▶ 14 plans for future planting work
- ▶ Over 14,500 planting sites identified
- ▶ The completion of a business plan for non-profit tree nursery in Cuyahoga County

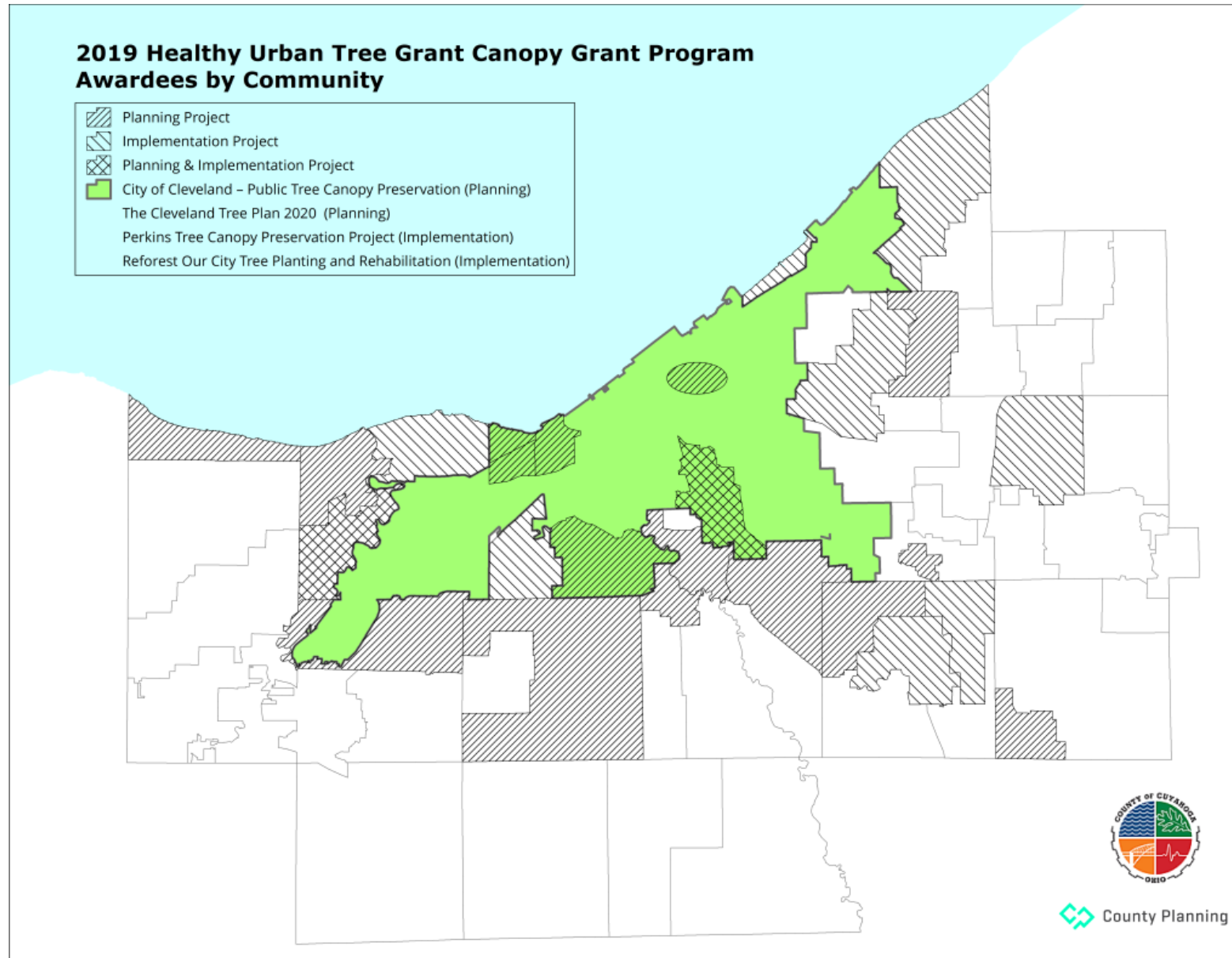
## Results - 2021

- ▶ 25 grants awarded totaling \$950,000
- ▶ 5 planning + planting grants
- ▶ 20 planting grants, including nonprofit native tree nursery establishment
- ▶ Over 4,000 trees to be planted



# Results - 2019

## HUTC Grant Program






# HUTC Grant Program

## FUNDED PROJECTS

### Trees to be Planted

	20 - 50
	51 - 100
	101 - 200
	201 - 500
	501 - 1325
	APPLIED / NOT FUNDED
	Cities
	Cleveland Neighborhoods







# Cuyahoga SWCD Tree Programs

- ▶ Backyard Buffers
- ▶ Legacy Tree Fund
- ▶ Backyard Buffers
- ▶ NUTS - Native Urban Tree Starters
- ▶ Camp Canopy Scholarships
- ▶ Let the Flare See the Air campaign
- ▶ Native Seed, Plant and Tree Sales
- ▶ Volunteer Tree Planting
- ▶ Outreach to residents and landowners







# Thank You!

Jared Bartley

Senior Program Manager -  
Education & Watersheds

Cuyahoga SWCD

[jbartley@cuyahogaswcd.org](mailto:jbartley@cuyahogaswcd.org)

216-524-6580 x1003