

Awards & Recognition





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Awards and Special Recognition

Environmental Awards & Recognition

The Tree City USA Growth Award is provided by The Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service, to recognize environmental improvement and encourage higher levels of tree care throughout America. This award is designed not only to recognize achievement, but also to communicate new ideas and help the leaders of all Tree City USAs plan for improving community tree care. Palm Coast has earned the Growth Award every year since 2006.



The National Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, annually recognizes communities that effectively manage their public tree resources. Palm Coast has earned the Tree City USA recognition each year since 2005.

Received the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) 2016 Green Achievement Award for being a FGBC Certified Green Local Government and receiving the highest score of a certifying City

Excellence in Education Award from the Northeast Florida Regional Council for the Children Helping In Resource Protection (CHIRP)

A story about the Children Helping In Resources Protection (C.H.I.R.P.) program was featured in the City Spotlight section of the January/February 2016 edition of the Quality Cities magazine of the Florida League of Cities. The story highlights how the program helps children learn the importance of Florida's natural resources.

Palm Coast City Hall was awarded LEED certification at the Silver level for design and construction that demonstrates high performance in sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. Palm Coast is the fifth City Hall in Florida to be LEED-certified.

Communications & Marketing Awards

Three City of Palm Coast videos – two related to public safety and one that’s used to recruit college interns – have earned awards in state and national competitions.

- √ The “Find Your Future – Internships with the City of Palm Coast” video showcases the City’s internship program from the interns’ perspective and is designed to promote the internship program. It can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/77sahzaeuEI>. The video production team earned three national honors for it:
 - √ 2017 Telly Awards – Bronze Award in the Government Relations for Non-Broadcast Productions category;
 - √ Communicator Awards – Silver Award for Distinction in the Film/Video-Government Relations category
 - √ NATOA (National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors) Government Programming Awards – Third Place in the Public Education category (for operating budgets up to \$250,000).
- √ The “Zombie Survival Guide to Bicycle Safety” earned three national and state awards this year, in addition to a 2016 Telly Award received last fall. With the target audience being young people from early teens through 20s, the team selected a zombie theme in the fashion of Zombieland – but with "rules" for bicycle safety. Florida Public Relations Association Golden Image Awards – Golden Image Award in the Video-Public Service category;
- √ Communicator Awards – Silver Award for Distinction in the Film/Video-Safety category;
- √ NATOA Government Programming Awards – Third Place in the Public Safety category (for operating budgets under \$300,000).
- √ The “Holiday Fire Safety Tips – Meet Joey Christmas” video also earned a national award. The City and Joey Christmas go around the home to present practical, fire-wise tips for the holidays in this video. This is the latest in a series of PSA videos produced in partnership with the Palm Coast Fire Department. The award is:
 - √ 2017 Telly Awards – Bronze Award in the Safety for Non-Broadcast Productions category.



Utility Department Awards

Once again, the Palm Coast Water Buoys won the American Waterworks Association's Top-Ops contests at both the State and National levels. The college-bowl style competition tests water plant operators' knowledge of a variety of water treatment topics including math, chemistry, physics and hydraulics. This was the 11th year winning the State competition and 8th time for Nationals.

The management and operational staff of the City of Palm Coast's Wastewater Treatment Plant 1 have been recognized for outstanding effort that resulted in zero lost-time accidents during 2016.



The employees' efforts earned the first-place 2017 Florida Water Environment Association Safety Award for Class B facilities. The award was presented during the Florida Water Resources Conference held in West Palm Beach in late April. Facilities from across the state compete annually for the awards that recognize excellent safety programs.

Wastewater Treatment Plant 1 on Utility Drive was built in the early 1970s and has been gradually expanded over the years. The City is building a second Wastewater Treatment Plant off U.S. 1 in north-western Palm Coast that will open early 2018. That new plant will add capacity and allow for anticipated growth in residential and commercial development.

"Safety is our No. 1 priority, and we are proud of our excellent safety record, which ultimately benefits our overall operation to give the best service possible to the citizens of Palm Coast," said Danny Ashburn, Palm Coast Utility Systems Manager. "I commend the plant's employees for their efforts and dedication and congratulate them on earning the FWEA's Safety Award."

The Wastewater Plant has earned Safety Awards from both FWEA and the Florida Water & Pollution Control Operators Association in the past.



The City of Palm Coast Utility Department's Water Treatment Plant 3 has been awarded the 2017 "Outstanding Membrane Plant Award" by the Southeast Desalting Association.

Finance Awards

The GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was received for the fiscal year 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This is the 16th consecutive year the City of Palm Coast has received this award.

The GFOA Budget Presentation award was received for the fiscal year 2017 budget document. This is the 14th consecutive year the City of Palm Coast has received this award.

The GFOA Award for Outstanding Achievement for Popular Annual Financial Reporting was received for the fiscal year 2016 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). This is the 4th consecutive year the City of Palm Coast has received this award.



The ICMA Center for Performance Analytics recognized the City of Palm Coast for the fourth year in a row for its performance management efforts with a Certificate of Distinction. Palm Coast is among eight jurisdictions receiving the Certificate of Distinction, and one of 52 recognized overall.

Other News

The City of Palm Coast placed fifth in the nation in the National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation, among cities with populations of 30,000 to 99,999. This is Palm Coast's second time participating in the annual program in which residents pledge to conserve water and cut pollution.

Palm Coast has been named one of MONEY's 2017 Best Places to Retire.

Palm Coast has been named one of the 50 Most Livable Cities in America, as rated by 24/7 Wall Street.

The City of Palm Coast was honored as a 2015 Healthy Weight Community Champion by the Florida Surgeon General - in recognition of the Parks & Recreation Department's annual Palm Coast Running Series. The Surgeon General of the Florida Department of Health's "Healthiest Weight Florida" campaign is a public-private collaboration to help Florida's children and adults make informed, consistent choices about healthy eating and active living.

In August 2014, Forbes magazine named Palm Coast as the nation's No. 7 City for the Best Small Places for Business and Careers. One of the criteria for placing Palm Coast over areas such as Dubuque, Iowa, and Auburn, Alabama, was the community's efforts to grow tourism and technology industries.

Where To Retire magazine selected Palm Coast among its Top Eight Low-Cost Cities in the U.S. for retirement. The story showcasing Palm Coast was featured in the magazine's September/October 2014 edition.