



July 18, 2016

City of Port St. Lucie
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Litter almost non-existent in Port St. Lucie

PORT ST. LUCIE, FL (July 18, 2016) -- The City has remained nearly litter-free for the fourth year in a row, according to the 2016 Keep America Beautiful Community Appearance Litter Index.

The City's 2016 score of 1.30 indicates that Port St. Lucie has minimal to no litter.

The City abides by the litter scale provided by Keep America Beautiful, which ranges from 'no litter-minimal litter' to 'extremely littered.' Our Community Appearance Litter Index for 2016 is 1.30, which displays the tremendous teamwork our residents and staff exhibit to keep our City looking great.

"We judge communities on the cleanliness of their streets and public areas, on how much litter they have; and more than just an indicator of cleanliness, litter tells us a lot about a community's safety, beauty, and community pride. It impacts property values, tourism, economic development and environmental health," said Mayor Greg Oravec. "In Port St. Lucie, we're proud of being safe, clean, and green, and keeping Port St. Lucie litter-free is a guiding principle of our Strategic Plan."

Each year, community-based affiliates conduct a comprehensive assessment of the overall appearance of the community using indicators such as litter, illegal signs, graffiti and more. This proprietary tool, called the Community Appearance Index, is designed to gather data every year by surveying a statistical sample of a city or town.

Thirteen sites in Port St. Lucie are visited every year, and the annual score is an average taken from each area visited. A score of 1.0 indicates that all the litter found in that area could be picked up by one person in minutes.

Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful Committee members, Adopt-A-Street volunteers and City staff work to educate residents and to remove litter from the City. In 2013, the city's score was 1.41, it was 1.22 in 2014 and it was 1.26 last year.

Eliminating litter in this City is a priority and several groups are responsible for the city's low litter index:

- [Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful](#) continues to engage residents and volunteers, whose generous donation of time and energy helps keep the City clean and beautiful. Through education and litter prevention programs like [Adopt-a-Street](#), residents see the many benefits in helping to maintain a clean and litter-free environment.
- [Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful](#) also oversees a two-person litter crew who are dedicated solely to picking up litter and addressing many of the litter conditions reported via the [litter hotline](#).
- [Port St. Lucie Code Compliance Division](#) also plays an important role in combating litter by enforcing city code provisions to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community, as well as working with citizens to achieve compliance through efficient and fair processes.

Caring citizens looking for an easy way to make a noticeable difference can sign up for our Adopt-a-Street, Adopt-a-Park, and Clean-Up Programs. Putting waste in its place is a simple but important part of loving where we live! *For more information, please visit: www.cityofpsl.com*

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The City of Port St. Lucie is proud to be a hometown where people live, learn, work and play, and celebrate all of life's opportunities. With over 179,000 residents, Port St. Lucie is Florida's eighth largest city by population (South Florida's 3rd largest city). The City occupies an area of 120 square miles in St. Lucie County on Florida's east coast, about 50 miles north of West Palm Beach, half way between Miami and Orlando. The City provides most traditional municipal services including law enforcement, water and sewer, and public works.

