

City of Marion Awards and Recognitions

2023

Tree City USA - 34 years

Received 2023 National Main Street Accreditation from National Main Street Program

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Area Wide Optimization Award for Outstanding Performance at Water Treatment Plant – 21 consecutive years.

Named as 6th Best Place to Retire in North Carolina by travelandleisure.com

2022

Tree City USA - 33 years

Received 2022 National Main Street Accreditation from National Main Street Program

Named as 5th Most Affordable Place to Live in North Carolina by Smart Asset.

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Area Wide Optimization Award for Outstanding Performance at Water Treatment Plant – 20 consecutive years.

2021

Tree City USA - 32 years

Received 2021 National Main Street Accreditation from National Main Street Program

Named by Realtor.com as top second home/vacation home market in the United States.

Named as 3rd Best Place to Retire in North Carolina by Smart Asset.

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Area Wide Optimization Award for Outstanding Performance at Water Treatment Plant – 19 consecutive years.

2020

Tree City USA - 31 years

Received 2020 National Main Street Accreditation from National Main Street Program

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Area Wide Optimization Award for Outstanding Performance at Water Treatment Plant – 18 consecutive years

2019

Tree City USA - 30 years

Received 2019 National Main Street Accreditation from National Main Street Program

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Area Wide Optimization Award for Outstanding Performance at Water Treatment Plant – 17 consecutive years

Received Award from North Carolina Main Street Program for Best Economic Development Incentive Program in North Carolina for Growing Entrepreneurs Marion Program (award presented to City of Marion, McDowell Chamber of Commerce, Marion Business Association and McDowell Technical Community College)

2018

Tree City USA - 29 years

Received 2018 National Main Street Accreditation from National Main Street Program

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Area Wide Optimization Award for Outstanding Performance at Water Treatment Plant – 16 consecutive years

Named as one of Top 5 Places to Retire in North Carolina by Smart Asset

Named as 2018 Small Town of the Year in North Carolina by the North Carolina Rural Center

2017

Tree City USA - 28 years

Selected as Playful City USA by KaBoom! – 5th Year

Received 2017 National Main Street Accreditation from National Main Street Program

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Area Wide Optimization Award for Outstanding Performance at Water Treatment Plant - 15 consecutive years

Marion's New Year's Eve Celebration Named as 4th Best Small Town New Year's Eve event in the United States by Country Living Magazine

Ranked in top one percent of 30,000 cities and towns in the United States for first time home buyers by Lend EDU.

2016

Tree City USA - 27 years

Named as one of Top 5 Places to Retire in North Carolina by Smart Asset.

Selected as Playful City USA by KaBoom! – 4th Year

Received 2016 National Main Street Accreditation from National Main Street Program

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Area Wide Optimization Award for Outstanding Performance at Water Treatment Plant - 14 consecutive years

2015

Tree City USA - 26 years

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Area Wide Optimization Award for Outstanding Performance at Water Treatment Plant - 13 consecutive years

Selected as Playful City USA by KaBoom! - 3rd Year

Received 2015 National Main Street Accreditation from National Main Street Program

Named as one of Top 100 Micropolitan Areas in United States for 2014 by Site Selection Magazine

Named as one of Top 20 percent of cities in North Carolina in which to start a business by nerdwallet.com

Named as the Most Tax-Friendly Retirement Location in North Carolina by Smart Asset.

2014

Tree City USA - 25 years

Named Top Small Town to Retire to in North Carolina by ActiveNC.com, based on Cost of Living Calculator

Named One of 17 Top Small Cities in North Carolina by Cities Journal

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Area Wide Optimization Award for Outstanding Performance at Water Treatment Plant - 12 consecutive years

Selected as Playful City USA by KaBoom! – 2nd Year

Received 2014 National Main Street Accreditation from National Main Street Program

2013

Received Police Department Accreditation from CALEA (the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.)

Tree City USA - 24 years

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Area Wide Optimization Award for Outstanding Performance at Water Treatment Plant - 11 consecutive years

Selected as Playful City USA by KaBoom!

Selected as Certified Retirement Community by North Carolina Department of Commerce

Marion named a Micropolitan Area by U.S. Census Bureau in 2013 and one of Top 100 Micropolitan Areas in U.S. for 2014 by Site Selection magazine

Received 2013 National Main Street Accreditation from National Main Street Program

2012

Tree City USA - 23 years

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Area Wide Optimization Award for Outstanding Performance at Water Treatment Plant - 10 consecutive years

Received 2012 National Main Street Accreditation from National Main Street Program