



*One of two Moses Cleaveland White Oaks selected for the 2020 Heritage Tree Awards.*

## **2020 Awards Go To Two Moses Cleaveland White Oaks at Lower Lake Park**

The Heritage Tree Awards were created as part of the City's Arbor Day ceremony to honor trees:

- Associated with a person, event or landmark in our history
- Of unusual size, form, age or other quality
- Associated with an interesting history connected to a facility, home or business

The 2020 Heritage Tree Awards recognize two White Oaks located on the southern shore of Lower Lake near the site of the former Canoe Club off South Park and Larchmere boulevards. The oldest on the west dates from ca. 1701 (318 years old) and measures 200 inches at a height of 4.5 feet. The second Oak located at the eastern end on the park close to the Canoe Club dates from ca. 1728 (290 years old) and measures 183 inches in diameter. There was a third majestic White Oak located between these trees that was unfortunately lost when it was felled in the severe storm in 2019.

Peggy Spaeth and John Barber of the Friends of Lower Lake identified both White Oaks and nominated them for the 2020 award. The Friends is an all-volunteer group that operates under the aegis of the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership. Working most Sundays at Lower Lake, they are gradually restoring habitat by removing invasive plants and trees while replanting native species that benefit birds, animals, pollinating insects. To volunteer or learn more, [email the Friends of Lower Lake](#).

Research conducted on the historical epoch when these trees were planted reveals the strong possibility that all three White Oaks may have been identified by Moses Cleaveland, in whose honor the City of Cleveland was named. Moses Cleaveland of the Connecticut Land Company surveyed the land in our region in 1796, marking the location of many trees on various maps and noting that the land near the mouth of the Cuyahoga River at Lake Erie was the ideal location for “the capital city” of the Connecticut Western Reserve. The two 2020 Heritage Award White Oaks may well be part of the historic epitaph to Moses Cleaveland’s achievement.