

Starting the seed in Cleveland's workforce



HOLDEN
FORESTS &
GARDENS



PRESENTED BY:

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ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY TREES DAY

AGENDA

Who is
Holden?

Background
on Cleveland

How Tree
Corps
started

Highlights/
Challenges

Future
goals

How you
can
recreate



What is Holden Forests & Gardens?



Holden Arboretum





Before Cleveland

“Some have estimated the forest cover was as much as 95 percent” (Ohio Department of Natural Resources, 2024)

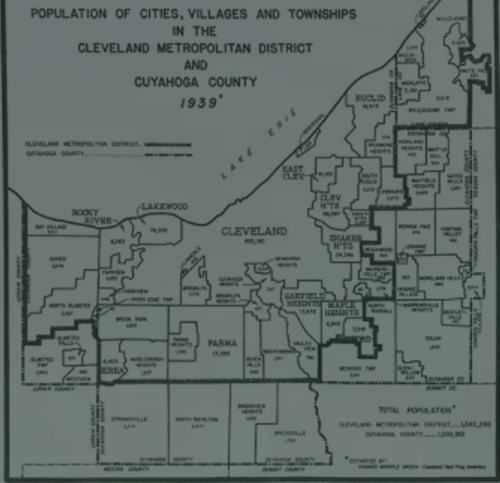
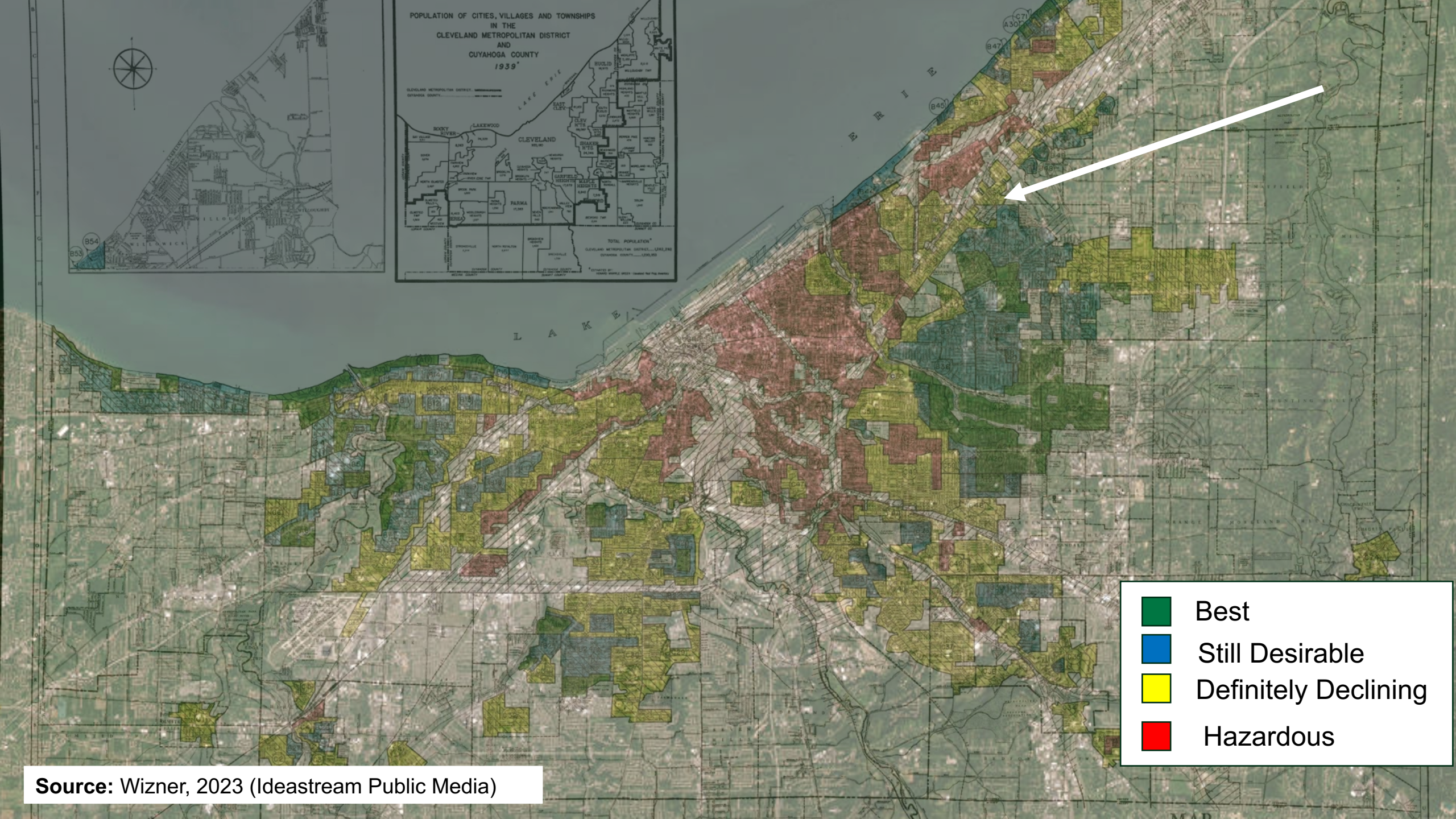
Image from <https://www.midstory.org/the-forgotten-history-of-ohios-indigenous-peoples/>



History of Cleveland's urban forest

- Founded in 1796 by Moses Cleaveland
- Central hub of industry, commerce and trade
- Nicknamed The Forest City in late 1800s and early 1900s
- 220,000 street trees in the 1940s to 120,000 street trees today” (Cleveland Tree Plan, 2015)

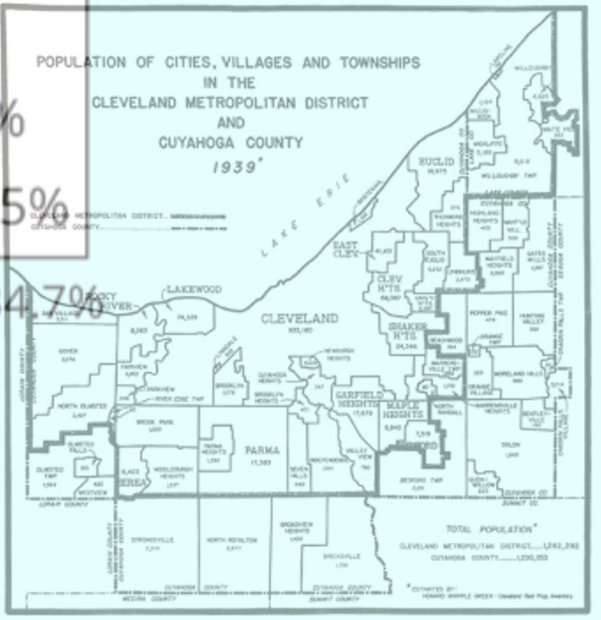
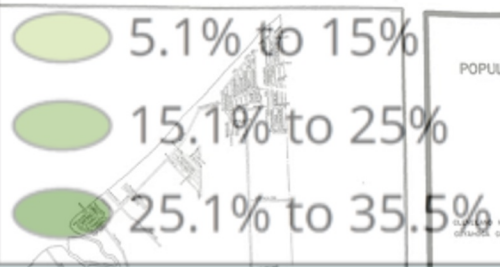




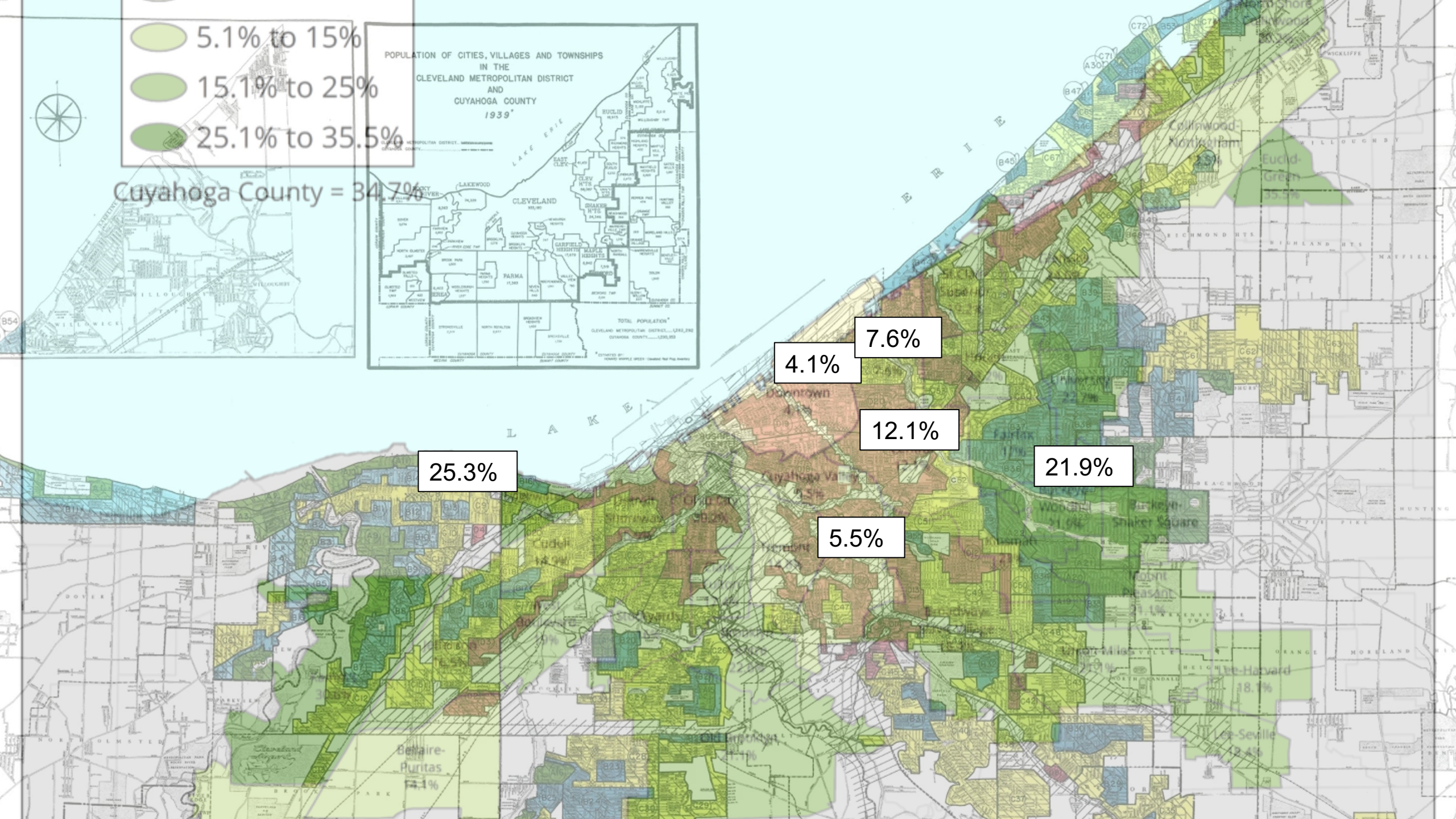
- Best
- Still Desirable
- Definitely Declining
- Hazardous

Source: Wizner, 2023 (Ideastream Public Media)





Cuyahoga County = 34.7%



State of Cleveland/
northeast Ohio's
employment

Need for increase
diversity in
employment



TREE CORPS

HOLDEN FORESTS & GARDENS

Need for increase
tree canopy cover in
Cleveland



Tree Corps CREW formation



2018

2019

~~2020~~

Program details:

32 hours a week, paid

19 weeks

Spring timeline

Tree Care Industry Association
certification



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Today's program



2021

2022

2023

Program details:

32 hours a week, paid

6 weeks

Fall timeline

Shorter term certifications (i.e. OSHA ATV)



Highlights and Challenges

Highlights

- 34 participants
- Tree Corps alumni stories
- Truly entry level

Challenges

- Short term program
- Limits in hiring
- Demand on staff time



Future goals

2024/2025 plans

- Funded for 8 weeks
- More in person interviews
- Most of work in Environmental Justice 40 areas



How you can recreate

Lessons

- Collaborate on trainings
- Longer program

Tips

- Plan to be adaptable
- Build into mission
- Start small

Funding

- Start with a grant
- Outline for donors





Final notes

Thank you!

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