



## City Council

### Special Recognition - Proclamation Recognizing Arbor Day

**Agenda Date:** 3/3/2020  
**Agenda Item Number:** 2.A  
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**Type:** recognition **Version:** 1 **Status:** Filed

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#### Title

Special Recognition - Proclamation Recognizing Arbor Day

#### Recommended Action

##### Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

##### City Manager Recommendation:

Proclaim March 14, 2020, as Arbor Day in Olympia.

#### Report

##### Issue:

Whether to recognize Arbor Day and the importance of trees and native forests to our community.

##### Staff Contact:

Jesse Barham, Associate Planner, Public Work Water Resources, 360.753.8164  
Shelly Bentley, Urban Forestry Program Manager, Community Planning & Development, 360.753.8301

##### Presenter(s):

Jesse Barham, Associate Planner, Public Work Water Resources  
Shelly Bentley, Urban Forestry Program Manager, Community Planning & Development

#### Background and Analysis:

On Arbor Day, we honor trees and forests for their contribution to our society and community. Trees and forests contribute to Olympia's aesthetics, urban fabric and unique ecology. In a City the size of Olympia, trees and other native vegetation provide ecological functions that are worth literally millions of dollars such as:

- Air filtration and carbon sequestration
- Stormwater retention
- Erosion control and slope stabilization
- Moderation of urban microclimate

- Shading our creeks, shorelines, and wetlands while providing wildlife habitat

Trees also provide psychological, social, health and safety benefits.

The City of Olympia is committed to creating a sustainable urban environment through preserving, managing and improving this valuable natural resource. This is Olympia's 27<sup>th</sup> year being recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

In 2020, three City departments (Community Planning and Development; Parks, Arts and Recreation; and Public Works) are collaborating on a variety of events to celebrate Arbor Day at Percival Landing Park. Festivities will take place on Saturday March 14 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and will include:

- A talk by Evergreen Forest Ecology Professor Dylan Fischer
- Live Music by the Artesian Rumble Arkestra
- Celebration and Awards Ceremony
- Ceremonial Tree Planting
- Proper Pruning Workshop
- Kids activities
- Free Native Tree/Shrub/Wildflower Seeds
- Self-Guided Tour of Shoreline Native Plants
- Ask a City arborist your tree related questions

**Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):**

None known.

**Options:**

NA

**Financial Impact:**

NA

**Attachments:**

Proclamation

Link to Arbor Day Webpage

Event Flyer