



## City Council

### Arbor Day Proclamation

**Agenda Date:** 3/17/2015  
**Agenda Item Number:** 2.B  
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**Type:** recognition **Version:** 1 **Status:** Filed

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#### **Title**

Arbor Day Proclamation

#### **Recommended Action**

##### **City Manager Recommendation:**

Proclaim March 28, 2015 as Arbor Day in Olympia

#### **Report**

##### **Issue:**

Recognize Arbor Day and the importance of trees in our community.

#### **Staff Contact:**

Jesse Barham, Associate Planner, Public Work Water Resources, 360.753.8164  
Michelle Bentley, Associate Planner, Community Planning & Development, 360.753.8301  
Sylvana Niehuser, Park Ranger, Parks Arts and Recreation, 360.753.8258

#### **Presenter(s):**

Jesse Barham, Michelle Bentley and Sylvana Niehuser will accept the proclamation.

#### **Background and Analysis:**

On Arbor Day, we honor trees for their contribution to our society. Trees and forests are part of the fabric and identity of our community. In a City the size of Olympia, trees provide ecological services that are worth literally millions of dollars such as:

- Air filtration
- Stormwater retention
- Carbon sequestration
- Erosion control
- Slope stabilization
- Moderation of urban microclimate
- Shading our creeks, shorelines, and wetlands
- Providing wildlife habitat

Trees also provide psychological, social, health and safety benefits that are not easy to quantify.

The City of Olympia is committed to creating a sustainable urban environment through managing and improving this valuable natural resource. Three City departments (Community Planning and Development; Parks, Arts, and Recreation; and Public Works) and other community partners are collaborating on a variety of events to celebrate Arbor Day in 2015 including:

- Two volunteer stewardship events led by Parks and Public Works at Priest Point Park and Grass Lake Refuge. Volunteers will remove invasive species and plant native trees and shrubs.
- Following the two stewardship projects, participants will be invited to attend a celebration at the Artesian Commons in downtown Olympia.
- A new downtown street tree will be planted near the Artesian Commons. Two additional trees will be planted at the Commons, compliments of Puget Sound Energy.
- At the tree planting, a representative from the Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry Program will present City staff with the 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive National Arbor Day Foundation *Tree City USA Award* in recognition of the City's commitment to planting and caring for its public trees.
- The City will honor the *2015 Jay Butts Friends of Trees Award* recipient, which is given to a person for outstanding dedication and commitment to the planting, maintenance and preservation of trees in Olympia. The recipient of the award has not been determined.
- Washington State Department of Enterprise Services and Department of Natural Resources will offer a historic tree tour of the Capitol Campus as well as a tree planting.

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

No known conflicting interests

**Options:**

None

**Financial Impact:**

None

**Attachment:**

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