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## City Council

### Special Recognition - Arbor Day Proclamation

**Agenda Date:** 4/12/2016  
**Agenda Item Number:** 2.A  
**File Number:** 16-0473

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**Type:** recognition **Version:** 1 **Status:** Filed

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**Title**

Special Recognition - Arbor Day Proclamation

**Recommended Action**

**Committee Recommendation:**

Not referred to a committee.

**City Manager Recommendation:**

Move to proclaim April 16, 2016 as Arbor Day in the City of Olympia.

**Report**

**Issue:**

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

**Staff Contact:**

Jesse Barham, Associate Planner, Public Works 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, Associate Planner

Michelle Bentley, Associate Planner

Sylvana Niehuser, Park Ranger

**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 2016 including:

- Celebrating in Priest Point Park with a Tree Canopy Adventure to ascend 100 feet into historic, old-growth trees while enjoying the tree top environment with expert arborists. Certified staff from Expedition Old Growth will make the experience both safe and memorable.
- Four one-hour, hands-on and interactive workshops offered by experts on topics from landscaping with native plants, proper planting and pruning techniques, aquatic habitat stewardship and a guided forest tour.
- Trees being planted in the park at each of the workshops.
- A mid-day celebration at Kitchen Shelter 4 in Priest Point Park with music and refreshments.
- The presentation by Washington State Forester to City staff of the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive National Arbor Day Foundation *Tree City USA Award*, 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.

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

None known.

**Financial Impact:**

None

**Attachments:**

Arbor Day Proclamation