



City Council

Special Recognition - Arbor Day Proclamation

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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:

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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 23rd 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