



City Council

Special Recognition - Proclamation Recognizing 2017 Arbor Day

Agenda Date: 3/21/2017
Agenda Item Number: 2.B
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Title

Special Recognition - Proclamation Recognizing 2017 Arbor Day

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager Recommendation:

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

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 Works Water Resources, 360.753.8164
Shelly Bentley, Urban Forestry Program Manager, Community Planning & Development, 360.753.8301

Presenter(s):

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

Background and Analysis:

On Arbor Day, we honor trees for their contribution to our society. Trees and forests contribute to the aesthetics, urban fabric and unique ecology forming the identity of our community. 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.

In 2017, 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 in historic Priest Point Park on Saturday March 25. Festivities will take place from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and will include:

- Three one- hour interactive workshops offered by experts throughout the day on Proper Pruning Techniques, Invasive Plants of Local Forests and a Guided Forest Ecology Tour. There will also be a Stewardship Event in the lower Mission Creek Watershed planting native trees and shrubs and managing invasive plants.
- A mid-day celebration at kitchen shelter #4 in Priest Point with music and refreshments which will include:
 - Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) State Forester, Gerry Day will present the City with the 24th consecutive National Arbor Day Foundation *Tree City USA Award*.
 - Linden Lampman, DNR Community and Urban Forestry Program Manager will congratulate the City on receiving a *Growth Award* in recognition of the City's increased commitment in 2016 to plant and care for its public trees.
 - Arbor Day proclamation will be read.
 - The City will honor the two *2017 Jay Butts Friends of Trees Award* recipients, which is given to persons for outstanding dedication and commitment to stewardship of trees and native vegetation in Olympia.

Following the Celebration a Scavenger Hunt for kids using a Nature Notebook will encourage families to search for native plants and signs of wildlife. A prize will be given to the kids that show their notebook to volunteers upon completion.

In addition, eleven (11) trees have been planted at the William B Creighton Justice Center on Plum Street in honor of Arbor Day.

See www.olympiawa.gov/arborday <<http://www.olympiawa.gov/arborday>> for details.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

N/A

Options:

N/A

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Financial Impact:
N/A

Attachments:
Proclamation
Event Flyer
Tree City USA Letter