



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Planning and Community Development Department
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033
425.587-3225 - www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Deb Powers, Urban Forester
Date: October 25, 2012
Subject: 2012 Kirkland Arbor Day Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION

Approve attached proclamation.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

Attached is the proclamation declaring **Saturday, November 10, 2012** as Arbor Day in the City of Kirkland. The event is being hosted by the Green Kirkland Partnership as part of the Forterra Pearl Jam Project. Last year, Pearl Jam partnered with Forterra to mitigate 7,000 metric tons of carbon emitted during their 2009 world tour. From 9am to noon, participants and volunteers will join in planting native trees and shrubs in areas of Crestwoods Park. Once the restoration is done, Arbor Day will be celebrated with a ceremonial tree planting and pizza celebration while listening to Pearl Jam music. The City Council and all interested parties are invited to join in on this event.

Typically Arbor Day is observed in April; however since 2001, Kirkland has celebrated Arbor Day in the fall to take advantage of the increased rainfall and to coincide with a forest restoration project. Many months in advance of the event, volunteers, Washington Conservation Corps, and Kirkland Parks Maintenance removed invasive plants and prepared areas for the planting event. The event brings together many different groups of volunteers – all working together to restore Kirkland’s urban forest and increase its canopy.

This proclamation, along with the Arbor Day celebration, will fulfill one of the four standards required for Kirkland to maintain its Tree City USA status for the Year 2012. To qualify as a Tree City USA community, a town or city must meet four standards established by The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. This designation requires annual renewal in order to show that the City has met all four standards:

1. A tree board or department
2. A tree care ordinance
3. A community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita
4. An Arbor Day proclamation and observance.

These standards were established to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree management plan and program. By meeting these standards in 2012, Kirkland will have maintained its status as a Tree City USA for 11 consecutive years. By exceeding these standards, Kirkland is one of a limited number of cities in the State of Washington that has received two Growth Awards from the Arbor Day Foundation in 2007 and 2010.

Richard Emery from the Washington Community Forestry Council will receive the proclamation. The Forestry Council was established under RCW 76.15 to advise the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in carrying out the Washington State Urban and Community Forestry Program.

cc: Sharon Rodman
Paul Stewart



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Designating November 10, 2012 as Kirkland Arbor Day

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting and celebrating of trees called Arbor Day; and

WHEREAS, Washington, the "Evergreen State," has celebrated Arbor Day since 1917; and

WHEREAS, trees produce oxygen, clean the air, provide wildlife habitat, minimize the adverse impacts of urbanization, thus reducing the costs for stormwater management and improving the overall quality of life; and

WHEREAS, trees in Kirkland provide recreational benefit, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, can be enjoyed by citizens and visitors and beautify our community making Kirkland the place to be; and

WHEREAS, by celebrating Arbor Day with a forest restoration planting, Kirkland meets the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA criteria yet also promotes stewardship and provides healthy natural areas for people and wildlife to benefit for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Kirkland received its 10th consecutive Tree City USA award from the National Arbor Day Foundation in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Kirkland Arbor Day is an event with the Green Kirkland Partnership as part of the Forterra Pearl Jam Project to plant native trees in Crestwoods Park on Saturday, November 10, 2012, in honor of the City of Kirkland's commitment to urban forestry and natural areas restoration;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Joan McBride, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim November 10, 2012 as Kirkland Arbor Day and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree, to support the City's efforts to care for our trees and woodlands, and to support our community forestry program.

Signed this 7th day of November, 2012

Joan McBride, Mayor