



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**Planning and Building Department**  
**123 5th Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Deb Powers, Urban Forester  
Jeremy McMahan, Deputy Director, Planning & Building

**Date:** October 7, 2020

**Subject:** 2020 URBAN AND COMMUNITY FOREST APPRECIATION MONTH

**Staff Recommendation**

That the Mayor proclaim October 2020 as Urban and Community Forest Appreciation Month in Kirkland.

**Background**

Attached is the proclamation declaring October 2020 as Urban and Community Forest Appreciation Month in the City of Kirkland (Attachment 1).

Each year Kirkland proclaims and celebrates Arbor Day as one of several actions to maintain its Tree City USA status. Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the National Arbor Day Foundation revised its 2020 standards, waiving Arbor Day event requirements.

To avoid public gatherings yet encourage Washingtonians to reflect upon the value of trees to our communities and appreciate their many benefits, Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed the month of October 2020 as Community and Urban Forestry Month (Attachment 2).

By proclaiming October 2020 as Urban and Community Forest Appreciation Month in Kirkland, we commemorate that the community values its urban forest and recognize the steps taken towards preserving, planting and maintaining it. For the remainder of this month, let's

- Consider the immense contributions from Green Kirkland Partnership volunteers
- Appreciate City staff managing public trees in parks and along streets
- Recognize the importance of a healthy urban forest in meeting Kirkland's sustainability goals
- Acknowledge the effort of the community in planting and nurturing trees on private property
- Acknowledge that we are currently developing the next Six-Year Urban Forest Work Plan for 2020 to 2026

In keeping with the revised National Arbor Day Foundation standards for 2020, Kirkland will still submit an annual work plan and budget to maintain its status as a Tree City USA for its nineteenth consecutive year.

**Attachments:**

- A. 2020 Urban and Community Forest Appreciation Month Proclamation
- B. State of Washington Community and Urban Forestry Month Proclamation



## A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

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### **Proclaiming October 2020 as Urban and Community Forest Appreciation Month in Kirkland, Washington**

**WHEREAS**, Arbor Day is typically observed to celebrate, plant and care for trees; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, public gatherings are restricted, and the National Arbor Day Foundation waived its Arbor Day celebration requirement; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Jay Inslee has proclaimed October 2020 as Urban and Community Forestry Month in Washington State, encouraging all people to reflect on the value of trees, appreciate their many benefits and recognize all that trees add to our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, a thriving urban forest that is well-managed and properly cared for is an essential feature of cities that are vibrant, healthy, resilient, sustainable, and successful; and

**WHEREAS**, Kirkland strives to preserve, plant, and manage its forests and trees for public benefits and quality of life, achieving "Tree City USA" status for 19 consecutive years, and

**WHEREAS**, fall is the best time for the Kirkland community to plant trees to take advantage of cooler temperatures and increased moisture, helping new trees to become established;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, PENNY SWEET, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim October 2020 as Urban and Community Forest Appreciation Month in Kirkland, Washington.**

Signed this 20th day of October, 2020

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PENNY SWEET, Mayor

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, trees can beautify urban landscapes, reduce energy costs, and increase home values; keep our air clean to breathe and our water safe to drink; improve the physical and mental well-being of the public; and enhance the livability of our cities and towns; and

**WHEREAS**, trees in our communities sequester carbon from the atmosphere, decrease city temperatures on hot summer days, and mitigate the impacts of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, a thriving urban forest that is well-managed and properly cared for is an essential feature of cities that are vibrant, healthy, resilient, sustainable, and successful; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, private businesses, and the public have a shared responsibility for stewardship of community trees; and

**WHEREAS**, October is the best time to plant trees in Washington by taking advantage of the cooler temperatures and increased moisture, allowing newly-planted trees to become established in the landscape; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1991, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Urban and Community Forestry Program has provided leadership to help cities and towns create self-sustaining urban forestry programs that preserve, plant, and manage forests and trees for public benefits and quality of life;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2020 as

### *Urban and Community Forestry Month*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance by reflecting on the value of trees to our communities and appreciating their many benefits.

Signed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020

Handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in blue ink.

Governor Jay Inslee

