

City of Bellevue

Parks & Community
Services Department



MEMORANDUM

Phone: 452-5377
Date: April 5, 2010
To: Mayor Davidson and City Councilmembers
From: Patrick Foran, Director
Subject: Earth Day/Arbor Day 2010; Tree City USA Award

This year, in celebration of Earth Day's 40th birthday, the City will host several Earth Day/Arbor Day activities to facilitate public awareness of and involvement with the environment.

March – April: Arbor Day Poster Art Project with Bellevue Schools

In January and February, over 550 students from the 4th & 5th grades, participated in the annual National Arbor Day Foundation Arbor Day Poster Art Project. This program is implemented by Parks' staff and continues to grow in popularity. This year we are proud to announce that Yvonne Sun, a Bellevue resident, has won the Washington State level Arbor Day Poster Art Contest. Yvonne is a 5th grade student at Clyde Hill Elementary School. Her poster along with others, will be displayed at the Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue City Hall, Lewis Creek Park Visitor Center, Whole Foods Market Bellevue, and the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center. On May 7, the Bellevue Arts Museum and Parks & Community Services Department will co-host the Arbor Day Poster Art Exhibit Opening at the Museum for all students, teachers, family, and friends.

April 5: Tree City USA Award and Growth Award Presentation to the City of Bellevue

At the April 5 Council meeting, Mayor Davidson will declare April 17 as Earth Day/Arbor Day in Bellevue. This year, Bellevue will receive its 19th *Tree City USA* award and 17th *Growth Award* from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

April 17: Earth Day/Arbor Day 2010 at Lewis Creek Park

On Saturday April 17, the City will host its annual Earth Day/Arbor Day event at Lewis Creek Park. During the morning, over 300 volunteers are expected to participate in park enhancement projects including native planting, invasive plant removal, and trail improvements.

Between 11 am-1pm, the Lewis Creek Visitor Center will host the Earth Day/Arbor Day event. Four eco-stations will be set up along the trails where visitors can make their own plaster tracks, discover how a wetland works, make a bird feeder, and look at bugs through a microscope.

At 11:30am, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2995 will kick off the Earth Day/Arbor Day Recognition Ceremony. During the ceremony, volunteer groups, partners, and Bellevue's Arbor Day Poster Art winners will be recognized. The ceremony will culminate at noon with a ceremonial Arbor Day Tree Planting.

We hope you can join us in celebration of this year's special events which highlight our commitment to environmental stewardship.

cc: Parks & Community Services Board
Planning Commission

Transportation Commission
Environmental Services Commission

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

PROCLAMATION

- Whereas;* The City of Bellevue has adopted the goal of integrating the natural and built environments to create a sustainable urban habitat; and
- Whereas;* The City of Bellevue is dedicated to providing educational opportunities that achieve greater environmental awareness, appreciation, and stewardship of our natural, cultural, and historical resources; and
- Whereas;* The citizens of Bellevue wish to reside in an area with clean air and water, habitat for wildlife, and comfortable and secure places for people to live, work, and play; and
- Whereas;* Trees are essential to the protection of salmon habitat because they provide shade along streams and preserve water quality by preventing erosion; and
- Whereas;* Trees in our City increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and
- Whereas;* Wherever planted, trees are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and
- Whereas;* Bellevue, for the nineteenth consecutive year, has been recognized as a *Tree City USA* community by the National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree-planting practices; and
- Whereas;* Bellevue is committed to working with its residents and businesses to help “*build a healthy community*” by planting trees;

Now, therefore, I, Don Davidson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington on behalf of the City Council do hereby proclaim **April 17, 2010** as

Earth Day/Arbor Day

in Bellevue, and encourage citizens to observe this time by participating both in community-wide celebrations of the environment and in city beautification and enhancement projects.

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well-being of present and future generations.

Don Davidson, DDS
Mayor