

# City of Bellevue

Parks & Community  
Services Department



## MEMORANDUM

**Phone:** 452-5377

**Date:** April 7, 2008

**To:** Mayor Degginger and Councilmembers

**From:** Patrick Foran, Director 

**Subject:** Earth Day- Arbor Day Family Festival, Tree City USA Award

This year, the City of Bellevue will host several Earth Day/Arbor Day activities, which will culminate on April 19 with the annual Earth Day-Arbor Day Family Festival at Lewis Creek Park.

### March – April: Arbor Day Poster Program in Bellevue Schools

In March, 150 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students participated in our annual Arbor Day Poster Art Education Program. Students created Arbor Day posters through the program, some of which are displayed at the Bellevue Arts Museum, Whole Foods Market, and other community locations. In early April, the Bellevue Arts Museum and Parks Department will co-host the opening of the Arbor Day Poster Art exhibit at the Museum for students, teachers, family, and friends.

### April 7: Tree City USA Award and Growth Award presentation to the City of Bellevue

At the April 7 Council meeting, Mayor Degginger will declare April 19 as Earth Day/Arbor Day in Bellevue. At the meeting, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, in conjunction with the National Arbor Day Foundation, will award the City its 17<sup>th</sup> Tree City USA Award and 13<sup>th</sup> Tree City USA Growth Award. The City continues to demonstrate high standards in urban forest management with these designations.

### April 19: Earth Day-Arbor Day Family Festival at Lewis Creek Park

On Saturday April 19, the City will host its annual Earth Day-Arbor Day Family Festival at Lewis Creek Park. During the morning, over 300 volunteers are expected to participate in citywide park enhancement projects including tree and shrub planting projects, and trail projects.

Between 10am-3pm, the Lewis Creek Visitor Center will host the Earth Day-Arbor Day Family Festival. The visitor center will be open for free drop-in environmental education activities, recycling and green products demonstrations, and a variety of family-friendly outdoor activities. Visitors will also enjoy free food, live music, and much, much more.

At 11:30am, the Veterans of Foreign Wars will kick off the Earth Day/Arbor Day Recognition Ceremony. During the ceremony, volunteer groups, partners, and Bellevue's Arbor Day poster participants will be recognized. The ceremony will culminate at 12:00pm with a ceremonial Arbor Day Tree Planting.

We hope you can join us on April 19 for this special event.

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 seventeenth 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, Grant S. Degginger, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington do hereby proclaim April 19, 2008 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.

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Grant S. Degginger  
Mayor