

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Eric Mongan, City Planner

SUBJECT: OREGON TREE CITY OF THE YEAR AND ARBOR MONTH
PROCLAMATION

DATE: March 9, 2022

Background

The City of Cottage Grove began participating in the Annual Tree City USA program through the Arbor Day Foundation in 1994 and has been recognized as Tree City USA 28 consecutive years. Additionally, the City has been recognized as a Growth Award Winner for five years. The annual recognition of the City as a Tree City USA and Growth Award recipient are testaments to the efforts of the City to maintain and improve our urban forest.

In further recognition of the City's efforts the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon Community Trees (OCT) have named the City of Cottage Grove as the *2022 Oregon Tree City of the Year* (award letter attached). Representatives from ODF and OCT will present a plaque to Council in May 2022 during the Urban Forestry Committee's annual report to Council.

In 2020, the Governor of Oregon, Kate Brown, began referring to the month of April as Arbor Month as opposed to choosing just one day in April to recognize and appreciate the State's forests and urban forests. The City of Cottage Grove now also recognizes and declares April of each year as Arbor Month to encourage the planting of trees, which benefit the local economy, reduce erosion, reduce heating and cooling costs, produce oxygen, sequester carbon, provide habitat for wildlife, and improve the aesthetic qualities of our City. With the month of April 2022 being proclaimed Arbor Month the Urban Forestry Committee will be giving away 900 trees to city residents and planting 100 trees in public spaces. The Tree Giveaway will be held in Coiner Park on Saturday, April 2, 2022.

Recommendation

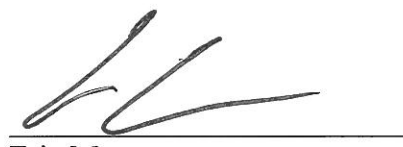
That Mayor Gowing Proclaim April 2022 Arbor Month by reading and signing the attached Proclamation and present the Proclamation to Reilly Newman, Chair of the Urban Forestry Committee.

Cost

None.



Richard Meyers,
City Manager



Eric Mongan,
City Planner

Oregon Community Trees
PO Box 13074
Salem, OR 97309



March 4, 2022

City of Cottage Grove

Dear Mayor Gowing and City Councilors,

Since 1994, Oregon Community Trees (OCT) and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) have publicly recognized individuals, communities, and organizations in the state that demonstrate outstanding accomplishments and leadership in urban and community forestry. The annual Oregon Urban & Community Forestry Awards Program celebrates Oregonians who understand that healthy urban and community forests foster thriving communities.

I am pleased to inform you that OCT and the ODF have selected the City of Cottage Grove to be this year's **Oregon Tree City of the Year!** To be considered for this award, a city must be recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation and demonstrate dedication to being a steward of its urban forest. There are currently 69 Tree City USA communities in Oregon.

The City's actions provide a great example of urban and community forestry leadership. As a Tree City USA since 1994, over 28 years, the City of Cottage Grove has demonstrated a desire to grow a healthy urban forest, improving the livability and quality of life for its current citizens and future generations.

The City has received five Tree City USA Growth Awards. These awards are presented by the Arbor Day Foundation to Tree City USA communities that demonstrate higher levels of tree care and community engagement during a calendar year. The City of Cottage Grove's Growth Award activities in 2021 were the completion of a tree canopy survey, the recycling and reuse of woody debris, and the addition of a new urban forest committee member.

Encouraging your community to participate in the continual improvement of their urban forest aligns with the mission of OCT (*to promote healthy urban and community forests in Oregon through education, awareness, and advocacy*) and the mission of the ODF Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program (*helping Oregonians improve their quality of life by promoting community investment in our urban forests*).

We hope you will accept this award and allow us to present it to you during a City Council meeting of your choosing. If need be, we are happy to make a virtual presentation. We are ready to work with you to ensure the City of Cottage Grove receives the accolades it deserves! A staff member from the ODF Urban & Community Forestry Assistance Program will contact you soon to discuss arrangements.

Thank you for all your work and dedication to growing a healthy urban forest in Cottage Grove. Congratulations!

Mike Oxendine

Mike Oxendine, President, Oregon Community Trees

The mission of Oregon Community Trees is to promote healthy urban and community forests in Oregon through education, awareness, and advocacy.

ARBOR MONTH PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Governor of Oregon, Kate Brown, has designated the month of April 2022 as Arbor Month; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Month is now observed throughout Oregon and Arbor Day throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the designation of Arbor Month throughout the State is to encourage the planting and care of trees; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen, sequester carbon, and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, this is the 28th year Cottage Grove has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation, and the 5th year the City of Cottage Grove has received the Growth Award and desires to continue its tree care and planting and pass on an enduring heritage of vital natural resources to succeeding generations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cottage Grove has been recognized as the *2022 Oregon Tree City of the Year* by Oregon Community Trees and the Oregon Department of Forestry for the City's efforts to maintain and improve our urban forest; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeffrey D. Gowing, Mayor of the City of Cottage Grove do hereby proclaim the month of April 2022, as

ARBOR MONTH

in the City of Cottage Grove, and I urge all citizens to support efforts to care for our trees and woodlands, to support our City's urban forestry program, and to participate in one or more events that the sponsors of Arbor Month may provide locally and around the State of Oregon, and

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Cottage Grove to be affixed this 14th day of March, 2022.



Jeffrey D. Gowing, Mayor
City of Cottage Grove, Oregon