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Oregon Arbor Month Edition | April 2021



COMMUNITY TREE CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of Urban & Community Forestry Program

April is proclaimed as Arbor Month in Oregon



Portland Urban Forestry staff demonstrate to volunteers how to plant a tree in this photo from 2016. This year, all of April has been proclaimed as Oregon Arbor Month. Photo: UCF Library

The first week in April was just not enough time to show how much Oregonians appreciate trees. So Gov. Kate Brown has proclaimed all of April as Oregon Arbor Month, allowing plenty of time for all the tree-related activities and commemorative plantings people want. [View the Governor's proclamation of Oregon Arbor Month](#) (PDF).

"I appreciate Governor Brown declaring April 2021 as Oregon Arbor Month in recognition of the essential role trees play in the lives of Oregonians," said Oregon State Forester Peter Daugherty. "There has long been a broad understanding of the economic and environmental benefits of our forestlands, but this proclamation helps highlight the equally vital social benefits that both rural and urban forests provide to the people of Oregon."

Kristin Ramstad, manager of the Oregon Department of Forestry's Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program points out that Oregon is a big state with a varied climate. "Tree plantings in the western part of the state are usually finishing up in early April while in many parts of eastern Oregon or at higher elevations, late April is more suitable for holding a tree planting. Extending the focus on trees through the entire month allows activities in all parts of the state to be included," she says.

[Read more about Oregon Arbor Month](#) and [view the Governor's Arbor Month video](#).

14 Tree-rific ways to celebrate Arbor Month

1. Ask an arborist
2. Be an urban forest superhero
3. Get crafty
4. Host a photo contest
5. Host a poetry contest
6. Host an art contest
7. Hunt for gnomes
8. Online nature learning
9. Arboretum tree ID challenge
10. Read a book
11. Soil your undergarments
12. Take a hike
13. Tree tours
14. Webinars



Click on the tree cookie for a coloring page! (PDF)

Download the FREE guide to celebrate Arbor Month! (PDF)

69 Oregon cities recognized as a Tree City USA for their 2020 urban forestry and tree-related efforts

CITY <i>Sterling TCUSA highlighted in GREY</i>	2020 Tree City USA # Years Recvd <i>Special Achievement Year in BOLD</i>	Growth Award # Years Recvd <i>2020 Recipients in BOLD</i>	CITY <i>Sterling TCUSA highlighted in GREY</i>	2020 Tree City USA # Years Recvd <i>Special Achievement Year in BOLD</i>	Growth Award # Years Recvd <i>2020 Recipients in BOLD</i>	CITY <i>Sterling TCUSA highlighted in GREY</i>	2020 Tree City USA # Years Recvd <i>Special Achievement Year in BOLD</i>	Growth Award # Years Recvd <i>2020 Recipients in BOLD</i>
Albany	27	4	Forest Grove	31	7	Redmond	16	1
Ashland	36	3	Gervais	14		Rivergrove	4	
Aumsville	4		Grants Pass	33	10	Rogue River	38	3
Baker City	36	4	Gresham	13	1	Roseburg	5	
Bandon	12		Happy Valley	17		Salem	45	15
Banks	15	1	Hillsboro	3		Sandy	16	
Beaverton	27	17	Hood River	9	2	Seaside	23	2
Bend	18		Independence	9		Sherwood	16	2
Brownsville	15		Klamath Falls	18	1	Silverton	2	
Cannon Beach	13	1	La Grande	31	29	Sisters	14	7
Central Point	8		Lake Oswego	32	5	Stanfield	7	
Coburg	23		Lebanon	19	11	Sunriver Ownrs Assc.	41	4
Coos Bay	27		Lincoln City	13	1	Sweet Home	34	9
Corvallis	20	12	Madras	28	6	Talent	21	2
Cottage Grove	27	4	McMinnville	24		Tigard	20	5
Creswell	11		Medford	25	19	Tillamook	34	
Dallas	13		Milwaukie	5	2	Toledo	27	
Donald	1		Monmouth	19	1	Troutdale	21	
Eagle Point	29	5	Newport	9		Tualatin	34	13
Echo	32	19	Oregon City	9	3	Umatilla	3	
Eugene	42	16	Pendleton	4		Veneta	12	
Falls City	5		Philomath	27	2	West Linn	28	2
Florence	2		Portland	44	24	Wilsonville	23	11

Click on the table to view the Tree City USA's 2020 highlights. (PDF)

2020 Highlights

The City of Donald is recognized as a Tree City USA for its first year.

The City of Rivergrove returns to the program after a short pause.

Nine Tree City USA communities celebrate a milestone year – Banks (15), Brownsville (15), Corvallis (20), Donald (1), Medford (25), Milwaukie (5), Roseburg (5), Salem (45), and Tigard (20).

Fourteen cities receive a Tree City USA Growth Award – Albany, Beaverton, Corvallis, Cottage Grove, Eugene, Grants Pass, La Grande (29, 2nd highest in the nation), Medford, Milwaukie, Portland, Redmond, Salem, West Linn, and Wilsonville.

A Tree City USA community that earns ten Growth Awards is recognized as a Sterling Tree City USA. "A Sterling Tree City USA is regarded as a leader in community forestry and is often looked upon as an innovator." – Arbor Day Foundation. The City of Grant Pass (2020) joins eleven other Sterling Tree City USA communities: La Grande and Portland (2001), Echo (2004), Tualatin (2005), Medford (2009), Lebanon (2012), Beaverton (2013), Eugene (2014), Salem (2015), and Corvallis and Wilsonville (2018).

Celebrating Oregon's Tree City USA communities



The Tree City USA community of Milwaukie celebrating in 2020.

Oregon Arbor Month is proclaimed for the first time in 2021. To mark the occasion, the Oregon Department of Forestry asked the state's 69 Tree City USA communities to send us a photo capturing the city's Tree City USA spirit. These same cities were asked the question, "What does earning Tree City USA recognition mean to your city?" With this information, we created what we believe is an inspiring and engaging story, combining images, text, and an interactive Oregon map. The storymap will make its debut mid-Arbor Month. [You can view the storymap about celebrating Oregon's Tree City USA communities beginning on April 15!](#)

Donald becomes Oregon's newest Tree City USA

The northern Willamette Valley town of Donald (population a little over 1,100) has been designated by the national Arbor Day Foundation as Oregon's newest Tree City USA. Donald joins 68 other Oregon cities and towns that have earned the designation.

[Read more about the newest city and learn how your community can join Tree City USA.](#)



Milwaukie is named Oregon Tree City of the Year

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in partnership with Oregon Community Trees (OCT) has named Milwaukie as Oregon Tree City of the Year for 2021. Each year, ODF and OCT select one of Oregon's nationally recognized Tree City USA communities statewide to award for that city's commitment to its urban forest. Last year's Oregon Tree City of the Year was Grants Pass.

[Learn more about the 2021 Oregon Tree City of the Year.](#)

Wilsonville's Charlotte Lehan is honored for her tree-preservation efforts

Charlotte Lehan, who has lived in Wilsonville almost her entire life, is one of three people being recognized in 2021 by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the non-profit organization Oregon Community Trees (OCT) for strengthening urban forestry.

[Find more about Charlotte's tree-preservation efforts in Wilsonville.](#)



Grants Pass urban forester is honored for achievements in his first year

Tony Mecum didn't waste much time when he became urban forester for Grants Pass a little over a year ago. He accomplished so much over the last year that he is one of three people being recognized in 2021 by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the non-profit organization Oregon Community Trees for strengthening urban forestry.

[Learn more about Tony's accomplishments.](#)

Essex General Construction of Eugene is honored for urban development projects

Essex General Construction, with offices in Eugene and Portland, is being recognized in 2021 by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the non-profit organization Oregon Community Trees (OCT) for urban development projects that support tree preservation wherever possible.



[Read more about Essex General Construction.](#)

Spread the word about the benefits your city's trees provide!



We are offering a tree care tag giveaway!

We are offering to send ONE of these tree care tags to each city that requests it.

Each tag educates people on the ways that trees make oxygen, keep drinking water clean, save money, make city life fun, and keep streets safe. Please no special requests for specific tags. Each tag will be chosen randomly for each city that requests one.

Perfect for school and local community campaigns! The 10"x14" tags are drilled with two holes for easy hanging, printed on weatherproof material, and recyclable.

Please include with your email:

1. The Oregon city they are requesting the tag for.
2. How you plan to use the tag.
3. The mailing address include a c/o.

Email us to receive your FREE tree care tag today!

Oregon cities earn Tree City USA Growth Awards for urban forestry activities and programs

Calendar of community forestry events

Webinars to share with your community!
Advertise the event and let staff and residents know how to register! Happy Arbor Month!



Volunteers trimming a beautiful snowbell tree. Photo: UCF Library

Fourteen Oregon Tree City USAs have received Growth Awards from a national organization – the Arbor Day Foundation – for showing higher levels of tree care and community engagement with their urban forestry programs and activities during 2020.

To be eligible for the award, a city must have been enrolled as a Tree City USA for at least one year. In 2020, some 69 Oregon towns and cities qualified as a Tree City USA.

The Growth Award program is designed to help communities build upon their Tree City USA status and grow their urban forestry programs.

Several activities qualify, such as:

- Revamping a tree ordinance
- Conducting a tree inventory
- Holding a tree fair for the public
- Improving social equity outreach

Each activity is worth from 1 to 10 points. Communities must describe their activities and add up their points. Communities must score at least 10 points in each category to earn a Growth Award.

[Read more about the Growth Award program.](#)

Upcoming Webinars

April 13, 2021, 3 p.m.
Trees on the Move:
Migration of Tree Species in
Response to Climate Change
[Register for webinar](#)

April 14, 2021, 10 a.m.
Trees, Woodlands, Lawns,
and Right-of-Ways: Best
Practices for Biodiversity
[Register for webinar](#)

April 19, 2021, 9 a.m.
Beneficial and Pest Insects in
Urban Forests: Perspective
and Management
[Register for webinar](#)

April 20, 2021, 9 a.m.
Steps for Success: Caring for
Newly Planted Trees
[Register for webinar](#)

April 20, 2021, 10 a.m.
Planning for the Next Three
Letter Urban Tree Canopy
Changer: Lessons Learned
with DED EAB, ETC.
[Register for webinar](#)

Other community forestry news



ODF's Urban and Community Forestry Program
is celebrating 30 years of service!

- [New phase of license is available for certified arborists](#) (PDF)
- [New urban forestry YouTube playlist on the ODF YouTube channel](#)

Your "Click of Trees" *

Your "reward" for reading all the way down a lo-o-o-ng newsletter.

[View Judi Dench's "My Passion for Trees" full video on YouTube.](#)

* Credit to OPB's online newsletter and "Click of Zen" feature.

Judi Dench My Passion for Trees FULL BBC One 2017



Quick links

[Oregon Community Trees](#)

[PNW ISA](#)

[Arbor Day Foundation](#)

[Oregon Heritage Trees](#)

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About the Community Tree Connections newsletter

Community Tree Connections (CTC) is a periodic publication by the Oregon Department of Forestry, Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program. Our mission is to help Oregonians improve their quality of life by promoting community investment in our urban forests. CTC is published in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Subscriptions to Community Tree Connections are free. [Sign up to receive the newsletter.](#)

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