



WHEREAS: Oregonians renew their spirits and find joy and respite in the state's tree-filled parks, neighborhoods and natural areas. An unprecedented loss of trees has occurred from recent wildfires, persistent drought, heat events like the one in June 2021 and exotic diseases and pests, such as emerald ash borer (which was found in Oregon for the first time in June 2022). These disasters show the need to grow and replant a diverse mix of trees in our state's cities, towns and natural areas has never been more pressing.

WHEREAS: The ecological, economic and social value of trees in Oregon communities is enormous and deserves recognition. A growing body of research shows that when trees are properly planted and cared for, they promote human health, save energy, improve air and water quality, and reduce flooding. Healthy, large shade trees also buffer the effects of high heat events worsened by climate change, potentially saving lives. These services will become even more critical as the planet continues warming.

WHEREAS: Historic and ongoing inequities have kept lower-income people, people of color, and other vulnerable or marginalized groups from being able to share equally in the many benefits provided by trees. All of us working together with historically underserved communities can help address this injustice by planting and caring for trees to preserve and increase canopy in underserved areas, and to develop paths for disadvantaged youth to build skills and knowledge to enter urban forestry professions in greater numbers.

WHEREAS: The benefits people receive from trees over the trees' lifespans far outweigh the cost of planting and caring for them.

WHEREAS: Trees are vital to our individual and communal well-being and future prosperity. So we all have a stake in the future health and replenishment of our urban and rural forests. Oregonians are therefore invited to participate in tree-related activities, reflect on trees' vital contributions to our individual and communal well-being, and honor and celebrate the tree stewardship of local leaders and volunteers in Oregon's nearly 70 Tree Cities USA and half dozen Tree Campuses USA.

NOW, THEREFORE: I, Calvin Mukumoto, State Forester of Oregon, hereby proclaim the month of APRIL to be OREGON ARBOR MONTH in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

Done at the Oregon Department of Forestry in the City of Salem, Oregon on March 21, 2023.