

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, trees and forests play a significant role in our environment and quality of our lives; absorb and sequester atmospheric carbon; produce life-giving oxygen; keep our air clean to breathe and our water safe to drink; mitigate storm water runoff; provide wildlife habitat; promote physical fitness and improve mental health; decrease city temperatures on hot summer days and help conserve energy; and ease the stresses of city life in general; and

**WHEREAS**, communities most vulnerable to the effects of climate change are often areas experiencing reduced benefits from trees due to low tree canopy cover – an environmental justice issue that can be addressed through equitable planting and management of trees; and

**WHEREAS**, planning for the right tree in the right place helps trees grow strong and healthy; and

**WHEREAS**, maintaining healthy trees and forests is one of the most cost-effective strategies to combat the negative impacts of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Urban and Community Forestry Program is working with communities across the state to help local governments, citizen groups, and volunteers manage and care for their urban forests; and

**WHEREAS**, Arbor Day is an opportunity to celebrate Washington's forests and teach present and future generations about the importance of living amongst healthy trees throughout the state;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 10, 2024, as

### *Arbor Day*

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024

Governor Jay Inslee

