

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, trees can beautify urban landscapes, reduce energy costs, and increase home values; keep our air clean to breathe and our water safe to drink; improve the physical and mental well-being of the public; and enhance the livability of our cities and towns; and

**WHEREAS**, trees in our communities sequester carbon from the atmosphere, decrease city temperatures on hot summer days, and mitigate the impacts of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, a thriving urban forest that is well-managed and properly cared for is an essential feature of cities that are vibrant, healthy, resilient, sustainable, and successful; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, private businesses, and the public have a shared responsibility for stewardship of community trees; and

**WHEREAS**, October is the best time to plant trees in Washington by taking advantage of the cooler temperatures and increased moisture, allowing newly-planted trees to become established in the landscape; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1991, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Urban and Community Forestry Program has provided leadership to help cities and towns create self-sustaining urban forestry programs that preserve, plant, and manage forests and trees for public benefits and quality of life;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2016 as

### Urban and Community Forestry Month

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance by reflecting on the value of trees to our communities and appreciating their many benefits.



Signed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee

Handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in blue ink.