

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, trees keep our air clean to breathe and our water safe to drink; beautify urban landscapes, reduce energy costs, increase home values; improve the physical and mental well-being of the public; mitigate stormwater runoff; 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**, the health and longevity of Washington's trees are being affected by more extreme weather events and increasing pressure from pests, diseases and invasive species; 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, and successful; and

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

**WHEREAS**, October is the best time to plant trees in Washington since cooler temperatures and increased moisture allow 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 2024 as

### *Urban and Community Forestry Month*

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

Signed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

