

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-13**  
**CELEBRATE TREES! EARTH MONTH BAINBRIDGE ISLAND**

**A RESOLUTION** of the City Council of Bainbridge Island, Washington, declaring the month of April to be Celebrate Trees! Earth Month Bainbridge Island; reaffirming the City's commitment to promote appreciation and protection for Bainbridge Island's trees and forests and the many cultural social, economic, health, and material benefits that trees and forests provide our community; and committing the City of Bainbridge Island to creating progressive regulations that encourage tree retention, prevent inappropriate tree removal and support the Island's natural landscape and ecology.

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Bainbridge Island recognize that our forests provide multiple ecosystem services including habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals; temperature regulation for dwellings, streams and shorelines; air pollution reduction; serving an integral role in our Island's water, carbon and nutrient cycles; providing windbreaks; forestalling erosion by stabilizing slopes and soils; reducing and attenuating stormwater runoff; enhancing physical and mental health; and

**WHEREAS**, our Island's forests have performed these important ecological functions for thousands of years, during which times Indigenous Peoples used and coexisted with these forests; and

**WHEREAS**, the growth of Puget Sound's cities and settlements over the past two centuries was made possible by exploitation of the region's forests and other natural resources: and

**WHEREAS**, in the 165 years since the Denny Party landed at Alki Point, our intact forest ecosystems have been greatly diminished, with serious repercussions for the health and function of Puget Sound; and

**WHEREAS**, our City's Comprehensive Plan has long recognized that the well being of our human and ecological communities alike are very much connected to forests and natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, being a designated Tree City USA the citizens of Bainbridge Island take seriously their responsibility to protect our native vegetation and forests, and urgently desire that action be taken to strengthen and enforce policies that protect, steward, and sustain forests and native vegetation so that they can continue to provide important cultural, social, economic and ecological benefits to our community; now, therefore,

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The City of Bainbridge Island strongly supports the proposition that April, Bainbridge Island's Celebrate Trees! Earth Month, shall be an opportunity to celebrate

the cultural, spiritual, health and material benefits provided by our trees and forests, and to prioritize appropriate efforts to protect and restore them.

**Section 2.** The City of Bainbridge Island will make it a priority to revise its regulations to strengthen protections for trees, forests, and native soils and vegetation to protect and promote a full range of ecological services

**Section 3.** As part of the City of Bainbridge Island's Low Impact Development regulations, and associated land use review process, an emphasis will be placed upon retention of trees, native vegetation, and native soils in preserving hydrological function before and after development.

**Section 4.** The City of Bainbridge Island will encourage property owners and developers to incorporate trees and native vegetation into their land use designs, prioritizing intact groves, significant trees and vegetation and historic trees. Policies and regulations related to illegal tree removal will be reviewed to ensure they create an effective deterrent to violations.

**Section 5.** The City of Bainbridge Island will develop and provide resources for developers prior to permitting, and to the broader community, to promote understanding of the economic and ecological value of our Island's trees and forests.

**Section 6.** The City of Bainbridge Island resolves to promote retention of historic and significant trees for the enjoyment of all citizens and visitors to the Island through appropriate regulations and policies.

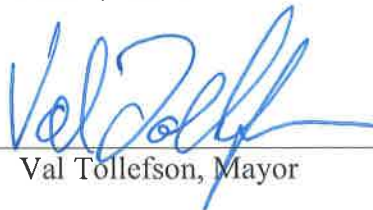
**Section 7.** The City of Bainbridge Island will review current guidelines and regulations regarding the planting of trees along Bainbridge Island's commercial district and consider revisions to promote the enjoyment and social well-being of all its citizens and visitors.

**Section 8.** With all of this in mind, and with a deep appreciation for our Island's Community Forests and associated ecosystems, the City Council of the City of Bainbridge Island declares April to be Celebrate Trees! Earth Month on Bainbridge Island.

PASSED by the City Council this 28th day of March, 2017.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 28th day of March, 2017.

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Val Tollefson, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATE:

By:   
Christine Brown, City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:  
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:  
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-13

March 10, 2017  
March 28, 2018