



April 21, 2010

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ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION HONORS SPOKANE WITH PRESTIGIOUS TREE CITY USA “GROWTH AWARD”

Finch Arboretum is Location for Saturday’s Arbor Day Celebration

Arbor Day activities are **FREE** and take place rain or shine

Spokane is being honored this year with two awards from the national Arbor Day Foundation. In 2010 Spokane receives its seventh year in a row designation as a Tree City USA. Additionally this year, Spokane is also the recipient of a Tree City USA “Growth Award.”

The prestigious Growth Award honors environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care in Tree City USA communities.

Trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in Spokane providing environmental and health benefits for citizens. Over time, investment in the urban forest will continue to pay off in a variety of ways including adding greatly to the community’s livability.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

To qualify for Tree City USA distinction, a city must meet four standards that ensure the community has a viable tree management plan and program.

Specifically, the requirements involve having a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

The public is encouraged to take part in Spokane's Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, April 24, 2010 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the John A. Finch Arboretum. The Arboretum is located at the intersection of "F" Street and Sunset Highway. Arbor Day activities are FREE and take place rain or shine. Please see attached flyer and map to the Arboretum.

About the Tree City USA Program

A community's public image is a very real phenomenon and important in many ways. Being a Tree City USA helps present the kind of image that most citizens want to have for the place they live or conduct business. The Tree City USA signs at community entrances tell visitors that here is a community that cares about its environment. It is also an indication to prospective businesses that the quality of life may be better here. It has even been known to be a factor in where meetings or conferences have been held. Gaining and retaining Tree City USA recognition is an award to the tree workers, managers, volunteers, tree board members and others who work on behalf of better care of a community's trees. For more information go to www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA

About the Urban Forestry Tree Committee of the Spokane Park Board and the Citizen Advisory Committee

- The Urban Forestry Tree Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise noted) at 7 am in the Manito Park Meeting Room (East of the Gaiser Conservatory), 1702 S. Grand Blvd., Spokane, Washington 99203.
- The Urban Forestry Citizens Advisory Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month (unless otherwise noted) at 4 pm in the Manito Park Meeting Room (East of the Gaiser Conservatory), 1702 S. Grand Blvd., Spokane, Washington 99203.

About Spokane Parks and Recreation

City of Spokane Parks and Recreation is responsible for the professional management and prudent caretaking of more than 4,100 acres of developed parks and conservation land. The Golf Division maintains and operates four championship municipal golf

courses, including Indian Canyon, Downriver, Esmeralda and the Creek at Qualchan. Park Operations has responsibility for the maintenance of all park land and park facilities in the City of Spokane including Riverfront Park, Manito Park, Gaiser Conservatory and the many city-wide gardens, Finch Arboretum and the Urban Forestry Program. The Recreation/Entertainment Division offers classes, special events, athletic leagues and activities for youth, teens, adults, seniors and persons with physical and mental disabilities. It also operates Riverfront Park attractions, activities and events, and provides support for community centers, senior centers, the Northeast Youth Center, Corbin Art Center and outdoor swimming pools. For more information please visit spokaneparks.org

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