

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle values its urban forest and the important benefits it provides, like increasing resiliency to climate change, mitigating stormwater runoff, enhancing public health, cooling urban heat islands, improving our shoreline and other habitat conditions, and enhancing the beauty and culture that the urban forest provides to all residents; and

WHEREAS, as Seattle continues to develop, its urban trees and vegetation will be critical to the city's livability and must be actively managed and nurtured; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted a companion resolution to the Mandatory Housing Affordability legislation recognizing the environmental, social, and economic benefits of Seattle's urban forest, and committing to working with community members and City departments to update the City's tree regulations and advancing the goals of the City's urban forestry plan; and

WHEREAS, the Equity and Environment Initiative is a call to action for the City to develop more inclusive environmental programs, including place-based and culturally-based strategies, to not only increase the canopy cover but also more equitably distribute the benefits that trees bring; and

WHEREAS, Seattle is underway to accomplishing its 30% canopy cover goal by 2037 based on a 2017 assessment showing Seattle has 28% canopy cover; and

WHEREAS, the act of planting a tree is both a signal of hope and an investment in the future, and the best time to plant trees in Seattle is in the fall; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has been recognized as a "Tree City USA" for 35 consecutive years because it fosters programs that work to increase the number and health of our trees citywide; and

WHEREAS, the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters conferred the distinction of "Tree Line USA" to Seattle City Light and "Tree Campus USA" to the University of Washington, further solidifying the City of Seattle as a leader in preserving urban trees;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE PEOPLE OF SEATTLE, do hereby proclaim the week of October 26 through October 30, 2020, to be

## ARBOR WEEK

*and encourage our neighbors throughout the entire city to become involved with the preservation, planting, and nurturing of urban trees.*

