

## 2017 Tree City USA, Growth Award, and Tree Information Listing

### Tree Statistics

1. Renton currently has over 136,370 trees in natural areas (over 106,000), parks (over 20,370), along streets (over 10,000), and on other City properties (unknown). In 2009 a tree inventory found that the total number of trees on public property was over 132,480. Since 2009, the number of trees on public property has increased by 3,890 trees, the bulk of which occur as new street trees in new residential developments.
2. Renton received 535 separate tree requests in 2016 resulting in a certified arborist inspection of nearly 1,730 trees. 21% of trees inspected were on private property, 79% on public property.
3. One large maturing street tree can occupy a ninety-foot diameter area below the canopy or larger. Spacing street trees further apart reduces planting and maintenance costs, allows trees to live longer and healthier, and creates small pockets of sunlit areas on the ground to keep understory plants healthy once trees are of a mature size.
4. 128 trees impact stop signs and street lights in Renton. During 2017, these locations will have street trees pruned to provide visual clearance to stop signs and allow a cone of light to reach the ground.
5. 2017 A/E Day Event – Heritage Park, 233 Union Avenue NE, Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 9 a.m.
  - a. Planting 19 park trees and 11 natural area trees
  - b. Planting 75 heather and 45 daylily
  - c. Planting 840 annual flowers
  - d. Mulch areas and adding playground chips
6. In the entire planet today, there are currently 60,000 different species of trees. We are using 13 different species at A/E Day, representing only 0.02 percent of the total species worldwide.

### A/E Day History

Since 2005, the City has sponsored 12 Arbor Day/Earth Day Events with the first two years referred as “The Mayor’s Day of Planting.” Of those, ten events have been official Arbor Day/Earth Day Events. Between 2005 and 2016, 606 trees and thousands of shrubs and groundcover plants have been planted as natural area, park, and street trees. Over the twelve year period, the approximate labor value for 1,952 volunteers to plant is \$97,750! Below is the breakdown of events:

2017 – Receiving the 9<sup>th</sup> TCUSA Award and 7<sup>th</sup> Growth Award for work in 2016. Heritage Park – 30 Trees and 100’s of shrubs, daylilies and annuals

2016 A/E Day Location – Cedar River Park – 75 Trees and 100’s of shrubs and daylilies – 97 volunteers for a labor value of \$4,850

2015 A/E Day Locations – 1.) Coulon Park – 5 Trees and 100’s of shrubs and daylilies – 127 volunteers for a labor value of \$6,350. 2.) Smithers Avenue North Neighborhood Street Tree Planting Grant – 17 Trees – 1 Tree planted with St. Anthony School Kindergarten Class – 40 volunteers for a labor value of \$2,000

2014 A/E Day Location – Coulon Park – 13 Trees and 100’s of shrubs and daylilies – 198 volunteers for a labor value of \$9,900

2013 A/E Day Location – May Creek Trail – 166 Trees and 1,500 shrubs – 205 volunteers for a labor value of \$10,250

2012 A/E Day Location – Wells Avenue N. & Senior Center – 75 Trees and annual flower planting – 125 volunteers for a labor value of \$6,250

2011 A/E Day Location – Coulon Park – 15 Trees and 100's of shrubs and daylilies – 207 volunteers for a labor value of \$10,350

2010 A/E Day Location – Regis Park – 6 Trees and 100's of shrubs and bulbs – 140 volunteers for a labor value of \$7,000

2009 - A/E Day Location – Liberty Park – 11 Trees and 100's of bulbs and annual flowers – 158 volunteers for a labor value of \$7,900

2008 A/E Day Location – Heritage Park – 19 Trees and 1000's of shrubs and daylilies – 170 volunteers for a labor value of \$8,500

2007 A/E Day Location – Heritage Park – 10 Trees, 100's of shrubs – 100 volunteers for a labor value of \$5,000

2006 A/E Day Location (Referred as Mayor's Day of Planting) – Downtown Streets – 22 Street Trees – 97 volunteers for a labor value of \$5,000

2005 A/E Day Location (Referred as Mayor's Day of Planting) – NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street – 50 street trees – 288 volunteers for a labor value of \$14,400

### **Tree City USA**

The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit conservation and education organization that oversees the Tree City USA Program. The TCUSA Program includes the Growth Award Program. There are four standards that Renton has met for the past nine years and several special projects completed to qualify for the Growth Award the past seven years. The four standards that Renton continues to meet are:

- A Tree Department – Community Services Department oversees the Urban Forestry Program, the lead agency for all tree concerns.
- A Tree Care Ordinance – Tree retention regulations
- A community forestry program with an annual budget of \$2 per capita or more.
- An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation – in 2017, held at Heritage Park the last Saturday of April.

The Growth Award is given when Renton accumulates enough points for going above the TCUSA Standards with special projects. Some Growth Award Projects include:

- Implementing a formal street tree replacement program
- Conservation Organization Partnership Project
- Improved Tree Retention Ordinance
- Park, Open Space Acquisition
- Urban Forestry Program Brochure
- Special Tree Planting Projects

## Trees

1. 2017 A/E Day at Heritage Park
  - a. Oregon oak, Bigleaf maple, Douglas fir, Western redcedar, Alaska yellow cedar, Western hemlock, Western white pine, Kentucky Coffeetree, baldcypress, mountain silverbell, sourwood, and crabapple
2. The oldest surviving tree in the world was planted in 288 B.C. and is found in a temple on the island of Sri Lanka. It represents happiness and everything else that makes for a long, good life.
3. Of the total of 733 registered big trees in the United States, five of the top 20 largest reside in Washington (2010). The largest in Washington, according to American Forests Organization, is a 242-inch diameter Western redcedar that is 160 feet tall with a crown diameter of 90 feet, found near Lake Quinalt. Wouldn't it be good to know about Renton Champion-sized trees?
4. An Alaska yellow cedar found in Mount Rainier National Park is purportedly the largest of its kind in the U.S.
5. The largest tree in the U.S. is a coast redwood that is 369 feet tall and over 2,000 years old, found in California.
6. A California resident spent from December 10, 1997 until December 23, 1999 sitting in a redwood tree to protest and defend against tree removal.
7. A City park tree, a 59-inch diameter yellow poplar, is the largest tree of its species in Renton that we know of, there could be others in private back yards. Turn in your yard tree if you think it is the largest of its kind in Renton.
8. Two large mature trees produce enough oxygen each year to support a family of four.
9. 1 large tree provides the annual amount of paper and lumber for one person.
10. Medicines that have root in trees – aspirin (willow), chemo-drugs (yew)
11. Anyone know what a “moon tree” is? Tree seeds that were taken into space then later planted on earth. So far, the trees have not exhibited any super powers other than producing oxygen, storing carbon, filtering air pollution, enhancing property values, among other benefits trees provide to people.

## UF Program Info

- Community Services – Parks Planning and Natural Resources – Urban Forestry Program
- Provides tree information to anyone for free
- Outreach and Education – tree information through landowner contact, brochures, and online information
- Code enforcement assistance, new construction landscape standards review
- Inspect trees on private and public property, street right of ways, natural areas, HOA tracts, and business property
- Urban Forestry Program Planning – Urban and Community Forestry Development Plan and Implementation Schedule
- Contracts Public Tree Maintenance citywide
- Storm Damage Response
- Natural Area Management – Knotweed Control Program along the Cedar River and restoration with native plants
- Landscape Maintenance Contracting at 47 locations citywide

- Program Accomplishments 2008 to 2017
  - Became Tree City USA in 2008 and maintained status for 9 years
  - Obtained first Growth Award in 2009 and maintained for 7 years
  - Contributed to the development of tree retention and landscape standards and Municipal Code
  - Developed the Urban and Community Forestry Development Plan (**09, 011 Growth Award**); revised the Implementation Schedule (**011 Growth Award**)
  - Hired a Consulting Arborist for tree inspections, tree inventory, tree maintenance contract assistance, outreach and education and other urban forestry tasks
  - Initiated a street tree replacement program (**016 Growth Award**)
  - Improved funding for tree maintenance contracting and tree-related sidewalk repairs (**09, 011, 013, 014, 015, 016 Growth Awards**)
  - Planted 234 replacement street trees during this 10- year period
  - Provided tree maintenance and urban forestry program training to City staff (**015 Growth Award**)
  - Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Manager obtained and maintained Arborist Certification, Municipal Specialist Certification, and Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (**011, 012 Growth Awards**)
  - Represents Municipal Foresters and Arborists on the Washington Community Forestry Council that advises the WA DNR on urban forestry issues (**014 Growth Award**)
  - Conservation organization partnership with Forterra, NW (**014 Growth Award**)
  - Knotweed Removal along the Cedar River Project (**015 Growth Award**)
  - Obtained grants for street tree planting, natural area restoration, canopy cover assessment, and street tree pruning at The Landing
  - Created the draft of the Street Tree Ordinance
  - Drafted the street tree selection guide for grant projects
  - Prepared franchise utility agreement that specifically addresses overhead electric lines and trees
  - Published the Urban Forestry Brochure (**015 Growth Award**), Encroachment onto Public Lands Brochure, Tree Owner’s Manual
  - Provided information for the update of City Codes and tree policy within the Comprehensive Plan
  - Assisted with the development of a “tree bank” which is a fee-in-lieu program that contributes to the Urban Forestry Fund, the “tree bank.”
  - Display consumer literature about trees at Special Events and permanent displays at City Hall
  - Assisted in the development of the Landmark Tree regulation that helps to protect large trees over 30 inches in diameter on private property
  - Contributed to the Complete Streets regulations that incorporates street trees into new construction and provides adequate space in the planting strip for large trees (**011 Growth Award**)
  - Acquired forest conservation parcels (**011, 013, 015, Growth Awards**)
  - Completed the Urban Tree Canopy Assessment Report (**011 Growth Award**)

- Inventoried public trees in the Benson Hill Neighborhood annexation and updated inventory statistics **(09 Growth Award)**
- Created the Urban Forestry Program webpage **(09 Growth Award)**
- Completed special projects: Street Tree Storm Damage Replacement Project **(09 Growth Award)**, WA DNR North Renton Tree Planting Grant Project **(012 Growth Award)**, City of Renton Neighborhood Grant South Renton Tree Planting Project **(015 Growth Award)**, WA DNR Conservation Corps May Creek Invasive Removal Project, WA DNR Conservation Corps The Landing Tree Pruning Project, Completed nine Street Tree and Sidewalk Repair Projects, Philip Arnold Park Tree Replacement Project
- In 2017, the Urban and Community Forestry Development Plan Implementation Schedule will be updated for the next ten-year period. The Plan, created in 2009, expires in 2019.

### **Earth Day – a day to promote awareness and appreciation for the Earth’s environment**

Earth Day got its start thanks to a Wisconsin Senator, Gaylord Nelson in 1970. The original Earth Day was celebrated on April 22<sup>nd</sup> as a national day of observance as it has over the past 47 years. The first Earth Day event brought a rare level of unity in the country between political agendas, citizens young and old, rich and poor, and rural and urban, all cooperating for a mutual purpose to fight against pollution and habitat degradation. Earth Day events are credited with the creation of the EPA and the passage of the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.

In Renton, Earth Day is celebrated on the last Saturday of April. Earth Day and Arbor Day are combined and enlist hundreds of volunteers to clean parks, remove invasive plants, plant new trees, shrubs, groundcovers and flowers, install mulch, and other activities at City parks and natural areas. In addition, Arbor Day/Earth Day events in Renton have planted hundreds of street trees.

Each year, evidence that people from all walks of life come together for a common purpose fulfills that original Earth Day level of unity we experience at Arbor Day/Earth Day Celebrations. This year’s event is held at Heritage Park, 233 Union Avenue NE, on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> with registration at 9 A.M.

- Earth Day is celebrated by more than one billion people worldwide
- 20 million people participated in the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970
- Only 27% of newspapers are recycled each year. If they were all recycled, it would save 225 million trees every year
- 2017 marks the 47<sup>th</sup> Earth Day
- There is an Earth Day online resource organization called, “Earth Day Network”