

Corri A. Feige
Commissioner



Department of
Natural Resources

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Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: May 15, 2020

Alaskans encouraged to celebrate Arbor Day on May 18

(Anchorage, AK) – Plant a tree. Take a walk in the woods. Start recycling paper products. Whatever you choose to do, the Alaska Division of Forestry encourages Alaskans to take time to celebrate Arbor Day on Monday, May 18.

While in years past Arbor Day was a time for volunteer opportunities and community events for all ages, current recommendations by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control relating to COVID-19 make this year very different. Even though most community celebrations and tree planting events are being postponed or cancelled, the spirit of Arbor Day remains strong.

Established in 1872, Arbor Day is the day set aside to plant trees, educate children and adults about the importance of trees, and recognize the important role that trees play in our lives. In Alaska, Arbor Day is celebrated on the third Monday in May.

Governor Mike Dunleavy signed a proclamation denoting May 18 as Arbor Day in Alaska, in which he invites Alaskans young and old to honor one of the state's greatest assets – its forests.

“Alaskans are fortunate to have vast expanses of forested land in which to work and play,” the governor said. “Our forests provide environmental, economic and social benefits that improve the quality of life for all Alaskans, which is why it is important to manage them properly.

“In 2019, Alaska experienced devastating wildfires, and the loss of thousands of spruce trees from the spruce beetle. This year it is more important than ever to plant trees to replace those we lost.”

To learn more about planting and caring for trees, visit the Division's Community Forestry Program website at: <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community>. To learn more about how to celebrate Arborday 2020 at home, visit the national Arbor Day Foundation website at: <https://celebratearborday.com/>

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STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation by *Governor Mike Dunleavy*

WHEREAS, Alaska's abundant resources and vast lands provide both great opportunity and quality of life for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, since 1966, Alaska has recognized Arbor Day as a day to appreciate one of Alaska's greatest resources, and to highlight the importance of sustainable management of trees and forests to ensure the bright future of our state, and to encourage the planting and care of trees across the nation; and

WHEREAS, trees benefit our communities in many ways: they reduce the erosion of topsoil by wind and water, enhance the beauty of the landscapes of our homes, schools, and towns, reduce our heating and cooling costs, moderate temperature, clean the air, and provide habitat for Alaska's plentiful wildlife; and

WHEREAS trees are a renewable resource, giving us paper, wood for construction, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, is responsible for encouraging appropriate management of our urban and rural forests; managing Alaska's 2.6 million acres of forest land for multiple objectives; protecting against wildfire, insects, and diseases; providing technical assistance to forestland owners and managers; and promoting wise stewardship of forest lands; and

WHEREAS, healthy and properly managed trees and forests provide environmental, economic, and social benefits and improve the quality of life for Alaskans.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mike Dunleavy, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim May 18, 2020 as:

Arbor Day

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to recognize the importance of trees and forests in Alaska, and to participate in the responsible management and treatment of Alaska's forest lands.

Dated: May 18, 2020



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.