

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Native Plant Appreciation Week
DEPARTMENT:	Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
PRESENTED BY:	Dick Deal, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Maureen Colaizzi, Parks Project Coordinator

INTRODUCTION:

The City Council work plan for 2007-2008 emphasizes the importance of creating an "environmentally sustainable community" (Council Goal #7).

BACKGROUND:

Native Plant Appreciation Week is a celebration of the diversity of Washington's over 3000 native plant species that inhabit deserts, rain forests, high alpine environments, river valleys, and even backyard landscapes. Native plant ecosystems are critical to sustaining our native wildlife and the quality of Washington's environment.

The Native Plant Appreciation Week inspires citizens through diverse activities and events to learn more about native plant species and their habitats and how to protect them. The public can participate in everything from talks, walks, hikes, garden tours, and visits to our natural areas to active involvement in habitat restoration projects.

Native Plant Appreciation Week is an opportunity for governmental agencies, non-profit groups and environmental organizations to highlight their work in protecting native plant species and restoring native plant habitats. The public can learn about the many projects and hard work that enhances their area.

The public can also learn how our native plant ecosystems provide suitable habitat for birds, fish and other animals and protect water quality.

Finally, it is an opportunity to convey the threat posed by invasive exotic pests – insects, plant diseases and invasive plant species. The public can see and learn how invasive species harm native plants and ecosystems. They can learn about work being done in both the public and private sector to combat that threat.

Native Plant Appreciation Week is primarily an opportunity to celebrate our native floral abundance, our bio-diversity, and all the good work being done to protect and preserve it.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No financial impact.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council declare April 29th – May 5th 2007 as Native Plant Appreciation Week.

Approved By: City Manager  _____ City Attorney _____



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, native plant species are an important part of Washington's heritage, providing important aesthetic, economic, and ecological contributions that make Washington State a special place to live; and
- WHEREAS, Washington enjoys amazing biodiversity with over 3,000 native plant species from rain forest plants on the Olympic Peninsula to desert species in eastern Washington; and
- WHEREAS, preserving native plant ecosystems is critical for protecting wildlife, birds, fish, and water quality in our state. Over 350 of our native plant species are listed as rare by the Washington Natural Heritage Program; and
- WHEREAS, invasive species represent a great threat to sustaining our native plant ecosystems and biodiversity. In response to this threat, the City of Shoreline has initiated an Ivy OUT (Off Urban Trees) Program and Native Plant Restoration Program in Shoreline Parks; and
- WHEREAS, April 22, 2007 is National Earth Day and marks the beginning of the Shoreline Ivy OUT Program series with volunteer work parties scheduled to remove invasive species in seven Shoreline parks. The Ivy OUT program will continue volunteer work parties in Shoreline parks from April through October, encouraging residents to remove invasive species and help allow native species to thrive; and
- WHEREAS, Shoreline residents Arthur Kruckeberg and his late wife Mareen amassed an extensive native plant collection in a four-acre botanic garden over many years. The Kruckeberg Botanic Garden is dedicated to fostering and providing educational, cultural and aesthetic enrichment for people in our region by providing a garden rich in native plants of the Pacific Northwest;
- WHEREAS, May 5, 2007, from 9:00 am to 12:00pm there will be a native plant restoration Work Party at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park conducted by the Shoreline Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department in conjunction with the University of Washington Restoration Ecology Network students to remove invasive species and plant native plants that were purchased from Kruckeberg Botanic Garden. The City wants to continue invasive species removal and native plant restoration work parties at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park by encouraging residents to become active members of an ongoing community stewardship program called "Friends of Saltwater Park".

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert L. Ransom, Mayor of the City of Shoreline, on behalf of the Shoreline City Council, do hereby proclaim the week of April 30-May 6, 2006 as

NATIVE PLANT APPRECIATION WEEK

in Shoreline. I urge all citizens to join me in appreciating, enjoying, and celebrating by taking a native plant walk, visiting a natural area, or become involved in a restoration project.

Robert L. Ransom, Mayor