



City of Placentia Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Damien R. Arrula
City Administrator
(714) 993-8171
administration@placentia.org

PLACENTIA CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY

PLACENTIA, CA – The City of Placentia celebrated Arbor Day on Thursday, April 27th, by planting five trees at Santa Fe Park. Placentia City staff and participants of the Cathy Torres Learning Center and the Whitten Community Center after-school programs helped to plant the new trees. West Coast Arborists generously donated the trees, which included two (2) Australian Willows trees and three (3) crepe myrtle trees.

Placentia was named a 2022 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. This is the City's third Tree City USA designation in its history. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

Placentia achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: establishment of a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, commitment of an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"The City encourages residents to plant, properly care for, and maintain trees on their property to ensure they remain healthy. Community members are essential to helping the City preserve these valuable resources and helping Placentia become a greener community," said Mayor Ward Smith. "On behalf of the City Council, we are honored to have received this award for the third year in a row, and I look forward to building upon this recognition for years to come."

"We were excited to host another great Arbor Day event in Placentia and plant five new trees at our newly renovated Santa Fe Park to celebrate our third Tree City USA designation. The trees we plant throughout the City ensure that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. They also help improve our neighborhoods' visual appeal, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, and remove air pollutants, among many other benefits," said Placentia City Administrator Damien R. Arrula.

The City of Placentia adopted its first Urban Forest Management Program in 2019 and updated the Urban Forest Protection Ordinance to help earn Tree City USA status. This Ordinance will help protect and grow our urban tree canopy for years to come.

This year's Arbor Day celebration also marks the 151st anniversary of Arbor Day, one of the oldest environmental holidays on the calendar. For more information on Arbor Day and Tree City USA, please visit www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

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