

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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March is Arbor Month in New Mexico
Cities, colleges, and universities can celebrate with free trees!

Santa Fe, NM –Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has issued an [official proclamation](#) declaring March 2022 Arbor Month in New Mexico. The second Friday in March is also recognized as Arbor Day in the Land of Enchantment. This year Arbor Day is March 11, 2022.

To celebrate Arbor Month, the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Forestry Division will be providing 50 tree seedlings to cities or universities and colleges that apply and commit to conducting an Arbor Day Celebration in their community. If your community or university is interested, please fill out an application on the [Forestry Division website](#).

To highlight the importance of New Mexico's urban trees and forests, the Forestry Division is also encouraging residents to commit to helping to reverse climate change and mitigate its impacts by planting and caring for trees in their yards and neighborhoods. Our climate and plant hardiness zones vary widely across the state. When planting a new tree in an urban area, the species should be water-efficient and appropriate for the local conditions. The [Climate-Ready Tree List](#), created by [The Nature Conservancy](#) for the City of Albuquerque, can help guide future plantings. The list includes drought-tolerant trees and shrubs best suited for changing conditions.

"Urban forests provide many benefits that are important to all communities," said Alyssa O'Brien, Urban and Community Forestry (UC&F) Program Manager. "Trees can help reduce

air and noise pollution, prevent soil erosion, filter stormwater runoff, lower home heating and cooling costs, and even improve mental and physical health."

To learn how the Urban and Community Forestry Program can help your community contact Alyssa O'Brien at alyssa.o'brien@state.nm.us.



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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/>



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, New Mexico is steeped in rich history and unparalleled natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, acting as responsible citizens it is our duty to act as sage stewards of the land; and

WHEREAS, healthy forests in watersheds and urban areas are crucial to the biodiversity of New Mexico and the wellbeing of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, trees lend protection to the environment by mitigating climate change, reducing air and noise pollution, preventing soil erosion, and providing shelter for birds and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees provide necessities to the human body, including clean air, food, fuel, shade, medicine, and solace to the mind; and

WHEREAS, the second Friday of March was established as the official date for arbor day by the territorial legislature in 1891.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim March 2022 as:

“Arbor Month”

throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

Maggieoulouse Oliver
Maggieoulouse Oliver
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
31st day of January 2022.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the State of New Mexico.

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor



New Mexico

Arbor Month

March 1-31, 2022

