

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

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Town of Bluffton Celebrates Arbor Day at Oyster Factory Park

Mayor Lisa Sulka, members of Town Council and members of the Town's Beautification Committee will celebrate the planting of two Live Oak trees at Oyster Factory Park, Friday, April 28 at 8:30 a.m. in honor of Arbor Day. These two trees will help mitigate the trees lost during Hurricane Matthew. More than 15 mature trees were uprooted in the storm and the storm greatly reduced the tree canopy at the park. Each Live Oak, when mature, will eventually provide a canopy of more than 60' in diameter and provide shade to the walkways leading to the newly renovated dock and boat ramp.

"Arbor Day is the perfect opportunity to replant and remind ourselves of the contributions trees make to our lives," Mayor Lisa Sulka said. "Trees give Bluffton residents shade, natural beauty and oxygen as well as providing habitats for birds and other animals while preventing soil erosion. Trees are an asset to our community and each Arbor Day we take time to acknowledge their benefits."

The public is welcome to join the tree planting ceremony.

Tree City USA Community Designation

The Town of Bluffton, which has received a "Tree City USA Community" designation each year since 2012, plans to continue its efforts each year as it plants more trees throughout the community. Tree City USA awards this designation to cities and towns that maintain a tree board (i.e. Beautiful Committee), pass a tree ordinance (i.e. tree protection laws), spend at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrate Arbor Day.

About Arbor Day:

Arbor Day has been celebrated throughout the world for nearly 150 years thanks to the vision of J. Sterling Morton. Morton, a former Nebraska newspaper editor and the former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland, proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. Arbor Day was first observed in Nebraska with the planting of nearly one million trees on April 10, 1872. Since then, communities around the globe have been celebrating the benefits of trees in urban and rural environments by planting trees once a year on Arbor Day.