



April 12, 2018

For More Information:

Debbie Szpanka
Public Information Officer
Town of Bluffton
20 Bridge Street
Bluffton, South Carolina
(Office) 843.706.4534
(Cell): 843.540.2274
(Email): dszpanka@townofbluffton.com

Town of Bluffton Celebrates Arbor Day, Planting New Trees at Oscar Frazier Park

Mayor Lisa Sulka, members of Town Council and members of the Town's Beautification Committee will celebrate Arbor Day by planting five Live Oak trees, two Sabal Palms, three Crape Myrtles and one Fringe Tree at the Oscar Frazier Park playground area, Friday, April 27 at 8:30 a.m.

These eleven trees will supplement the playground improvements and additions which will be completed by April 21. Park improvements and the new train playground were made possible through a partnership with the Town, the Rotary Club of Bluffton and the 2018 Leadership Class of the Hilton Head Island - Bluffton Chamber of Commerce. The new trees will mitigate tree removal necessary to complete the project and will provide shade to the new playground area.

"Arbor Day is the perfect time to replant and remind ourselves of the contributions trees make to our lives, providing natural beauty and shade as well as being habitats for birds and other animals," Mayor Lisa Sulka said. "Arbor Day is an opportunity for the Town of Bluffton to further contribute to the area known as the 'Field of Dreams' at Oscar Frazier Park."

"We are so appreciative of our partners in this project," said Town Manager Marc Orlando. "The Town is honored to join with the Rotary Club of Bluffton and the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Class to facilitate improvements that will add to the public enjoyment of this park for generations."

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. Beautification 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.