



SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Clemson City Councilwoman Crossie Cox, left, and city horticulturist Tony Tidwell help plant a tree during last year's Arbor Day ceremony. Both the city and Clemson University will hold events today in recognition of Arbor Day and the important role trees play in the environment.

Clemson to host Arbor Day events today

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — Clemson's emphasis on tree preservation has long been evidenced by its land development ordinances, as well as being among 3,400 communities nationwide to make a commitment to becoming a Tree City USA participant.

"Trees are essential for sustaining life in our urban environment, so it's an honor to participate in these Arbor Day events," city horticulturist Tony Tidwell said. "These events are opportunities to celebrate the many profound and positive impacts that trees provide our community. The city of Clemson is proud to share in these Arbor Day events with so many incredible partners like Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA, Clemson University, TreesUpstate and Duke Energy."

Tidwell pointed out that while Clemson is experiencing a period of rapid growth, one of the major

ARBOR DAY IN CLEMSON

Both the city of Clemson and Clemson University will host events today in honor of Arbor Day. Clemson University will host the annual Arbor Day Campus Tree Walk from 12:20-1:10 p.m., as well as the annual Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony at 12:30 p.m. Those events will take place in McGinty Court and the Southwest corner of Redfern Student Health Center on McMillan Road, respectively.

Meanwhile, the Clemson Parks and Recreation Department will give as many as 200 young trees to residents from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-6 p.m. at Nettles Park.

During the tree giveaway at Nettles Park, TreesUpstate, in cooperation with the city of Clemson, will give away trees ranging in size from 4-7 feet tall, including persimmon, American beech, eastern red cedar, black tupelo, white oak, swamp white oak, bald cypress and basswood.

For more information, call the Clemson Parks and Recreation Department at (864) 624-1120 or visit treesupstate.org/freetrees/.

drawbacks is suffering losses to its tree canopy. "A great way to mitigate these losses and replenish our canopy is to offer these free trees to our community," he said.

Tidwell said Clemson is funding a portion of the tree giveaway in a unique way. Two years ago, the city's planning and codes department began requiring new developments that didn't meet the tree canopy requirement of 25 percent canopy coverage to pay a penalty.

"That money goes into an account earmarked solely for purchasing and planting trees in the city of Clemson," Tidwell said.

Tommy Fallaw, director of landscape services at Clemson University, said the tree walk in the

cussion of the economic benefits that trees provide in that area of campus.

"Both of these events on the schedule help us to continue to meet the criteria needed for Clemson University to be recognized as a Tree Campus USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation," Fallaw said. "The campus has held the Tree Campus USA designation for nine consecutive years, and this year's Arbor Day celebration will complete the remaining requirements so we can extend that number to 10 years."

goliver@upstatetoday.com | (864) 973-6687
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