



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

## News from: Oakland Public Works Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### The City of Oakland and Children's Fairyland Partner to Celebrate Trees on Arbor Day

Arborists take on Oakland's urban forest with a day of fun and environmental education for all

**Oakland, CA** – The Oakland Public Works Agency and Children's Fairyland celebrate Arbor Day on Saturday, March 15! Join Fairyland's families, tree enthusiasts, arborists, tree inspectors and special performers from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to give much-needed loving care and maintenance to over 100 large trees in this special part of Oakland's urban forest. Children will have the opportunity to climb trees like the pros, build bird houses and bee-hotels, learn how to compost and witness live demonstrations on wood milling. The event promises to be a perfect fusion of community action and environmental education for every age.

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The benefits of Arbor Day go far beyond the shade and beauty of new trees for the next generation. This celebration offers an opportunity to involve community leaders, students and children in the continued interest and education of urban forestry and maintenance. Generously funded by PG&E and sponsored by the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and the Oakland Public Works Agency, this event will create a safer environment by pruning the park's big trees (before the park opens) and provide community and environmental education through interactive learning experiences, community plantings, children's programming and a special performance by Timmy Womick's renowned Tree Circus.

Arbor Day is one of many ways the City of Oakland works to maintain its status as a sustainable and green city. Lakeside Park at Oakland's Lake Merritt is a nationally recognized bird sanctuary and the trees provide vital habitat and food for many bird species. The Oakland Public Works Agency has celebrated Arbor Day since 1999 with tree planting and has met the standards set by the National Arbor Association to earn the designation as a Tree City USA<sup>®</sup>.

Trees are essential to Oakland's urban ecosystem, working to improve our environment every day. In addition to their beauty and shade, trees filter urban particulate pollution such as dust, ash, pollen and smoke. They absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and other pollutant gases while releasing oxygen back into the air. Trees also conserve energy by shading our homes and office buildings, reducing air conditioning and the amount of fossil fuel burned to produce electricity. Trees also work to absorb and block noise from the urban environment. They help prevent water pollution and soil erosion. Trees mark the seasons and provide us the opportunity to come together to educate the community, families and homeowners about the benefits of trees and proper tree care.

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