


**Parks & Recreation Board**

**DEPARTMENT:** Parks and Recreation  
**FROM:** Dr. Jessie Farris, Urban Forester  
**MEETING:** May 14, 2026

**SUBJECT:**

Receive a report on the Junior Arborist (Trees for Tomorrow) program and associated participant data results. *(Staff Contact: Dr. Jessie Farris, Urban Forester)*

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY AND GOAL(S):**

| Strategic Priority   | Strategic Goal   |
|--|--|
|  <p><b>Great Place to Live</b><br/>Through Expanded<br/>Quality of Life<br/>Amenities</p> | <p>4.1 Provide high-quality parks</p> <p>4.2 Provide high-quality recreation opportunities, events and facilities for residents</p> <p>4.3 Provide outstanding cultural, educational and entertainment opportunities</p> |

**SUMMARY:**

The City of Burleson’s Trees for Tomorrow program, developed in partnership with Burleson ISD, provides students with hands-on environmental education and urban forestry awareness. Presentations were delivered to Environmental Science classes at Centennial and Burleson High Schools, as well as elementary students at The Academy at Nola Dunn.

Students explored key topics including water quality and storm water runoff, groundwater recharge, urban heat island effects, native vs. invasive species, biodiversity, and the role of urban forests as nature-based solutions. The program also included participation in the City’s Arbor Day event, where students assisted in planting 25 trees as Junior Tree Stewards.

Post-program survey results indicate strong outcomes:

- 92.31% reported increased understanding of environmental impacts
- 100% identified key concepts learned

- 88.46% are very likely to take future environmental action
- 88.46% rated the program as excellent
- 92.31% found the program highly engaging

These results reflect meaningful gains in environmental literacy and community stewardship among participants

**RECOMMENDATION:**

No action is required. This item is for informational purposes only.

**PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):**

N/A

**REFERENCE:**

N/A

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

N/A

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Dr. Jessie Farris  
Urban Forester  
[sfarris@burlesontx.com](mailto:sfarris@burlesontx.com)  
817-426-9118