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Ravenscroft Reserve Initiative Celebrates OAKtober with Buncombe County
*County Commission Chair Brownie Newman has proclaimed October 2020
Oak Awareness Month - OAKtober.*

Asheville, North Carolina: Oaks are our majestic National Tree. They provide exceptional habitat and food for wildlife, mitigate urban heat island effect, sequester carbon, help clean our air and reduce stormwater runoff. The Ravenscroft Reserve Initiative (RRI) is working to acquire and preserve the 22 mature oaks and half acre of urban forest at 11 Collier Avenue in Asheville's South Slope. The ecological benefits of this small forest and respite it provides from increasing urbanization will enhance the well-being of residents and visitors for generations to come.

In recognition of the vital role oaks and other neighborhood trees play in our community, Buncombe County Commission Chair Brownie Newman has signed a proclamation declaring October 2020 as Oak Awareness Month - OAKtober. Buncombe County's first annual OAKtober will be a month-long celebration of our community forest, local non-profits, and businesses who strive every day to keep WNC healthy, beautiful, and fun.

OAKtober will include events in collaboration with the following:

- Asheville GreenWorks' Treasured Trees program; Oak Discoveries
- Asheville On Bikes; Oaks as checkpoints in Pumpkin Pedaller
- Asheville's Tree Protection Task Force; An Oak Fact a Day
- Blue Ridge Audubon Society; Backyard Bird and Tree ID
- Bountiful Cities; Self-Guided Tempie Avery Edible Orchard Tour with Map
- Coven Oldenwilde; Samhain Celebration
- Eagle Nest Outfitters (ENO); Personal Hammock Trail
- The Asheville Nuttery; Open Source Orchard Map
- The Hemlock Restoration Initiative; Self-Guided Oak and Hemlock Hike
- The North Carolina Arboretum; Adult Education Programs
- The Ravenscroft Reserve Initiative; Urban Tree Trail
- Yodelbud Invasive Plant Management; Invasive Vine Removal Days

Activities are fun, safe, and easy. Perfect for kids of all ages.

For links to OAKtober events, please visit "OAKtober Celebrations" on Facebook and Instagram.

Asheville GreenWorks will be holding more special events, including an online auction where participants can bid on items to support RRI. If any supporters have items or services to donate, please email ravenscroftreserve@gmail.com. Visit Asheville GreenWorks at ashevillegreenworks.org to view the auction, their programs, and other upcoming events. For more information on Ravenscroft Reserve Initiative, please visit ashevillegreenworks.org/rri.