

Monkey puzzle tree honors activist

□ Denis Hayes, a Camas School District alumnus, coordinated the first Earth Day

Over the years, thousands of trees have been planted in honor of Earth Day.

But recently, a tree was designated in honor of Denis Hayes, the founder of the annual environmental awareness-based Earth Day.

The monkey puzzle tree came as part of a thank-you to Hayes for serving as keynote speaker at the annual meeting and luncheon of the Parks Foundation of Clark County on June 12.

Hayes, who grew up in Camas, received Clark College's Outstanding Alumni Award in 1978 for his work as coordinator of the first Earth Day, head of Earth Day network, president and CEO of the



Denis Hayes is not only the coordinator of the first Earth Day in 1970, but he's also a Camas School District alumnus.

Bullitt Foundation, and chairman of the board of the Energy Foundation.

Last year, Camas School District named its alternative program, Hayes Freedom High School, after

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the famous alumnus.

The designation is part of the "Witness Tree" program of the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry Commission. The program allows people to adopt trees in memoriam or honor of a special person or

occasion.

The parks foundation worked with the college to find an appropriate tree.

"We felt that the uniqueness of the tree, and its location next to the science building, were both great tributes to Hayes' contributions throughout his life," said Clark College

President Robert K. Knight.

A plaque will be placed next to the tree, which Knight expects to be in place in time for the college's 75th anniversary on Oct. 1.

"The parks foundation was pleased to partner with Vancouver-Clark Parks and

Recreation and Clark College in honoring Denis through the Witness Tree Program for his outstanding contributions to environmental education and awareness," said parks foundation Executive Director Cheri Martin.