STAFF REPORT

Date: March 9th, 2026
To: Tree Board
From: Alyssa Jones Wood, Sustainability Manager

2026 Arbor Day Memorandum

Background

The Mayor and City Council will make their annual Arbor Day Proclamation as a special item at their Tuesday, April 21, 2026, regular meeting.

The City of Tumwater 2026 Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration will be Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Tumwater Historical Park. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Set up for the Arbor Day event will begin at 9:00 AM at the large picnic shelter. Parks and Recreation Department staff will help with setting up the tables and hanging banners. We will be able to use the front of the picnic shelter with a couple of picnic tables for the Tree Board materials.

The Sustainability Manager will send the City Communications staff an updated event description and will ask them to contact the School District to advertise.

At the event, residents can take home Arbor Day memorabilia, free native plant seedlings for the first sixty to one hundred people and have the opportunity to ask tree professionals about the proper care and planning of trees.

The Arbor Day celebrations are also intended to raise awareness of the Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP). We will have a UFMP brochure available.

The City Communications Department will publicize the event.

Actions for the Tree Board to consider

1. Review the draft Arbor Day Proclamation.
2. Work out volunteer staffing by the Tree Board for the event.

3. Assist with tree planting in coordination with other Parks & Recreation Department activities.

Schedule

- January 2026: Urban Forester, Brian Caughlan, ordered plants and any additional materials needed for handouts.
- Monday, March 9, 2026: Tree Board discussion of Arbor Day event and finalization of materials.
- March 2026: Urban Forester to schedule public outreach for the event with City Communications and Parks and Recreation Staff.
- Saturday, April 18, 2026: Earth Day and Arbor Day event.
- Tuesday, April 21, 2026: City Council Arbor Day proclamation.