



## Memorandum

Date: January 4, 2022

To: Tree Board

From: Brad Medrud, Planning Manager

Subject: 2022 Arbor Day Memorandum

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### Issue

The Tree Board is starting to plan for the City of Tumwater's 2022 Arbor Day Celebration and this memorandum discusses actions to consider while preparing for it.

### Actions

1. Determine location for event
2. Decide on what will be done at the event:
  - a. Tree seedlings distribution
  - b. Handouts
  - c. Other materials
  - d. Sponsored plantings by Mayor and City Council
3. Work out staffing for the event
4. Discuss timing and type of public outreach on the event

### Schedule

- Arbor Day in 2022 is Friday, April 29, 2022, so the Arbor Day event would likely be either Saturday, April 23, 2022 or Saturday, April 30, 2022 from 10 AM to noon.
- Monday, January 10, 2022, Tree Board discussion of Arbor Day Event
- January 2022 schedule public outreach activities for the event with City Communications staff
- Monday, February 14, 2022, Tree Board discussion of Arbor Day Event
- February 2022 staff orders any additional materials needed for handouts
- Monday, March 14, 2022, Tree Board discussion of Arbor Day Event
- Tuesday, March 15, 2022, City Council approves Arbor Day proclamation

### Other Notes

- Location of the event – Expectation is that we would not be able to hold an event inside

- Hold the event with the City's Earth Day Event, likely at Historic Park
- Other potential locations separate from the City's Earth Day Event –
  - City Hall parking lot
  - Large commercial areas
- The Parks and Recreation Department has told me that they would be able to help with setting up if we share a location with the Earth Day celebration, but we would have to set up tents, tables, and anything else we would need if we hold the Arbor Day event in another location.
- The City of Tacoma provides coupons for a dollar value of a tree. Staff will see if they can find out more about this.
- Consider working with Mayor and City Council to plant trees as part of the Arbor Day celebration, sponsored by the Tree Board in coordination with the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- As part of the tree seedlings handouts, include a tag for social media with information on uploading pictures of tree plantings and then after one or more years afterwards.
- Tree Board Meeting notes from August 9, 2021 discussion of 2021 Arbor Day:

“Manager Medrud invited feedback on the drive-through format of this year's Arbor Day celebration.

Commissioner Sedore said the site was a good location and the covered picnic area enabled easier staging of the event. Although the park is not located along a main thoroughfare, the event likely did not capture many people who may have been out driving for the day. It appeared that most of the participants were aware of the advertising for the event and were familiar with the tree giveaway. He suggested contacting some of the participants and interviewing and photographing them as they plant their tree. The City could follow-up with the families a year or two later to observe the condition of the tree to create a storyline for the Arbor Day event. He would prefer for the event to be holistic in terms of promoting the event and then demonstrating how people took advantage of the tree giveaway by following up on the status of the tree over a span of several years.

Chair Grantham suggested assigning a hash tag to enable the community to post to Instagram as an easier way to collect the information. Commissioner Sedore suggested City communications staff could conduct interviews and publish an article in the City's newsletter. Manager Medrud said he would follow up with Communications Manager Cook about the possibility for future events.

Commissioner Sedore offered a suggestion of creating an Arbor Day tree planting by each Mayor, such as when they are first elected by designating a location in one of the City's parks as the “Mayors' Grove”. The area in the park

could include signage and Arbor Day plantings over the years while also memorializing the City's Mayors.

Commissioners discussed the previous practice of tree plantings at the library and other areas of the City. However, City staff eventually encountered problems with locating appropriate space for tree plantings. Manager Medrud offered to follow-up as it has been some time since the last tree planting.

Commissioner Chapman complimented City staff for efforts on advertising, site logistics, and the signs and banners for the Arbor Day celebration. Manager Medrud acknowledged the efforts by the City's volunteer coordinator.

Commissioner Sedore proposed considering establishing a relationship with a local nursery to raise tree seedlings as a source of trees for the City's Arbor Day tree giveaway. Commissioner Chapman added that the survivability of the trees would be increased if the giveaway offered quart or gallon stock. He admitted that even though he is a horticulturist, none of the tree seedlings he received from the Arbor Day tree giveaway over the last 10 years has survived. Commissioner Jackson noted that providing a larger specimen creates transportation and storage issues in addition to the increased expense. Commissioner Chapman supported a larger tree regardless of the increased cost if it help promote survivability. Commissioner Sedore supported providing a variety of plant species for compatibility with smaller lot sizes. Commissioner Jackson said several nurseries carry larger trees. This year, some City street trees required replacement. Many of the larger trees in 20-gallon containers obtained through local nurseries were root bound and if not watered appropriately tend not to survive. Commissioner Chapman cited a local nursery that can fill an order with an advance notice of one month at wholesale cost.

Commissioner Chapman offered that many of the local schools have vacant land with and without trees. It might offer another potential way to celebrate Arbor Day by planting trees at local schools and involving students. The City could schedule events at several schools or rotate schools each year. Manager Medrud said he would research potential contacts at local schools. He added that he would consider the discussion and schedule a strategy discussion prior to next year's Arbor Day celebration."