

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*, the first Earth Day occurred 55 years ago on April 22, 1970, and along with Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, is considered by many to be the birth of the modern day environmental movement; and

*WHEREAS*, Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, is credited with founding Earth Day. Senator Nelson envisioned Earth Day as a "national teach-in on the environment", intending to bring environmental protection to the front of the national political agenda. He selected Denis Hayes, raised in Camas, Washington, to organize the first Earth Day. Denis Hayes is the President and CEO of The Bullitt Foundation which promotes sustainability throughout the Pacific Northwest; and

*WHEREAS*, an estimated twenty million Americans from thousands of colleges and schools, in hundreds of communities, participated in the first Earth Day by cleaning up streets and streams, joining rallies, and learning about the environment; and

*WHEREAS*, Historian Jim Brown recalled Tumwater's first celebration of Earth Day and noted local high school students were transported around the City in the back of a dump truck to pick up litter and trash. Today, the Parks and Recreation Department continues this legacy by working with local middle and high school students to plant trees and reduce invasive plants to our environment; and

*WHEREAS*, Earth Day led to the creation of the Washington State Department of Ecology and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the passage of many environmental laws that remain the foundation of environmental protection in Washington State; and

*WHEREAS*, humankind is currently facing tremendous global challenges affecting every community, including large-scale migration, extreme inequality and poverty, degradation of ecosystems, mass extinction of species and global climate change. Expanding environmental education and climate literacy is vital to enhance awareness about the environment, inform decision-making, and protect future generations.

*NOW THEREFORE*, I, Debbie Sullivan, Mayor of the City of Tumwater, do hereby proclaim

*April 22, 2025*

*Earth Day*

in Tumwater, and I call upon the people of Tumwater to reflect on the benefits gained as a result of this unique moment in our history, to look for opportunities in our daily lives to reduce our impact on the environment, and to support the City's efforts to create a more sustainable Tumwater.

Signed in the City of Tumwater, Washington, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, in the year, two thousand twenty-five.



*Debbie Sullivan*

*Debbie Sullivan*  
*Mayor*