

CITY OF COOS BAY PARKS COMMISSION

Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
April 16, 2026	3.b

TO: Chair Lyons & Commissioners

FROM: Greg Hamblet, Operations Administrator

THROUGH: Jennifer Wirsing, Public Works Director

ISSUE: Arbor Day Celebration

SUMMARY:

Arbor Day is a day in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant trees. In the month of April, many countries observe such a day. Though usually observed in the spring, the date varies, depending on climate and suitable planting season per location.

ACTION REQUESTED:

If it pleases the Commission, approve staff's recommendation to plant a total of ten trees in Mingus, Eastside and John Topits Park.

BACKGROUND:

In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. This holiday is called Arbor Day and was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska. Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world. In 2021 through a proclamation, Mayor Joe Benetti & Council established that the last Friday of April will be observed as Arbor Day in the city of Coos Bay.

At the March 25, 2026 Tree Board meeting, staff asked for input on tree types and possible planting locations. The Board was approved 10 trees; five flowering ornamental trees (Flowering Plums, Flowering Cherry, Dog Woods, etc.) in Mingus Park/Eastside Park and five Douglas fir trees in John Topits Park to replace trees lost to storm damage over the past year. However, the Tree Board wanted the Parks Commission to be able to provide input on the locations in where these 10 trees would be planted. If the Commission is agreeable, staff will determine the tree planting location with the guidance provided by the Tree Board.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Budget is part of parks maintenance task.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- 2026_Arbor_Day.pdf