



STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 1, 2025

CONSENT

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Adam Swanepoel, Assistant Public Works Director

AGENDA ITEM: Arbor Day

CORE STRATEGIES:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vibrant, inclusive, connected community | <input type="checkbox"/> Efficient, reliable, innovative services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Responsive, transparent, adaptive governance | <input type="checkbox"/> Balanced Finances now and future |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Managed Growth | <input type="checkbox"/> Resilient Infrastructure |

BACKGROUND:

For the past 20 years the City has taken part in the Tree City USA program. Last year the city planted nearly 1100 trees within our community developments, parks and open space. In 2024 the City gave out nearly 450 trees as part of its Arbor Day Event.

Each year on the last Friday of the month of April, the people of Minnesota pay special tribute to the vital natural resource that our trees represent and dedicate themselves to the continued vitality of our state's community and rural forest.

ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:

Would City Council like to proclaim April 26th to be Arbor Day?

PROPOSAL DETAILS/ANALYSIS:

On Saturday April 26th city staff will host a tree give away at the Public Works site. Free to any residence of Lake Elmo, will be bare root trees. Residents are encouraged to stop by the Lake Elmo Public Works building to get a tree and learn about Arbor Day in Minnesota.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of the yearly tree giveaway has been \$600.

RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to proclaim April 26th to be Arbor Day and the month of May to be Arbor Month in the City of Lake Elmo.

CITY OF LAKE ELMO
2025 ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Minnesota is home to many of our nation's natural resources, foremost among them are our beautiful and abundant forests; and

WHEREAS: Trees are an increasingly vital resource in Minnesota today, enriching our lives by purifying the air, conserving soil, water and energy, creating jobs through a large forest products industry, serving as recreational settings, providing habitat for wildlife of all kinds, and creating beautiful landscapes to make our communities more livable; and

WHEREAS: Disease and insects threaten our trees, creating the need for concerted action to ensure the future of community and rural forests in our state and throughout the country; and

WHEREAS: Each individual can act locally to improve the environment by planting trees and ensuring that these trees are protected and receive proper maintenance in the years ahead; and

WHEREAS: Each year on the last Friday in the month of April, the people of Minnesota pay special tribute to the vital natural resource that our trees represent and dedicate themselves to the continued vitality of our state's community and rural forests;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Charles Cadenhead, Mayor of the City of Lake Elmo, do hereby proclaim April 26, 2025 to be **ARBOR DAY** and May to be **ARBOR MONTH** in Lake Elmo, Minnesota.

Signed this April 1, 2025

Charles Cadenhead, Mayor