

**Dogwood Day Information Packet**  
Spring 2024



*Greetings!*

When the Milwaukie City Council officially adopted the nickname *The Dogwood City of the West* in 1962, the community had been home to the world's largest Pacific dogwood tree for many years. That famous tree, the oldest and largest, stood near the corner of 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Harrison Street, across from where the city's Public Safety Building stands today. Unfortunately, the tree was damaged during the infamous Columbus Day storm of '62 and within ten years had to be removed. Although no longer home to the world's largest, Milwaukie is filled with many dogwoods and proudly remains *The Dogwood City of the West*.

Every year the city commemorates Dogwood Day on May 21, the city's date of incorporation. This year, we are holding our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Instagram photo contest. We encourage everyone to participate by snapping a photo of a dogwood tree in your neighborhood! Check out #milwaukiedogwood social media posts starting in April for more information.

Attached to this letter is an informational packet about the dogwood and Milwaukie's history. You will find print-ready fact sheets and coloring pages, copies of the original City Council resolution adopting the nickname, and more. Be sure to also check out the links below for more Milwaukie history! The city thanks our partners at the Milwaukie Historical Society and the Susannah Lee Barlow Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for their help organizing Dogwood Day activities.

Happy Dogwood Day,

Scott Stauffer, City Recorder  
[stauffers@milwaukieoregon.gov](mailto:stauffers@milwaukieoregon.gov)  
503-786-7502

City of Milwaukie Archives: <https://www.milwaukieoregon.gov/cityrecorder/archives>  
Milwaukie Historical Society and Museum: <http://milwaukiemuseum.com/>



# 1962

---

The Columbus Day Storm severely damaged a historic dogwood tree in Milwaukie. Believed to be the tallest dogwood in the United States, the century-old tree stood over 65 feet high and its trunk measured seven feet in diameter. It helped earn Milwaukie the nickname the Dogwood City of the West.



The historic dogwood tree towered above a house on Harrison Street.



RESOLUTION NUMBER 25-1962

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF AN OFFICIAL FLOWER AND PSEUDONYM (NICKNAME) FOR THE CITY OF MILWAUKIE, OREGON

WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukie does not have an official flower, and

WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukie does not have a distinguishing pseudonym (nickname), and

WHEREAS, most cities use a pseudonym (nickname) or have a trade name which distinguishes it from other cities, and

WHEREAS, the Dogwood Tree (*Cornus nuttalli*) is native to the City of Milwaukie, and

WHEREAS, the oldest and largest Dogwood Tree in the world is in the City of Milwaukie, and

WHEREAS, the popularity of the Dogwood tree can well be attested to by the number that are planted in the yards of the residents of the City of Milwaukie, and

WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukie is and should be considered the Dogwood City of the West, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKIE, OREGON, THAT

SECTION 1. The official flower of the City of Milwaukie shall be the Dogwood blossom (*Cornus nuttalli*, *Cornus florida*, *Cornus florida rubra*) to be used as an identifying emblem on official uniforms, vehicles, stationery, publicity releases, etc., as deemed feasible by the City Administrator.

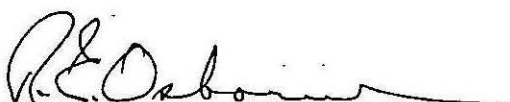
SECTION 2. The Dogwood blossom emblem shall be recommended for use by civic, fraternal, service, commercial, and other recognized organizations in the Milwaukie area in the same manner as suggested in Section 1.

SECTION 3. The official pseudonym (nickname) of the City of Milwaukie shall be The Dogwood City of The West. This name to be used in conjunction with the official City Flower.

ADOPTED THIS 9th DAY OF JULY, 1962.

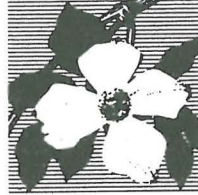
  
Earl M. Clay, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
R. E. Osborne, Recorder

The first Dogwood Day Proclamation (1985)

**CITY OF MILWAUKIE**



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
in the City Hall • phone 659-5171

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF MILWAUKIE WAS INCORPORATED  
ON MAY 21, 1903, AND

WHEREAS, THE DOGWOOD IS THE OFFICIAL EMBLEM OF  
THE CITY OF MILWAUKIE, AND

WHEREAS, THE CITY DESIRES TO PROCLAIM A DAY OF  
COMMUNITY-WIDE CELEBRATION.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD KINSELLA, MAYOR OF THE  
CITY OF MILWAUKIE, OREGON, WITH THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY 21ST AS  
DOGWOOD DAY. I CALL UPON ALL OUR RESIDENTS TO JOIN US  
IN MAKING THIS DAY IN 1985 AND EACH YEAR HEREAFTER A  
DAY TO DEMONSTRATE PRIDE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

RONALD KINSELLA, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARGARET POST, FINANCE DIRECTOR

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the beauty of the native *Cornus nuttallii*, or Pacific Dogwood, was nurtured and cultivated by the earliest settlers of the Milwaukie area; and

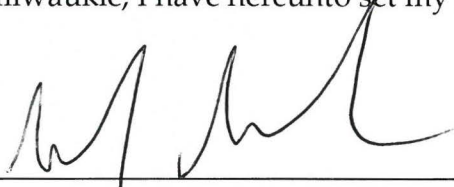
**WHEREAS**, this community was incorporated on May 21, 1903, by the authority of the Oregon State Legislature and Governor George E. Chamberlain; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 9, 1962, the City Council designated the Dogwood as the City's official flower and "The Dogwood City of the West" as the City's nickname; and

**WHEREAS**, by designating May 21st as Dogwood Day this City is making note of our shared heritage with the earth and each other.

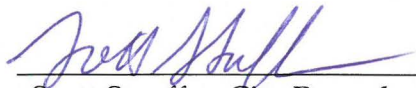
**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mark Gamba, Mayor of the City of Milwaukie, a municipal corporation in the County of Clackamas, in the State of Oregon, do hereby proclaim May 21, 2018, to be Dogwood Day in Milwaukie, *The Dogwood City of the West*.

**IN WITNESS, WHEREOF**, and with the consent of the City Council of the City of Milwaukie, I have hereunto set my hand on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018.



Mark Gamba, Mayor

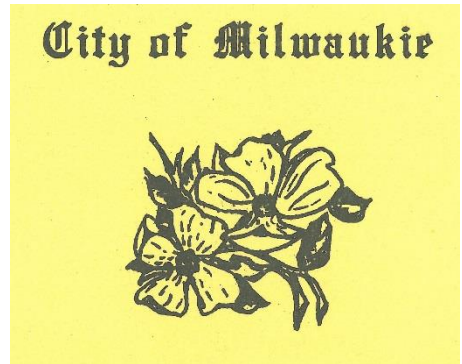
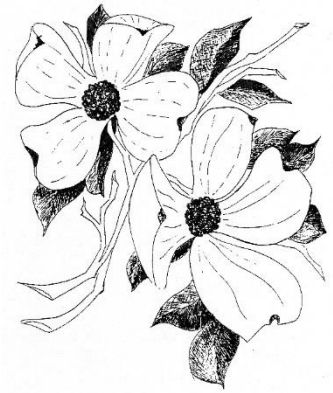
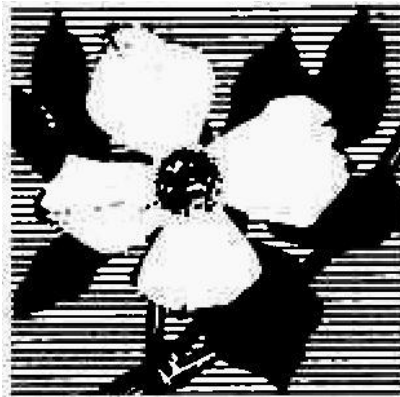
ATTEST:



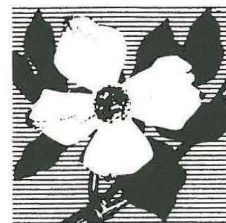
Scott Stauffer, City Recorder



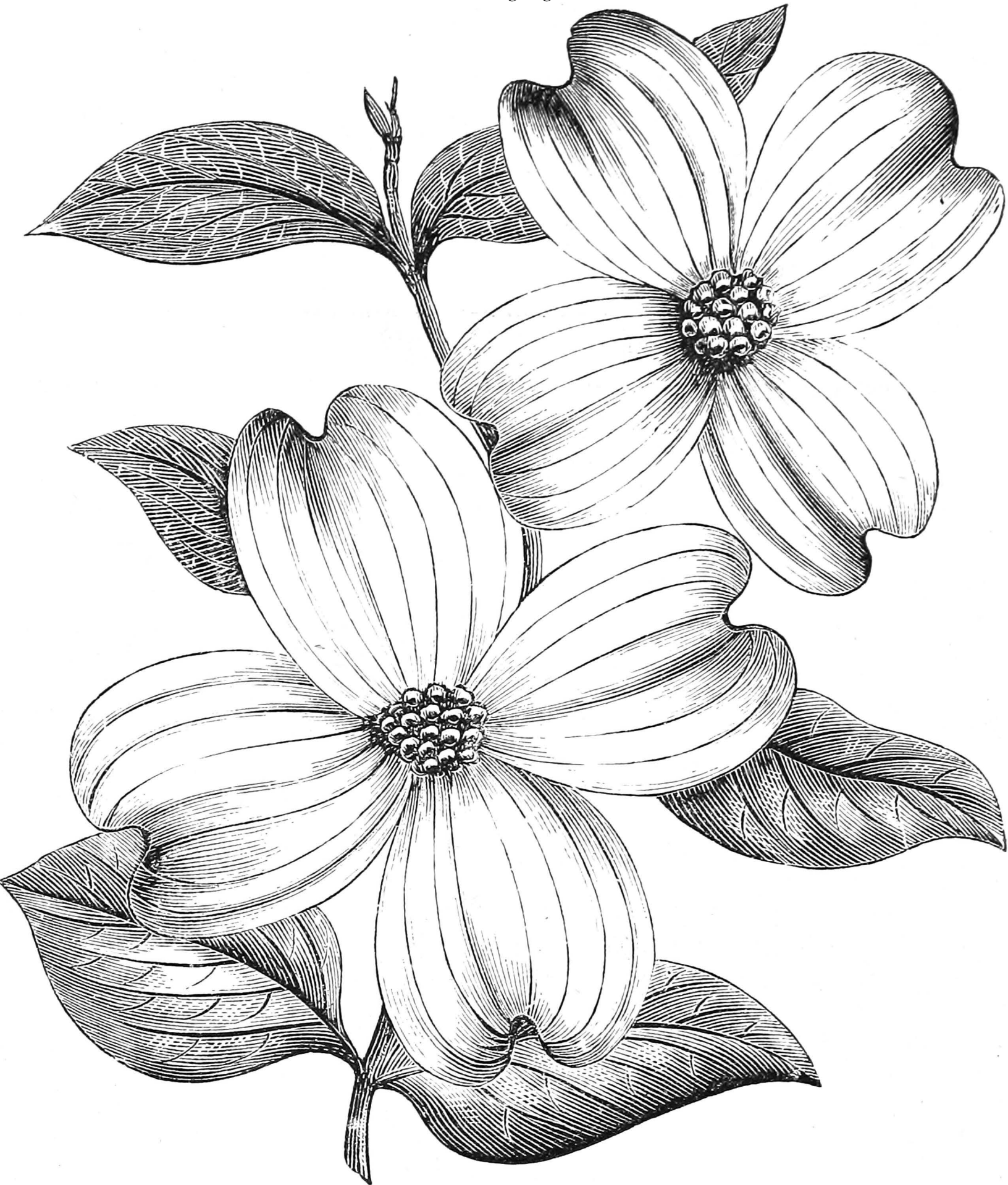
Since being adopted as the City of Milwaukie's official logo in 1962, the Dogwood has seen several forms on City stationary, vehicles, uniforms, flags, lapel pins, and materials. Below are examples of the how the logo has changed over the years.



**CITY OF MILWAUKIE**



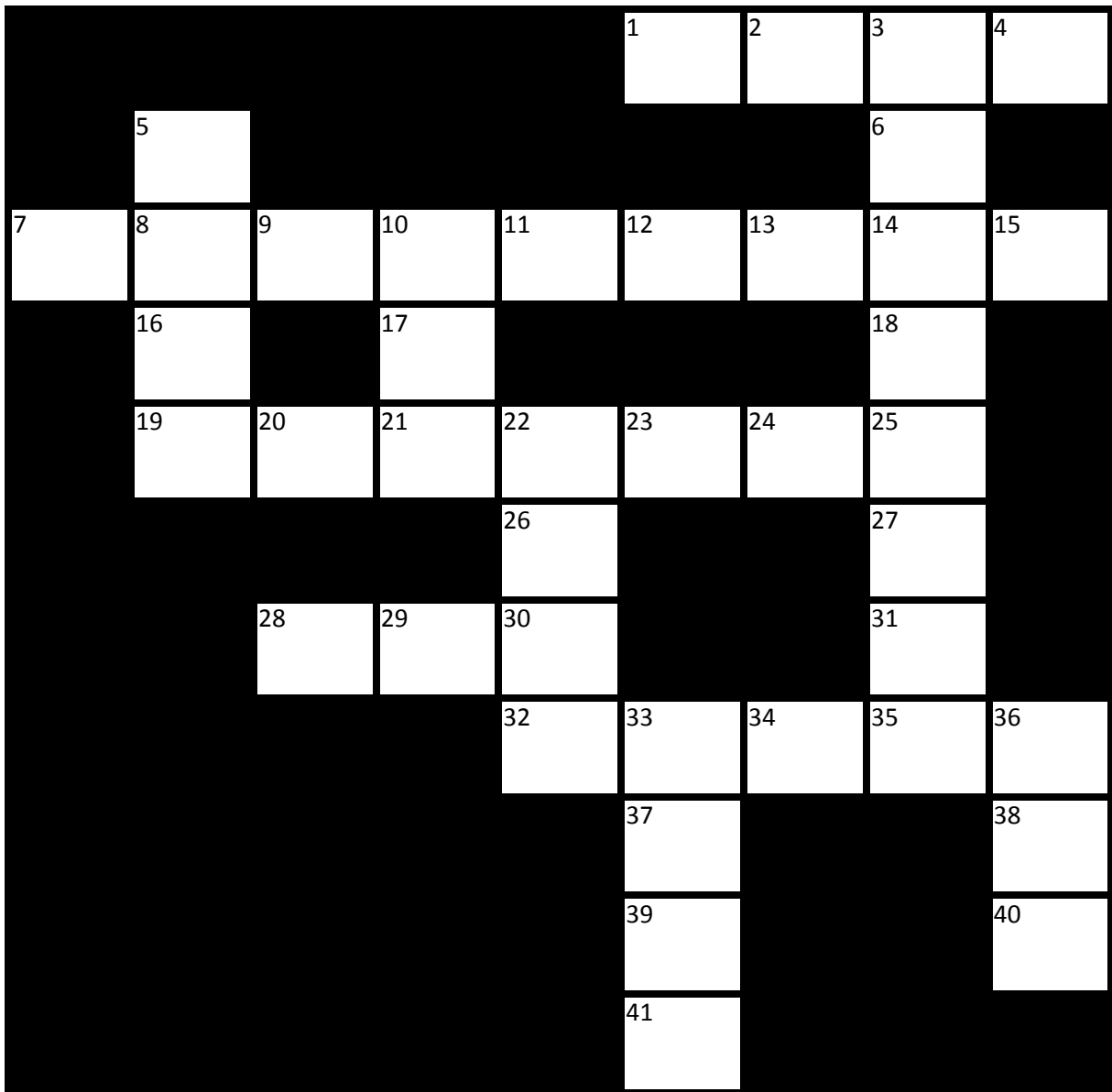
**CITY OF MILWAUKIE**







# DOGWOOD DAY CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

## DOWN

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Motto: Dogwood City of the ____ | 3. Last name of Milwaukie's 1st Mayor  |
| 7. City's name                     | 5. Columbus Day Storm created a lot of |
| 19. Famous tree in Milwaukie       | 10. Dog tail does this                 |
| 28. Sound a ghost makes            | 22. All the _____ down in Whosville    |
| 32. 1962 Columbus Day _____        | 33. All Dogwoods are these             |
|                                    | 36. Month we celebrate Dogwood Day     |

DOGWOOD DAY CROSSWORD  
ANSWER KEY

ACROSS	DOWN
1. West	3. Shindler
7. Milwaukie	5. Wind
19. Dogwood	10. Wag
28. Boo	22. Whos
32. Storm	33. Tree
	36. May