

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, J. Sterling Morton was a Nebraska newspaper editor who served as Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland, and he proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, known as *Arbor Day*, the holiday was first observed on April 10, 1872, with the planting of an estimated one million trees in the state of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, National Arbor Day is celebrated annually on the last Friday in April, this year on April 26, 2024, with many states observing Arbor Day on different dates based on optimum tree planting times for their area, and Florida celebrates Florida Arbor Day each year on the third Friday in January; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, provide fruit and nuts, and beautify our community, and wherever they are planted, trees are a source of joy, artistic beauty, and spiritual renewal; and

WHEREAS, the Arbor Day Foundation, whose mission is to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees, created its *Tree City USA* program in 1976, with the goal of greening communities across the nation, currently totaling nearly 3,600, and for over 40 years, the City of Tampa has received the prestigious *Tree City USA* designation.

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa will celebrate Arbor Day on Saturday, April 13, 2024, and will host its *2nd Annual Mayor Jane Castor's Tree Giveaway*, whereby 500 trees will be given to Tampa residents so they may become stewards of our city's green infrastructure, add to the beauty of our neighborhoods, and create a greener future for us all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 26, 2024, as

"NATIONAL ARBOR DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the importance and value of Tampa's beautiful trees and the impact they make in our lives and support the efforts to protect our trees and woodlands and our city's urban forestry programs.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 4th day of April, 2024.



Jane Castor

Mayor