

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton first proposed that a special commemorative day be officially set aside for the planting of and the acknowledgment of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, designated as Arbor Day, is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, Columbia's forest treasures were a significant attraction to early settlers and because of their usefulness and the beautiful environment they provided; and

WHEREAS, trees can be a low-cost option to help offset the effects of climate change that occur in vulnerable low-income areas by providing shade which reduces energy bills and heat related illnesses, by absorbing rainwater to reduce runoff and effects of flooding, and by filtering out air pollutants reducing symptoms of certain respiratory diseases; and

WHEREAS, trees are an increasingly vital resource in Columbia today, enriching our lives by purifying air and water, helping conserve soil and energy, creating jobs through a large forest products industry, serving as recreational settings, providing habitat for wildlife of all kinds, and making our City more livable; and

WHEREAS, the original message of Earth Day, which has been shared across our country for over 50 years, is still strong, teaching children and adults alike that trees are related to all components of the environment – air, water, soil, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Missouri State Arbor Day and National Arbor Day, the people of Columbia reflect throughout the month of April on the wonderful treasure that trees represent and dedicate themselves to the continued health of our State's urban and rural forests;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara Buffaloe, Mayor of the City of Columbia, Missouri, do hereby proclaim April 2024 to be

ARBOR MONTH

in the City of Columbia, Missouri, and urge all citizens to become more aware of the importance of trees to their well-being, to participate in the tree planting programs that will ensure a green Columbia in decades to come, and to plant, nurture, protect and wisely use Columbia's great treasure of trees.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed hereto the Seal of the City of Columbia, this 1st day of April, 2024.

Barbara Buffaloe

Barbara Buffaloe, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sheela Amin

Sheela Amin, City Clerk

