

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed that the Nebraska Board of Agriculture set aside a special day for the planting of trees, and, the first Arbor Day was observed by the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, reminding us that one person's initiative can make a lasting and meaningful difference, and;

WHEREAS, the last Friday in April has been designated as Arbor Day to encourage the planting of trees and their care and protection from insects, diseases and mistreatments that destroy their beauty and usefulness, and;

WHEREAS, trees improve the physical environment of our community by producing oxygen, absorbing carbon dioxide, reducing erosion of topsoil by wind and water, assisting in the mitigation of storm water accumulation and providing habitat for wildlife, and;

WHEREAS, in 2025 the Village will donate 250 tree seedlings to District 58 schools to encourage environmental stewardship and hands-on learning opportunities for students, fostering a greener community for future generations.

WHEREAS, trees add much more to our community by providing beauty and moderating temperature, and thereby helping reduce heating and cooling needs, increasing property values, bringing about a sense of place and well-being among the concrete and asphalt of urban America, and enhancing the economic vitality of business areas, thereby improving the quality of life for years to come, and;

WHEREAS, for nearly four decades, the Village of Downers Grove has earned national recognition for its exemplary tree care program, once again being named a Tree City USA for its commitment to managing and maintaining nearly 23,000 trees in public parkways. In 2024, the Village further earned recognition by receiving the Tree City USA Growth Award, honoring its outstanding dedication to tree care and community engagement

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert T. Barnett, Mayor of the Village of Downers Grove, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to be **ARBOR DAY** in the Village of Downers Grove and urge all residents to plant and care for their trees now and for future generations.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025 at Downers Grove, Illinois.



Robert T. Barnett, Mayor