

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, 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 over four decades the Village of Downers Grove has earned national recognition for its exemplary tree care program, being named a Tree City USA for its commitment to managing and maintaining nearly 23,000 trees in public parkways.

WHEREAS, in 2026 the Village was awarded a Level Two Arboretum Accreditation through the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and the Morton Arboretum, making Downers Grove only the seventh municipality in Illinois to earn this distinction.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert T. Barnett, Mayor of the Village of Downers Grove, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 24th, 2026, 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 21st day of April 2026 at Downers Grove, Illinois.



Robert T. Barnett, Mayor