

EARTH DAY & ARBOR DAY

WHEREAS, our nation observes two days in April, Earth Day and National Arbor Day, to recognize the significance of protecting the environment and planting trees for a greener tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day was first observed in 1970 in California and Arbor Day in 1872 in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day and Arbor Day are now observed throughout the nation and the world, and 2024 is the 54th anniversary of Earth Day and the 152nd anniversary of Arbor Day; and

WHEREAS, resource conservation, natural systems restoration, and environmental protection are imperative to a sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, urban trees provide a variety of economic, environmental, and human health benefits, including filtering pollutants from the air, moderating temperatures in urbanized areas, and reducing stress levels; and

WHEREAS, in Pinellas County an estimated 100,000 street trees are worth over \$300 million and estimated to provide more than \$7.4 million dollars in ecosystem benefits annually; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County will plant 250 trees to mark the year and gift more than 400 trees to County residents to celebrate Arbor Day; and

WHEREAS, the integrity, health, and resilience of our interconnected human and natural communities depends on our understanding that humans are not separate from nature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners that April 22, 2024, be recognized as

EARTH DAY

And that April 26, 2024, be recognized as

ARBOR DAY

in Pinellas County, Florida, and urge all citizens to join me in supporting efforts to protect our urban trees, natural woodlands, and the resilience of our community by supporting our County's urban forestry and natural resource programs.

FURTHER, urge all citizens to plant trees to promote the well-being of present and future generations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and caused the seal of Pinellas County, Florida, to be affixed this 23rd day of April 2024.