

Proclamation

ARBOR DAY

WHEREAS, on Arbor Day, we celebrate trees and honor their essential role in the ecology of the planet; as the Arbor Day Foundation states, “Trees provide the very necessities of life itself—they clean our air and water...provide habitat for wildlife, connect communities, and support our health and well-being;” and

WHEREAS, the history of Arbor Day dates back to 1872, when J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for planting trees; on April 10, 1872, the date of the first Arbor Day, approximately 1 million trees were planted in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the United States and by nations around the world; and

WHEREAS, while the rise in atmospheric carbon is radically altering the Earth’s environment, trees can help to mitigate this by removing carbon from the atmosphere in a process called carbon sequestration, and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of topsoil, moderate the temperature, and produce oxygen; trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for homes, fuel for fires, and countless other products; and

WHEREAS, trees also increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of commercial areas, and beautify the community; and

WHEREAS, the importance of trees is highlighted in the Town’s Community Climate Action Plan the Comprehensive Plan which outlines objective for enhancing Carrboro’s tree canopy and promoting “the use of native plants and vegetation to mitigate climate change impacts, assist with stormwater mitigation, and reduce heat island effect”; and

WHEREAS, Carrboro has been recognized as a Tree City USA for 39 years by the National Arbor Day Foundation and seeks to encourage open, honest discussion of ecological issues and find solutions to the environmental challenges we face; and

WHEREAS, Julius Sterling Morton once said, “Each generation takes the earth as trustees...we ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed;” and in this spirit, the Town’s Public Works Department will join other communities in celebrating the national observance of Arbor Day by planting a tree at Town Commons; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barbara M. Foushee, Mayor of the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 26, 2024, to be Arbor Day in Carrboro.

This the 23rd day of April 2024.


Barbara M. Foushee

