

# PROCLAMATION

The City of Philadelphia has a long history of planting and caring for trees, providing a multitude of positive environmental and aesthetic benefits for our residents. Philadelphia's urban forest connects each of us to generations past and future, reminding us that the roots we establish to make Philadelphia a great city today will bear fruit for tomorrow's citizens — and long afterward.

Arbor Day is a special time when individuals and organizations are encouraged to plant and care for trees. The first Arbor Day was held on April 10, 1872 in Nebraska and an estimated one million trees were planted that day. Arbor Day promotes the value of trees in building successful, healthy cities and neighborhoods — an important message for every day of the year.

As a City, we have understood for generations the vital services, both aesthetic and physical, that our trees provide, which includes shade for our homes, beauty for our neighborhoods, fresh air for our children, and clean water for our rivers. Other benefits include increased property values, peaceful neighborhoods, energy savings, cooler temperatures, and storm water management.

We continuously employ new initiatives to keep our tree population thriving. Led by the City of Philadelphia's Department of Parks & Recreation, TreePhilly, which started in 2012, distributes over 1,000 free trees to Philadelphians for planting on private properties each spring and fall. The goal is to make Philadelphia the "City of Arborly Love," and the department expects to plant more than 18,500 trees and engage more than 8,000 City residents by the end of Spring 2017.


In Philadelphia, the official Arbor Day celebration is planned to take place at Wissinoming Park on Friday, April 28, 2017. Philadelphia is one of only 16 municipalities in the country that have received the coveted Tree City USA designation from the Arbor Day Foundation since the program began 41 years ago. This designation signifies that for 41 consecutive years Philadelphia has maintained a tree board or department, had a community tree ordinance, spent at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrated Arbor Day. It also showcases the City's commitment to planting and caring for trees for the benefit of Philadelphians, both present and future.

## THEREFORE...

I, James F. Kenney, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 28, 2017 to be

## ARBOR DAY

in Philadelphia, and urge all citizens to take part in tree planting and preservation efforts within their neighborhoods on this special day and throughout the year.

  
James F. Kenney  
Mayor

Given under my hand and the seal of  
the City of Philadelphia on this  
twenty-eighth day of April, two  
thousand and seventeen

