



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, trees provide invaluable environmental, economic, and social benefits to our community, including improving air and water quality, reducing stormwater runoff, enhancing property values, and contributing to overall public health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the City of Delray Beach recognizes the essential role of a thriving urban forest in fostering a sustainable and resilient community, necessitating a comprehensive and ongoing city-wide forestry program to protect and expand our tree canopy for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day, a national holiday established in 1872 and federally recognized in 1970 by President Richard Nixon, serves as a reminder of the importance of tree planting and conservation, and is celebrated annually on the last Friday in April; and

WHEREAS, the Arbor Day Foundation, in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, administers the “Tree City USA” program to support and recognize communities committed to effective urban forest management, a designation that reflects Delray Beach’s dedication to green spaces and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the City of Delray Beach upholds policies and regulations designed to protect and enhance its tree canopy, acknowledging that trees play a critical role in oxygen production, carbon sequestration, air and water filtration, wind and noise reduction, erosion control, biodiversity conservation, and the beautification of public and private spaces; and

WHEREAS, springtime, with its mild temperatures and the onset of the wet season, provides an optimal planting period for many tree species in Southeastern Florida, ensuring their healthy establishment and long-term growth; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Arbor Day, the City of Delray Beach will host an educational event on April 22, 2026, titled “*How to Create Your Own Bird Sanctuary*,” presented by Audubon Everglades, to encourage community engagement in habitat creation and urban biodiversity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THOMAS F. CARNEY, JR., Mayor of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2026, as

ARBOR DAY

in the City of Delray Beach, Florida, and call upon all residents, schools, businesses, and community organizations to participate in Arbor Day activities and reaffirm our shared commitment to protecting and expanding our urban tree canopy for the benefit of current and future generations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 21st day of April 2026.

Thomas F. Carney, Jr.
Mayor