



P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day should be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, **Arbor Day**, first was observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and it now is observed throughout the nation and the world on the **final Friday in April**; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees in our City increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, beautify our community, and are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas City has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the **31st year** in a row and so desires to continue its tree-planting ways; and

WHEREAS, first celebrated 55 years ago in 1970, **Earth Day** is an annual event celebrated around the world on **April 22** to demonstrate support for environmental protection and it now includes events coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network in more than 193 countries; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tad Stover, Mayor of Arkansas City, Kansas, do hereby proclaim **Wednesday, April 22, 2026**, as

EARTH DAY

in the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, and furthermore does also do hereby proclaim **Friday, April 24, 2026**, as

ARBOR DAY

in the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, and urge all citizens to support efforts to care for our trees and woodlands and to support our city's community forestry program, to plant trees to gladden the hearts and promote the well-being of present and future generations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this seal to be affixed.

TAD STOVER, MAYOR

March 3, 2026