

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

PROCLAMATION

Arbor Day - Arbor Month

Trees and forest soils play a vital role in protecting our environment. They help clean our lakes and streams by naturally filtering pollutants and sediments. Forest soils act like sponges, absorbing and storing rainwater and snowmelt, reducing stormwater runoff, and preventing flooding. This water is then slowly released into our lakes, streams, and groundwater, keeping our ecosystems balanced.

Thoughtful management of our forests is one of the most effective ways to protect our drinking water and reduce the cost of water treatment. Forested public lands surrounding the Mississippi River provide over one million Minnesotans with clean drinking water. In fact, about three-quarters of all Minnesotans rely on drinking water that originates in our state's forested regions.

Planting and caring for trees is one of the most straightforward and powerful actions to protect our water and environment. Trees connect us to clean water, air, shade, beauty, and climate resilience.

Each year, on the last Friday in April and throughout May, Minnesotans unite to recognize and celebrate trees' essential role in our lives. It is a time to recommit to nurturing the vitality of our forests and planting seeds for a healthier future.

In Columbia Heights, we will celebrate **Arbor Day on Friday, April 24, 2026**, with a special tree planting event. Our City Forester will be on hand to share knowledge and answer questions. Children are invited to participate in the planting and learn about the importance of trees in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor of Columbia Heights, Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Friday, April 24, 2026 as **Arbor Day**, and the month of May 2026, as **Arbor Month** in the City of Columbia Heights.

Let us celebrate by planting, protecting, and appreciating the trees that sustain us all.

Amáda Márquez Simula, Mayor
April XX, 2026