



## ARBOR DAY

**WHEREAS**, Union Colony founder Nathan Meeker promised that a network of irrigation ditches would eventually transform Greeley into the “Garden Spot of the West” and in June 1870, ordered trees from Illinois which arrived by boxcar and which were “heeled in” along the banks of the Cache la Poudre river near Island Grove Park; and

**WHEREAS**, these original trees did not survive the first winter, Meeker encouraged Colonists to participate in “Village Improvement Campaigns” which meant - “Plant Trees!” Trees growing along the Cache la Poudre and in the foothills west of Greeley were dug up, brought to Lincoln Park by wagons, and transplanted to the park’s lawn areas adjacent to the streets. With 100-foot-wide streets, these trees had ample space to grow and provide a shaded canopy over the streets and sidewalks; and

**WHEREAS**, “Mr. Meeker used to say that those who took pleasure in setting out trees lived longer than those who took no interest in that direction”; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1872 J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees which culminated in the planting of over one million trees in Nebraska; and

**WHEREAS**, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

**WHEREAS**, as leaves appear on thousands of Greeley’s trees with the arrival of spring, we are reminded again that trees are, and always will be, an integral part of Greeley’s urban and residential design; and

**WHEREAS**, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, John Gates, Mayor of the City of Greeley, Colorado, do hereby proclaim April 29, 2023 as *Arbor Day* in the City of Greeley, and I urge all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands and to plant trees to promote the well-being of present and future generations.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Greeley, Colorado, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.

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John Gates  
Mayor