



City of Rochelle, Illinois  
Office of the Mayor  
Proclamation

# Arbor Day

## April 24, 2026

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

**WHEREAS**, the holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

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

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

**WHEREAS**, trees are renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

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

**WHEREAS**, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, John Bearrows, Mayor of the City of Rochelle, do hereby proclaim **April 24, 2026**, as in the City of Rochelle, and I urge all citizens to celebrate **Arbor Day** and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

**FURTHER**, I urge citizens to plant and care for trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

**In witness thereof**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Rochelle to be affixed.

Dated this 27th day of April 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Bearrows, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_



RoseMary Huéramo, City Clerk