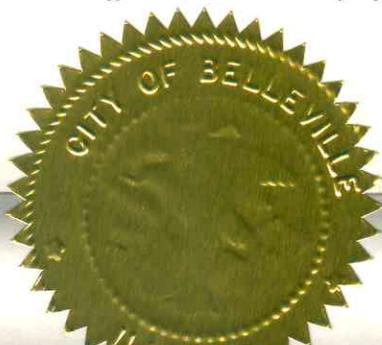


# Proclamation

- 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; and*
- WHEREAS,** *this holiday called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than one 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 oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife; and*
- WHEREAS,** *trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and*
- WHEREAS,** *trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and*
- WHEREAS,** *trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The City of Belleville desires to continue its tree-planting program.*

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Mark W. Eckert, Mayor of the City of Belleville, Illinois do hereby proclaim **April 30, 2021**, as **Arbor Day** in the City of Belleville, and urge all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, to support our city's urban forestry program, and 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 the seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.



*Mark W. Eckert*

Mark W. Eckert, Mayor  
Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021