

GEORGIA ARBOR DAY

- WHEREAS:** The first Arbor Day was celebrated in 1872 in Nebraska as a special day for planting trees and has grown to thousands of celebrations in communities across our nation each year; and
- WHEREAS:** Community Partners, families, and friends will be joined together at local *Arbor Day* ceremonies to recognize the benefits of trees and urban forests; and
- WHEREAS:** Trees will be planted across the state creating a lasting legacy for future generations; and
- WHEREAS:** Trees improve water quality and quantity, reduce the erosion of precious topsoil, increase property values and economic vitality in business areas, provide shade, cleanse the air, create habitat for wildlife, and add beauty to communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Trees promote outdoor recreation which improves human health and well-being and reduces “Nature-Deficit Disorder” in children by encouraging more activity and connection to the natural world; and
- WHEREAS:** All of Georgia benefits from forestry, which contributes billions of dollars annually to our state’s economy and provides employment for more than 100,000 people; and
- WHEREAS:** The City of Smyrna has been a Tree City for 20 years due to the celebration of *Arbor Day*; now
- THEREFORE:** I, Derek Norton, Mayor of the City of Smyrna, do hereby proclaim February 20, 2023 as *Arbor Day* in the City of Smyrna, and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and plant trees thus leaving a legacy for present and future generations.