



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

ARBOR DAY

- WHEREAS: The first Arbor Day was celebrated in 1872 as a special day for planting trees. Today, the Arbor Day is marked by thousands of celebrations in communities across our nation each year; and
- WHEREAS: This Arbor Day, community partners, families, and friends will join together at local ceremonies, as well as at a statewide ceremony in Atlanta, to recognize the benefits of trees and urban forests; and
- WHEREAS: Community trees improve public health and air and water quality, reduce the erosion of precious topsoil, increase property values and economic vitality in business areas, increase energy efficiency through shade, provide habitat for wildlife and beautify neighborhoods, parks, streets and residential developments; and
- WHEREAS: Trees promote human, physical and mental health and well-being, and create healthier environments for children to live, study and play; and
- WHEREAS: Community forestry leaders and Tree City, Tree Campus and Tree Line USA partners will gather at the annual Georgia Mayors' Symposiums on Trees and Statewide Arbor Day celebrations in Atlanta, Athens, Columbus and Woodbine to celebrate "Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives" and to recognize the benefits of trees and the Georgia Forestry Commission's urban and community forestry program; and
- WHEREAS: All of Georgia benefits from urban and community forestry, which contributes more than \$4 billion to our state's economy and provides employment for more than 45,000 people; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 16, 2018, as ARBOR DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 2nd day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF