

WHEREAS; celebrated annually in Wisconsin on the last Friday in April, Arbor Day is an international holiday dedicated to planting trees and honoring the importance of trees and forests; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin has more than a century-long commitment to reforestation, and for more than four decades, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has provided tree seedlings to the state's fourth-grade students for their Arbor Day celebrations, including more than 55,000 free seedlings for 2026; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's 17 million acres of forests, along with the state's urban forest infrastructure, offer a natural climate solution with countless environmental and quality-of-life benefits that include storing carbon, protecting air and water quality, capturing and filtering stormwater, enhancing wildlife habitats, supplying renewable energy, reducing energy consumption, cooling urban landscapes, and supporting social connection; and

WHEREAS; recognized during the period that begins with Earth Day and ends with Arbor Day, Forest Appreciation Week is a time to acknowledge Wisconsin's trees and forests for their importance to the state's environment, economy, public health, and collective identity; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's trees and forests are among the state's most beautiful and critical natural resources, and educating kids, families, and communities about sustainable forestry is vital to their long-term conservation; and

WHEREAS; in 2021, Wisconsin joined the global Trillion Tree Initiative, pledging to work with public, private, and nongovernmental partners to conserve 125,000 acres of forestland and plant 75 million trees by the end of 2030, and, in 2024, the state increased the pledge to 100 million trees planted; and

WHEREAS; in 2025, the fourth year of Wisconsin's Trillion Tree Initiative pledge, approximately 12 million trees were planted across the state, and more than 7,000 acres of forestland were conserved; and

WHEREAS; in 2026, the National Arbor Day Foundation celebrates the 50th anniversary of its Tree City USA program, and, in Wisconsin, 196 communities have earned Tree City USA status through their commitment of time, effort, and funding to promote tree planting, care, and awareness; and

WHEREAS; this Arbor Day and Forest Appreciation Week, the state of Wisconsin encourages all Wisconsinites to spend time outdoors, plant and care for trees, and show gratitude towards the professionals who dedicate their time to caring for the state's trees and forests;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 20 through 24 2026 as

FOREST APPRECIATION WEEK

and April 24, 2026, as

ARBOR DAY

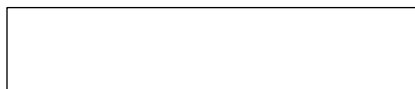
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 13th day of April 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State