



# *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 a million trees in Nebraska, and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

**WHEREAS,** trees 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 are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, 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; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Merced has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 44<sup>th</sup> consecutive year and desires to continue its tree-planting practices.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Matthew Serratto, Mayor** of the City of Merced, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2025, as ARBOR DAY in the City of Merced, and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and further urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Signed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2025.

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*Matthew Serratto, Mayor of Merced*