



# *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, which is now called **Arbor Day** and was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

**WHEREAS**, over the last few years, the value and importance of trees has become increasingly clear. Cities and towns across the globe are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, and energy use. Gastonia has taken steps to create to brighter, greener future; and

**WHEREAS**, the trees being planted and cared for by Gastonia are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy to better quality of life. Additionally, participation as a Tree City USA affiliate brings residents together and creates sense of civic pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education; and

**WHEREAS**, March 15<sup>th</sup> is Arbor Day in North Carolina, and Keep Gastonia Beautiful will observe Arbor Day across the City, urging citizens to plant trees in their neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, Gastonia has been named Tree City USA for our 23<sup>rd</sup> year, and on that day shall receive this award to celebrate the anniversary of Arbor Day and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Richard Franks, Mayor, and the City Council of the City of Gastonia do hereby proclaim **March 5, 2024** as

## **ARBOR DAY**

and support **Keep Gastonia Beautiful's Arbor Day Celebrations** and urge all citizens to celebrate **Arbor Day** by supporting the efforts to protect our trees and woodlands; and

**FURTHER**, I encourage all citizens to plant trees in Gastonia for our future generations.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-twentyfour.

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Richard Franks, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk