



Gahanna  
*Proclamation*

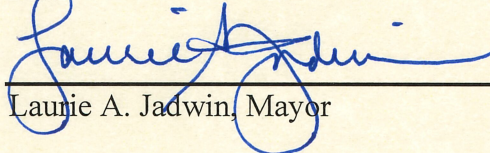
**ARBOR DAY**  
*April 26, 2024*

- 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, leading to the planting of more than one million trees during the first “Arbor Day” celebration; and
- WHEREAS:** Trees play a critical role in creating healthier, safer, and more connected communities by reducing erosion of precious topsoil by wind and water, lowering heating and cooling costs, absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen, reducing stress, encouraging physical activity, and increasing civic pride; and
- WHEREAS:** In 2023, Gahanna again was recognized as a “Tree City USA” by the Arbor Day Foundation, a designation the City has earned for more than 30 years. Supporting a thriving tree inventory positively impacts our city by increasing property values, adding to the vitality of business areas, beautifying our community, and enhancing the environmental quality of our neighborhoods; and
- WHEREAS:** Gahanna Forestry Supervisor Julie Predieri has been vital to the City’s success in building upon its honored legacy as a “Tree City.” Since beginning her work with Gahanna in 2018, Julie has spearheaded many critical projects that have enhanced the tree canopy within the City, most notably, the creation of a Level 1 certified Arboretum at Creekside Park, which identifies 40 species of trees and transitioned the park into an outdoor educational space and conservation area for our community; and
- WHEREAS:** Under Julie’s leadership, the Forestry Division of the Gahanna Department of Parks & Recreation has planted a minimum of one hundred trees each year, with 108 new trees planted and 276 trees pruned in 2023, enhancing the City’s present and future tree canopy; and
- WHEREAS:** Julie’s dedication and work ethic have garnered the respect of her Parks & Recreation industry peers around the State, as she is a regular speaker at statewide conferences, serves on regional committees, and often is asked to advise on forestry topics from other agencies throughout the State; and
- WHEREAS:** In February 2024, Julie’s extraordinary efforts to build and protect the City’s tree canopy led the National Parks & Recreation Association to select her for recognition in its “30 Under 30” program, which celebrates the top thirty young professionals nationwide for their community impact and contributions to the field of parks and recreation; and
- WHEREAS:** The City of Gahanna extends heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to Julie Predieri for her work in enhancing our Gahanna community, and further commends the efforts of its citizens, members of our Parks & Recreation Department, Landscape Board, schools, and civic and service organizations for their work in planting trees for future generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, do hereby recognize and congratulate Julie Predieri for her exceptional efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, urge Gahanna citizens to plant and care for trees to promote the well-being of this and future generations, and do hereby proclaim April 26, 2024, as

**ARBOR DAY**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Gahanna, Ohio, to be affixed on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four.



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Laurie A. Jadwin, Mayor

