



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### GEORGIA ARBOR DAY

- WHEREAS:** The first Arbor Day was celebrated in 1872 as a special day for planting trees and has grown to thousands of celebrations in communities across our nation each year; and
- WHEREAS:** Community trees improve public health, air and water quality, minimize erosion of topsoil, and boost property values and economic vitality in business areas. Through their shade, trees also increase energy efficiency, and provide habitats for wildlife. Trees beautify neighborhoods, parks, streets, and residential developments; and
- WHEREAS:** All Georgians benefit from urban and community forestry, which contributes more than \$4 billion to our state's economy and provides employment for more than 46,000 people; and
- WHEREAS:** Community forestry leaders and partners, abiding by COVID-19 pandemic precautions, will come together virtually at the annual statewide Arbor Day celebration to celebrate the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA, and Tree Line USA programs as well as the Georgia Forestry Commission's Sustainable Community Forestry Programs; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 19, 2021 as ARBOR DAY in Georgia and encourage our citizens to plant trees, thus leaving a legacy for present and future Georgians.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Manton Kippenich*

CHIEF OF STAFF