

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

J. Sterling Morton initiated the holiday in 1872 in Nebraska and is credited as the father of Arbor Day nationally. The first holiday in Nebraska was celebrated with the planting of over a million trees. Today it is observed in all 50 states and many countries around the world.

Arbor Day is a celebration of trees. The benefits of trees are plentiful and far reaching, including:

- Cleaning our air by absorbing common air pollutants
- Improving local water quality by reducing rainwater runoff and erosion
- Providing important habitat for birds and wildlife
- Providing shade from the sun's ultraviolet rays and
- Capturing information about historical climate through the study of tree rings.

Here at NASA Langley, trees also provide invaluable beauty to the Center. NASA Langley is privileged to have many old and stunning tree specimens that have been here since pre-NACA days. The concern for the health of our trees (here and in our communities) is everyone's responsibility.

NASA Langley is celebrating 2024 Earth Day & Arbor Day in person and virtually throughout the month of April. In support of natural resources, we will continue conducting reforestation projects including replacing trees that have been removed due to construction projects.

I urge all employees to participate in Earth Day & Arbor Day activities and support our efforts to protect trees and the environment. In addition, the Environmental Management Office will have online informational resources and engagement opportunities, a presentation, Center bird walk, and plastic bag recycling collection available throughout the month of April in honor of Earth Day & Arbor Day.

Further, I encourage everyone to plant and care for trees to promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Kristen Poultney
Head, Environmental Management Office