

**In Recognition of
Arbor Day**

- WHEREAS,** Arbor Day is symbolic of the early conservation movement and has been observed in the United States in various ways for over 140 years; and
- WHEREAS,** trees are responsible for creating a more sustainable environment by producing oxygen, reducing stormwater, cooling urban areas, and
- WHEREAS,** trees provide critical habitat for local and migrating wildlife and the City is in process of becoming a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat; and
- WHEREAS,** enhancement of the beauty of the City's landscape by the planting of trees furnishes not only an economic value but a human value that is beneficial to all; and
- WHEREAS,** for efforts in 2014, the City of Fort Lauderdale has been recognized as TREE CITY, USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for its 36th year due to its longstanding active urban forestry program; and
- WHEREAS,** in its Strategic Plan, the City has identified "Cultivate our urban forest" as one of its strategic objectives; and
- WHEREAS,** the City has made significant progress towards its Strategic Plan goal of 23.6% tree canopy citywide by increasing from 20.6% in 2013 to 23.2% presently; and
- WHEREAS,** The City of Fort Lauderdale does concur with the Governor of the State of Florida that Arbor Day should be commemorated by the planting of trees.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, as City Commissioners of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, do hereby proclaim the day of **April 25, 2015** as:

ARBOR DAY

In the City of Fort Lauderdale which will be observed in Florence C. Hardy Park with a ceremony at 9 AM followed by a tree giveaway event from 10 AM to 2 PM.

DATED this, the 21st day of April 2015.

Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

