

2024  
Tree City USA  
40 year recognition



City of Coral Gables  
Commission Meeting

March 11, 2025

CORAL  
GABLES  
THE CITY BEAUTIFUL





*The City of Coral Gables is incredibly proud to celebrate Coral Gables' remarkable achievement of being recognized as a Tree City USA for 40 years. This milestone is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our Public Works Greenspace Management Division, who continue to care for and manage our urban forest with cutting-edge technology and a deep commitment to community involvement. Every tree planted and every effort made to preserve our lush landscape strengthens the connection between our residents and the environment. Here's to another 40 years of growth, sustainability, and beauty in our beloved city!*

**To earn Tree City USA certification,  
a community must meet 4 basic requirements**

**Tree board**

A department or group must be in charge of managing and caring for trees within the city.

**Tree ordinance**

The city needs a local law or policy to protect and manage trees.

**Tree program**

The city must have an organized plan to plant, maintain, and care for trees.

**Arbor Day**

The city must celebrate Arbor Day each year with a public event or activity.



# 2024 Arbor Day celebration



## 2024 Arbor Day celebration

CITY OF CORAL GABLES



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

# PROCLAMATION

*WHEREAS, Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than one million trees in Nebraska City, Nebraska on April 10, 1872, an idea that was first proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture by J. Sterling Morton. This event later evolved into a holiday that is celebrated and sponsored annually since 1985 by the City of Coral Gables, in conjunction with the City's Landscape Beautification Advisory Board and the Coral Gables Garden Club, as a reminder of the significance of our City's trees; and*

*WHEREAS, trees provide countless benefits to our community, including environmental, public health, social and economic benefits by improving our air quality, providing us with shade, enhancing our parks and public spaces, filtering and reducing stormwater runoff into our waterways, providing a natural habitat to our neighborhood wildlife while simultaneously increasing property values, and enhancing the vitality of the City's business areas while beautifying our community and business areas alike; and*

*WHEREAS, Coral Gables Founder George Merrick recognized and emphasized the importance of the natural beauty of this tropical landscape, and consequently hired Landscape Architect Frank Button, designer of Lincoln Park in Chicago, to design the grand vistas and tree-lined streets that still convey a quality of centuries-old permanence; and*


*WHEREAS, 2024 marks the ninety-ninth anniversary of the founding of the City of Coral Gables, as well as the thirty-ninth year as a "Tree City USA," accentuating the City's commitment and involvement of our citizenry, board members and employees alike, in furtherance of conserving our City's picturesque landscape;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, VINCE LAGO, as Mayor of Coral Gables, along with the members of our City Commission, do hereby proclaim April 26, 2024 as:*

## **"ARBOR DAY IN CORAL GABLES"**

*IN OBSERVANCE THEREOF, I call upon the citizens of the City of Coral Gables to join me in recognizing this annual noteworthy occasion – while concomitantly continuing our endeavor to preserve our City's valuable tree resource heritage, by supporting those efforts aimed at promoting our environment.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto placed my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Coral Gables to be affixed on this sixteenth day of April A.D., 2024.*

  
Vince Lago  
Mayor

*Rhonda Anderson*  
Vice Mayor

*Melissa Castro*  
Commissioner

*Ariel Fernandez*  
Commissioner

*Kirk R. Menendez*  
Commissioner



## Coral Way and Red Road proposed location for Tree City USA recognition



## Miracle Mile and Douglas Road proposed location for Tree City USA recognition



THANK YOU



CORAL  
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