



Saturday,
April 25, 2026
12:00 p.m.

Highspire Memorial Park

The Annual Arbor Day Ceremony is sponsored by the Borough of Highspire and is organized by the Environmental Advisory Board.

The History of Arbor Day

Arbor Day sprouted from the mind of a zealous tree lover named Julius Sterling Morton, who had a passion for planting all kinds of trees.

The first Arbor Day occurred on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska City, Nebraska. It's estimated that nearly one million trees were planted on this day.

By 1885, Arbor Day had become a legal holiday in Nebraska. (The date was changed to April 22 to honor Morton's birthday, which was also the 22nd of April.) On that day, thousands of Nebraska City citizens turned out for one big party, including 1,000 school-children who formed a parade.

Within 20 years of its creation, the holiday was celebrated in every American state except Delaware, which eventually joined in.

Morton found it particularly pleasing that schools across the country began celebrating Arbor Day by dedicating the trees they planted to special people.

Arbor Day Ceremony
Highspire, Pennsylvania
Saturday, April 25, 2026 ~ 12:00 p.m.

Program

Opening Remarks

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor's Proclamation of Arbor Day

Poem Readings – Racyne & Gianna Accorsi

The Community Band Performance

State Representative David Madsen

Presentation of Highspire's
34th Tree City USA Award to the
Environmental Advisory Board

2026 Ceremonial Planting

In Memory of

Wayne Shank

The Community Band Performance

Concluding Remarks and Dismissal

Environmental Advisory Board

Ann Castaneira, Chairperson

Arlene Smith, Member

Deanna J. Proctor, Member

Mark Stonbraker, Member

Debbie Ebersole, Secretary

Participating

Mayor Von E. Hess

Racyne & Gianna Accorsi

Rep. David Madsen

The Community Band



Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my country, it's air, soil and minerals, it's forests, waters and wildlife.

Conservation of natural resources is the key to the safety and prosperity of all the people of the world, for all time to come.