

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria recognizes its natural environment is irreplaceable and fragile and must be preserved for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day is a national event to increase people's understanding of their environment and mobilize support for its protection and was first celebrated 44 years ago, namely March 1970; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Policy Commission was formed 44 years ago, in January 1970, to advise the City Council on all matters environmental; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency was created 44 years ago, in December 1970, to protect the environment and public health; and

WHEREAS, the National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the City of Alexandria as a Tree City USA every year since 1983 and by planting a tree every year on Alexandria Earth Day, the City demonstrates the importance of trees as the backbone of our urban habitat and its commitment to the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Earth Day Committee, in partnership with the Environmental Policy Commission, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, and the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, sponsors the twentieth annual Earth Day Celebration at Ben Brenman Park; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria City Public Schools has appointed an Environmental Steward for every school and, working closely with City officials, Environmental Policy Commission members, parents, teachers and ACPS officials, the Superintendent's Environmental Stewardship Committee has prepared an Action Plan for all concerned but especially the children; and

WHEREAS, because of the generous support of Alexandria's business community, non-profit organizations, and our civic leaders' commitment to the values of environmental stewardship, Earth Day has become Alexandria's premier environmental celebration; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria recognizes the important role that water plays in our environment and in our daily lives, and that positively impacting the future of this planet is in the hands of the entire Alexandria community, so this year's Earth Day theme will be "Water: Every Drop Counts!"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria, as a signatory to the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement and similar agreements, has, with aid of the Environmental Policy Commission, adopted in June 2008 the Environmental Charter and, in June 2009, an Environmental Action Plan to lead the city through to 2030.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim April 19, 2014, as:

"ALEXANDRIA EARTH DAY AND ARBOR DAY"

in the City of Alexandria and hereby commend all persons who are committed to and work towards preserving our environment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 8th day of April, 2014.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk