

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 49 years ago, namely March 1970; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Policy Commission was formed 49 years ago, namely January 1970, to advise the City Council on all matters environmental; 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 Planning Committee, in partnership with the Alexandria City Public Schools, Environmental Policy Commission, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, and the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, sponsors the twenty sixth annual Earth Day Celebration at the Lenny Harris Memorial Fields; 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, in partnership with the Environmental Policy Commission and Virginia Tech Alexandria Campus, adopted in June 2008 the Eco-City Charter and, in June 2009 the Environmental Action Plan 2030 to lead the city toward sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria, in partnership with the Environmental Policy Commission is presently updating the Environmental Action Plan to build upon the achievement of the current plan and to lead the city toward further improving its sustainability performance; Phase 1 of the updated Environmental Action Plan was approved by Council on October 13, 2018 and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria hosted an Eco-City Summit on March 9, 2019; a forum where 150 community members offered input on the draft recommendations for the Phase 2 portion of the Environmental Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria recognizes the important role and contribution that each Alexandria resident can do daily to make the City an Eco-City, so this year's Earth Day theme will be "Climate Change-Take Action!"

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim April 27, 2019 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 9th day of April, 2019.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk