

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria recognizes that 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

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 fifteenth annual Earth Day Celebration at Ben Brenman Park; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Earth Day Committee partners with several community organizations to celebrate Earth Day, including the Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, and Spring for Alexandria; and

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

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria recognizes that carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere have a profound effect on the Earth's climate and so this Earth Day's theme will ask the question 'What's Your Carbon Footprint?'; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria, as a signatory to the U. S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement and similar agreements, has charged the Environmental Policy Commission to work with City staff to prepare a new Environmental Charter and Action Plan for not only the City but also for the citizens of this city, and that a draft of the new charter will be made available for public inspection and comment on April 26th at the Earth Day celebration, prior to the important Environmental Eco-Summit on May 10, 2008.

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 26, 2008, 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 2008.

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

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk