

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, all species play a unique role in the complex web of life and contribute to the ecosystem services on which all life depends, and protecting these species is essential to the long-term survival of the planet and its inhabitants; and

**WHEREAS**, wild animal populations worldwide have declined on average by more than half, and the Earth is facing an era of accelerated species loss and mass extinction; and

**WHEREAS**, sustainability can only be achieved by meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; and

**WHEREAS**, it is more important than ever to work collaboratively—locally, nationally, and globally—to protect environmental progress and ensure a healthy, resilient planet for all; and

**WHEREAS**, expanding and diversifying the environmental movement strengthens collective action and maximizes progress toward ecological protection, environmental justice, and climate resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, we continue to face extraordinary challenges, including global health crises, food and water instability, climate change, increasingly severe weather events, economic inequities, and environmental degradation; and

**WHEREAS**, the national theme for Earth Day 2026—“Our Power, Our Planet”—reflects a commitment to stewardship, resilience, and shared accountability, calling upon individuals, communities, governments, and institutions to exercise their collective power in service to the planet; and

**WHEREAS**, Earth Day serves as an annual reminder of the ongoing need for environmental advocacy, responsible stewardship, and continued dedication to sustainability efforts at all levels of society.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the Chapel Hill Mayor and Town Council, do hereby proclaim April 22, 2026 as

## Earth Day

in the Town of Chapel Hill and encourage all individuals, organizations, and communities to join in activities that protect our environment, support biodiversity, promote sustainability, and honor our shared responsibility to safeguard the Earth for future generations.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL, ON THIS THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF APRIL IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX.

