

Proclamation

WHEREAS, for more than 10 years, Neal and Jeanette Bench have served faithfully as advocates for parks, greenways, recreational opportunities for all, and sustainable practices in Chapel Hill; and

WHEREAS, their work has spanned across a variety of Boards, Commissions, Task Forces, Work Groups, and other organizations; and

WHEREAS, together they have founded and organized the incredibly successful Adopt-A-Trail program that has served as a model and motivator for other individuals and groups in our community; and

WHEREAS, in the four years since the Adopt-A-Trail group was formed, the program has had over 600 volunteers whose work has resulted in the planting of over 700 native plants and clearing of approximately 5 acres of invasive plants; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their advocacy, Neal and Jeanette have been instrumental in securing funding for initiatives that support healthy lifestyles, particularly for low income and marginalized families; and

WHEREAS, they have used their positions to advocate for funds needed to maintain the quality and safety of our facilities, including our fields, greenways, tennis and pickleball courts, and indoor facilities; and

WHEREAS, at a ceremony today, Neal and Jeanette were awarded the Raburn "Rip" Jackson award by the North Carolina Recreation & Park Association in recognition of the impact they have had in Chapel Hill and their contributions to the Town's Parks & Recreation department.

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of their work to advocate, raise funds, and facilitate partnerships between the Town's Parks & Recreation department and other community organizations, we hereby express our deep gratitude to:

Neal and Jeanette Bench

for their dedication to the Chapel Hill and Orange County communities and encourage everyone to join us in thanking them for their hard work in support of the Town's Parks & Recreation facilities, programs and goals.

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



Pam Hemm