

Proclamation

WHEREAS, creeks, streams, rivers, and other waterways support outdoor recreation, fisheries, healthy lifestyles, and safe drinking water supplies; and

WHEREAS, to encourage people to explore and clean up local creeks and streams, the first Creek Week in central North Carolina was observed in the City of Durham in 2009, and is now observed by many local governments across the state; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Creek Weeks, many local governments and organizations across central and eastern North Carolina have conducted Big Sweeps and other efforts to clean up trash in waterways; and

WHEREAS, Regional Creek Week, started by the NC Clean Water Education Partnership in 2021, is a special week set aside for CWEP-affiliated local governments to work together concurrently to celebrate and steward local creeks and streams; and

WHEREAS, the first annual Orange County Creek Week is coordinated by the Towns of Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and Hillsborough; Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA); the Orange County Department of Environment, Agriculture, Parks and Recreation; UNC Institute for the Environment; Sustainable Carolina; UNC Energy Services; and UNC Environment, Health, and Safety; and

WHEREAS, the City of Durham's Creek Week alone has removed over 160,000 pounds of trash from waterways since the first Creek Week celebration; and

WHEREAS, this impact could be greatly magnified through the collective efforts of additional local governments, organizations and individuals working together to educate about and protect our waterways; and

WHEREAS, healthy waterways support biodiversity, natural beauty, and provide critical habitat for aquatic wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chapel Hill is pleased to join with our neighboring communities in celebrating Creek Week with a countywide litter cleanup challenge;

NOW, THEREFORE: we, the Chapel Hill Town Council, do hereby proclaim March 12 - 19, 2022 as

CREEK WEEK

in the Town of Chapel Hill and urge all members of our community to support efforts to protect our creeks and streams, and further encourage everyone to steward our waterways to promote the wellbeing of this and future generations.

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

Sam Hemmer

