



CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mike Dasher, Chair
Karen Howard, Vice Chair
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COUNTY MANAGER

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Proclamation of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

SUPPORTING EARTH WEEK IN CHATHAM COUNTY

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2024, Earth Day will be celebrated across the country for the 54th year; and

WHEREAS, the goal of Earth Day is to increase public awareness, inspiring individual actions and participation in the decisions that reduce environmental impacts and shape environmental policy in the County; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County's scenic beauty and natural resources, including Jordan Lake, the Haw, Deep, and Rocky Rivers, its piedmont forests, and rural landscapes are the jewels of central North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, we know that a sustainable approach to our future enjoyment of life in Chatham County requires the thoughtful conservation of these natural resources year round, not just on Earth Day; and

WHEREAS, too often the benefits of conservation and the burdens of pollution are felt disproportionately across different communities, requiring environmental justice to be prioritized in the County's environmental initiatives.

WHEREAS, the issues impacting Chatham County's environment span across policy areas like transportation, utilities, agriculture, natural resources, and climate resiliency; and

WHEREAS, Plan Chatham addresses the issues facing Chatham County with a comprehensive approach and serves as a guiding policy document for county departments to actualize the goals and vision of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Conservation Working Group seeks to address these environmental issues with a collaborative and comprehensive approach, with a membership comprised of staff representatives from 14 different county departments; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County recognizes the significant environmental and climate benefits of farmland and forest conservation through support of the farmland and working land preservation program, along with the water quality and soil conservation programs of the Chatham Soil & Water Conservation Districts and educational guidance of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension – Chatham County Center faculty; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Watershed Protection Department has protected the watersheds of Chatham County for over a decade and continues to promote water quality through robust regulations, accurate inspections, dedicated staff, and the involvement of citizens in exceptional education programs; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners has consistently affirmed its commitment to conservation, sustainability, and environmental stewardship as integral components of its goals and initiatives for the betterment of the community and the preservation of our planet.

NOW, THEREFORE, let it be proclaimed that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners declare April 22 through April 28, 2024 as EARTH WEEK in Chatham County and encourages our residents to include in their daily lives those activities that promote the goals of Earth Week 2024.

Adopted, this the 15th day of April.

Mike Dasher, Chair
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Jenifer K. Johnson, MMC, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners