

WHEREAS, the first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970, with the goal of inspiring environmental awareness and encouraging the conservation, protection, and appreciation of our nation's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of this community are fortunate to call home, a place with so many beautiful, natural resources – trees, bike and nature trails, lakes, and parks, there is equal responsibility for ensuring that their use does not compromise the ability of future generations to enjoy these same resources; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tallahassee has a longstanding demonstrated record of strong environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tallahassee became the first city to be certified as a Green City at the Gold level by the Florida Green Building Coalition; and

WHEREAS, for sixteen consecutive years, the City has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the City of Tallahassee with the first ever, Excellence in Site Reuse Award for its Cascade Park remediation, which returns this property to the citizens of Tallahassee for their enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, the City's Wastewater Treatment Division became the first such municipal agency in Florida to receive the International Standards Organization (ISO) 14001:2004 Certification - a voluntary certification that enhances environmental stewardship, improves efficiency and effectiveness, and bolsters environmental awareness among staff, vendors and contractors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tallahassee won the title of "Best Drinking Water in Florida" at the 6th Annual Drinking Water Taste Test; and

WHEREAS, the City Fleet Division has been recognized by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as a Green Shop; and

WHEREAS, the various activities planned throughout this week, in acknowledgment of Earth Day, further reflect the City's strong environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tallahassee proudly recognizes all who follow positive environmental practices year round, and all who meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same and all who participate in 2009 Earth Day events.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Marks, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tallahassee, do hereby proclaim this week of April 20, 2009 - April 24, 2009, as

Tallahassee's Earth Week