

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the first Earth Day was enacted in 1970 and engaged over twenty million Americans to advocate for a cleaner environment, and;

WHEREAS, the 2026 theme for Earth Day is “Our Power, Our Planet”, which focuses on accelerating the global transition to renewable energy and fostering community action against climate change.

WHEREAS, humankind continues to face real global challenges affecting every community, including degradation of ecosystems, food and water shortages and global and local climate changes, and;

WHEREAS, all species play a unique role in the complex web of life and contribute to the ecosystem services on which all life on Earth depends, and hence, protecting our species is crucial to the survival of this planet and its inhabitants, and;

WHEREAS, many plants, wild animals, and pollinators live in urbanized landscapes and cities, therefore, we have a responsibility to examine the ecological impacts of their actions, and consider how to protect biodiversity, and;

WHEREAS, we are all caretakers of our planet and our obligation to combat climate change should start in each of our own lives, and our cities should focus attention on reducing the environmental burden that results from the delivery of municipal services, and;

WHEREAS, environmental education, resource conservation, waste reduction, and environmental protection are necessary to ensure a sustainable future, and;

WHEREAS, it is understood that sustainability will only be achieved by meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations, and;

WHEREAS, Earth Day is an important annual reminder of the constant need for environmental education, stewardship commitments and sustainability efforts, and;

WHEREAS, every year on April 22, men, women, and children across the world participate in environmental stewardship activities such as stream cleanup, planting trees, educational events, celebrating sustainable accomplishments, and more.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert T. Barnett, Mayor of the Village of Downers Grove, do hereby proclaim April 22nd, 2026, as **Earth Day** and I encourage all residents, businesses, and institutions to participate in programs and activities that will protect our environment and contribute to a healthy, sustainable future and, to follow the Village’s lead by developing an environmental sustainability plan for their homes, businesses and institutions.

Dated this 21st day of April 2026 at Downers Grove, Illinois



Robert T. Barnett, Mayor