

City of Rochester

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Earth Day is Friday, April 22, 2022; and

WHEREAS, this past year Rochester, Minnesota experienced numerous climate change related impacts including a record June heat wave, dangerous air quality from drought-fueled forest fires where even healthy people were encouraged to remain inside, and water restrictions from the same drought, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue - it is affecting us here and now; and

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated, “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger”; and

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the mission of EarthFest is to raise awareness, to provide education and resources, and to create inspiration and opportunities to develop a more environmentally-sustainable and climate change resilient community; and

WHEREAS, the seventh annual EarthFest is set to kick off with the return of an in-person expo event celebrating the Earth and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, this year’s programming will again include engaging virtual sessions on urban agriculture, waste and recycling, and the new Sustainability & Resiliency Community Work Plan. Other events include an EarthFest Trivia Night, a biking pub crawl, Green Business recognition, and a tree planting hosted by Mayor Norton. Festivities will wrap-up with the 2022 EarthFest Expo on April 30th at the-Farmer’s Market with partners representing community organizations, volunteer groups, businesses, nonprofits and more; and

WHEREAS, EarthFest is a wonderful opportunity each year for Rochester and the surrounding area to celebrate the earth, learn about sustainability and join with our neighbors in a family-friendly event.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Kim Norton, Mayor of the City of Rochester, Minnesota, do hereby proclaim

EarthFest 2022

and all citizens are encouraged to participate in any or all of these events so as to make Rochester a better place to live.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the corporate seal of the City of Rochester to be affixed this 7th day of April, 2022.

Kim Norton, Mayor
City of Rochester, Minnesota