

Proclamation



J. Ryan McMahon II
County Executive
Onondaga County

**County of Onondaga
City of Syracuse**

Ben Walsh
Mayor
City of Syracuse

WHEREAS, today, April 22, 2020, is the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day in 1970, when millions of Americans gathered to study, march and rally, launching a new era of environmental awareness and action; and

WHEREAS, the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) has embraced the spirit of Earth Day by educating environmental champions, issuing over 19,000 undergraduate and 4,500 graduate degrees, and offering courses for thousands of area high school students across the last fifty years; and

WHEREAS, the vision, voices and volunteerism of SUNY ESF has helped to improve the city and county by partnering on works like the Onondaga Creek Walk, urban forestry and tree planting, community gardens and parks, the I-81 Challenge and bicycle routes, and through hundreds of thousands of service hours contributed by its students in first-year programs, campus days of service, Habitat for Humanity projects and more; and

WHEREAS, SUNY ESF initiated key research projects that raised community awareness of toxins found in our homes, including work essential to understand the problem of lead paint and its harmful effects on our youth; and

WHEREAS, as a sustainability leader, SUNY ESF anchors Syracuse as a hub of green entrepreneurship, sustainable construction, and the economics of renewable resources, co-hosting the annual Green Building Conference, informing forest and recreation management, establishing willow biomass as an energy source, and more; and

WHEREAS, SUNY ESF researchers have helped lead the fight against invasive and disruptive species, including algal blooms in our lakes, emerald ash borer and other tree pests, ticks and the diseases they carry, and more; and

WHEREAS, SUNY ESF scientists have been instrumental in improving freshwater systems for drinking, recreation, fisheries and habitat through the award-winning Save the Rain program, Great Lakes Research Consortium, Onondaga Creek revitalization, projects in Adirondack and Skaneateles watersheds, and, working with key partners and in consultation with the Haudenosaunee Nation, brought essential research and expertise to the historic restoration of Syracuse's crown jewel: Onondaga Lake; and

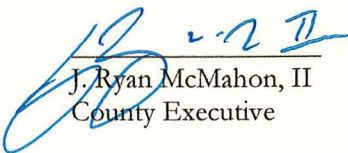
WHEREAS, CNY could have no better partner going forward as we work to secure a sustainable future for our children;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, J. RYAN MCMAHON, II, County Executive of the County of Onondaga and **I, BEN WALSH,** Mayor of the City of Syracuse, do hereby proclaim the Twenty-Second Day of April, Earth Day, to also be


SUNY ESF Day

in the County of Onondaga and the City of Syracuse

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seals of the County of Onondaga and the City of Syracuse to be imprinted on this Twenty-Second Day of April, Two Thousand and Twenty.


J. Ryan McMahon, II
County Executive




Ben Walsh
Mayor

