

# CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH

## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** soils are an essential and non-renewable natural resource, the foundation of 95% of global food production, the basis of feed, fuel and fiber production and help regulate emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases; and
- WHEREAS,** soils, as the world's largest terrestrial pool of carbon, provide invaluable ecosystem services, including storage of water, nutrients, and carbon; and
- WHEREAS,** soils and especially soil organic matter annually clean tens of thousands of cubic kilometers of water each year; and
- WHEREAS,** despite being typically only a small percent of the soil volume, soil organic matter (the dark material) is the key component to maintaining soil health, being responsible for storage of water, storage of plant-available nutrients, removal of contaminants, and reduction of surface water runoff; and
- WHEREAS,** the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and many other organizations have sounded the alarm that fully one third of global soils are already moderately or highly degraded; and
- WHEREAS,** even urbanized areas can have important extents of soils; and
- WHEREAS,** appropriate municipal policies directly and favorably affect urban soils, urban stormwater runoff, flood control and municipal water supplies; policies including promotion of native landscaping and xeriscaping; active promotion of shade trees; and wise management and regulation of lot coverage, irrigation, fertilization and living ground cover; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Lake Worth Beach is a coastal city subject with above average exposure to food insecurity, nutritional deficiencies, and the effects of climate change and sea level rise and has a particular responsibility for the water quality of the bordering Lake Worth Lagoon; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Lake Worth Beach still has considerable area in front yards, backyards and public lands that can contribute to increased soil health, food production, and carbon storage; and
- WHEREAS,** an internationally active spiritual leader, Sadhguru, has joined with international organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Environment Programme, the UN World Food Programme, and the European Union to raise worldwide awareness of soil importance, soil degradation and opportunities for soil restoration.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Betty Resch, Mayor of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me and on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim:

**MAY 5-11, 2024**

as

**SOIL AWARENESS WEEK**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Lake Worth Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Betty Resch, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Melissa Ann Coyne, MMC, City Clerk