



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

WHEREAS, America's system of public lands includes parks, unique landscapes, forests, wildlife refuges, historic trails, natural streams, wetlands, nature centers, community gardens and other landmarks that individually and collectively represent our shared irreplaceable national resources; and

WHEREAS, public lands provide locally-accessible natural and cultural resources for environmental learning, wildlife appreciation and recreation; and

WHEREAS, public lands promote stewardship and recognition of public ownership; and

WHEREAS, shared stewardship requires the goodwill, cooperation and active support of citizens, community, local and state officials, business leaders, youth and adults; and

WHEREAS, recreation opportunities offered by public lands help families and individuals lead an active lifestyle and reduce the incidence of childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS, land conservation efforts improve access to public lands for urban residents and work to break down the barriers that prevent Americans from actively utilizing their public lands; and

WHEREAS, a collaboration among state and local residents, land managers and community leaders improves the condition of publicly-held lands for the greater enjoyment and enrichment of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands and is coordinated by the National Environmental Education Foundation. State and City Park systems join with federal agencies such as The Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service to deliver a celebration on publicly-held lands in this great Commonwealth of Virginia;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terence R. McAuliffe, do hereby recognize September 26, 2015, as **PUBLIC LANDS DAY** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Handwritten signature of Terence R. McAuliffe in black ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Jewell M. Taylor in black ink.

Secretary of the Commonwealth