

*WHEREAS* it is one of the responsibilities of the Mayor of the City of Westerville to recognize occasions of outstanding significance;

WHEREAS, wetlands are recognized as vital ecosystems providing food and shelter for many forms of life, including waterfowl and at least one-third of our nation's threatened and endangered species; and

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WHEREAS, wetlands are considered to be the "kidneys" of the landscape, reducing or removing excess nutrients, silt, and contaminants from surface waters; and

WHEREAS, Central Ohio is home to one of the premiere wetland research facilities in the world, the Ohio State University's Olentangy River Wetland Research Park; and

WHEREAS, Westerville has begun to appreciate, manage and enhance its wetland resources at Boyer Park Nature Preserve, the Mariner's Cove Wetland Reserve, Highlands Park and the Heritage Estates/College Knolls wetland retention basin; NOW THEREFORE,

I, Kathleen Cocuzzi, Mayor of the City of Westerville, Ohio, do hereby proclaim May 2013 as

***"NATIONAL WETLANDS MONTH"***

and call upon all citizens of Westerville to aid in the continuing efforts to preserve our valuable wetland resources.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused my seal to be affixed this 21st day of May, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Thirteen.

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Kathleen Cocuzzi, Mayor