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Earth Day and Earth Month 2023

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023/>

April is celebrated as Earth Month around the globe, with April 22 observed as Earth Day every year. This event is especially notable in Wisconsin, as the state's former Governor and Senator, Gaylord Nelson, was instrumental in the establishment of this observance in 1970 as a national teach-in opportunity.



You can find ways to celebrate Earth Day, and to learn about and have a positive impact on our world, every day and month, but opportunities abound in April as organizations take more time this month to focus on environmental topics. Start with some of the items in this newsletter, then go do your own research online or with local organizations – you can learn to create more wildlife habitat in your backyard, connect with environmental justice organizations, start up a home garden or compost pile, work to improve your home's energy efficiency or invest in renewable energy, or learn about ways to decrease the impact of your daily consumption habits.

This year, the theme of Earth Day as set by EarthDay.org, is "Invest in our Planet," and the theme for the annual Earth Day conference hosted by the University of Wisconsin's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies is "Species on the Move." Check out their websites, and look at registering for the Nelson Institute's [two-day Earth Day](#) opportunities or some of the many "Earth Week Live" events from EarthDay.org, to learn more.

BCycle Comes to Fitchburg

https://www.fitchburgstar.com/news/bcycle-celebrates-official-launch-in-fitchburg/article_949d8518-d953-11ed-b399-3b9f2306518a.html

This Spring, the BCycle program popularized locally with its extensive system of docks and bikes in Madison, opened its first stations in Fitchburg, with the launch of docks at Terravessa and Limerick Senior Apartments. As of this newsletter, two more stations have been added to the Fitchburg system, at the Fitchburg Agora and McKee Farms Park, with three more expected to be installed before the end of the month.



BCycle is a bike-share program that allows users to purchase passes by the hour, month, or year, checking out and returning bikes to any one of the more than 50 dock locations in Fitchburg, Madison, Monona, and McFarland. These bikes are great for recreational rides, getting to local retail or dining locations, or hopping over to a local park or community center. All the bikes added to the Fitchburg program are electric-assist bikes as well, making it easier for riders of all abilities to cover longer, hilly rides.

After this initial “Phase I” rollout, look for a “Phase II” expansion to begin this summer and extend into 2024, adding more stations at Fitchburg’s Civic Campus, and more area parks and businesses, funded in large part by a Transportation Alternatives Program grant from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Check out FACTv coverage of the BCycle rollout, as well as an impending article in the Fitchburg Star, and updated information on the Fitchburg system on both the [City’s Biking page](#) and the [“Bike the ‘Burg”](#) page of the Fitchburg Chamber’s website.

Download the BCycle app on your smartphone to get started or check out program information and a station map at <https://madison.bcycle.com>, and get out right away to enjoy this new transportation option in the lovely April/May Spring weather!

Participate in Low- / No-Mow May

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2861/No-Mow-May>

Join your Fitchburg neighbors this Spring in the City's first pilot "No-Mow May" program. Common Council approved Resolution R-82-23 on April 11th, designating May 2023 as No-Mow May in Fitchburg and temporarily suspending the City's lawn maintenance ordinance until June 1st.

As more natural spaces are developed and wilderness increasingly partitioned into smaller and less contiguous parcels, many animal and plant species are facing pressures due to habitat loss and population fragmentation. For pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and beetles, as well as countless other invertebrate species, these developed spaces now serve as a vital part of their habitats, with property owners' use of native plant species in landscaping and gardening an important source of shelter and foraging options.

Most Wisconsinites are familiar with the European honeybee, perhaps the most popular and well-known insect on the planet, but our state is home to hundreds of other local bees, butterflies, moths, and other insects vital to our local ecosystems and food crop pollination. Abundant food and shelter options help these species as they emerge in Spring, and providing native plant species offers the habitat they sorely need to thrive. For many property owners, those native plant species already exist in lawns, so providing habitat can be as simple as eliminating or reducing the use of lawnmowers for the first several weeks of Spring, allowing flowers to grow where normally mowers would cut them down.

All participants are asked to register their intent to participate in No-Mow May with the City; you can [register your property here](#); and see the graphic below for some of the ways you can participate in No-Mow May this year.



National Bike Month and Madison Bike Week

<https://bikeweek.wisconsinbikefed.org/>

The League of American Bicyclists celebrates the month of May as [National Bike Month](#) each year, with multiple other observances taking place throughout the month. National Ride A Bike Day is Sunday, May 7; National Bike Week May 15-21; and National Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 19.



Wisconsin waits just a little bit longer for the weather to warm up into later Spring, with Wisconsin Bike Week taking place in early June, this year from June 3-10. Various events and special rides are organized throughout the state during this week, and Madison Bikes helps to organize a series of bike commuter stations as part of [Madison Bike Week](#), including one station at Fitchburg's own Bike Roundabout, co-hosted by Bike Fitchburg and the City's Bicycle Committee. Check back at the Madison Bike Week page or Facebook group for more information as the date approaches, and look for the Fitchburg commuter station at its typical Tuesday morning time.

Spring Shred/Recycling Event April 29

<https://www.fitchburgwi.gov/2717/Recycling-Day-Event>

Fitchburg's biennial shred and recycling event will take place this year on Saturday, April 29, from 8am-11am. The event will follow the same route and general guidelines as recent events. For details on the route and accepted/unaccepted items, see the page linked above, as well as an [event mailer](#) from electronics recycling vendor Resource Solutions and a [two-page flyer](#) from the City.

If you're looking to get rid of unwanted items outside of these events, please consider the options below.

Confidential Paper Recycling

- If you have access to a paper shredder, please shred your confidential documents, place them in a clear plastic bag, and put the bag into your curbside recycling cart. Please note that if you do not place the shredded paper into a clear plastic bag, it will not be identified as recyclable paper and will end up in the landfill. This is because paper needs to be a certain size (about the size of a regular envelope) to be accurately sorted by the equipment at our local Material Recovery Facility. If shredded paper is in a clear plastic bag, it will be hand-removed for recycling, but if not, it will not be sorted properly by the recycling equipment and will be

landfilled. For more information about the local Pellitteri Material Recovery Facility, and how recyclables get sorted please check out this video! <https://youtu.be/Vwch1gwUgQk>.

- If you do not have access to a paper shredder, Pellitteri offers on-site paper shredding services for a fee. Please call Pellitteri at 605-257-4285 for more information.
- Non-confidential paper, such as magazines or junk mail, can be placed directly into your recycling cart.

Electronics Recycling

- Drop off electronic recyclables to Resource Solutions' Madison location (5493 Express Cir, Madison). You can drop off without an appointment during their regular business hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00a-4:00p and Saturday: 8:00a-12:00p. NOTE: There is a fee to recycle some electronic items (this is true during Fitchburg's Recycling Day Event as well). For more information, visit: <http://recyclethatstuff.com/>.
- Current guidance is to dispose of alkaline batteries in your green trash bin. Rechargeable batteries are accepted for recycling at several retail locations (see the Fitchburg battery recycling brochure for details), and car batteries are accepted at AutoZone, Batteries + Bulbs, and other battery retail locations.

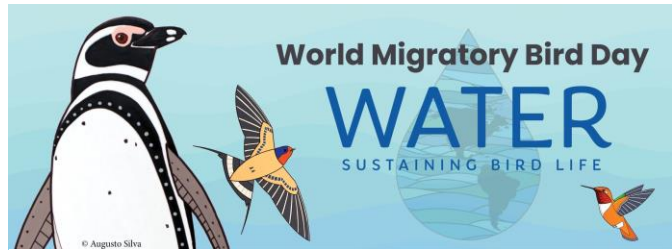
April-May Observances



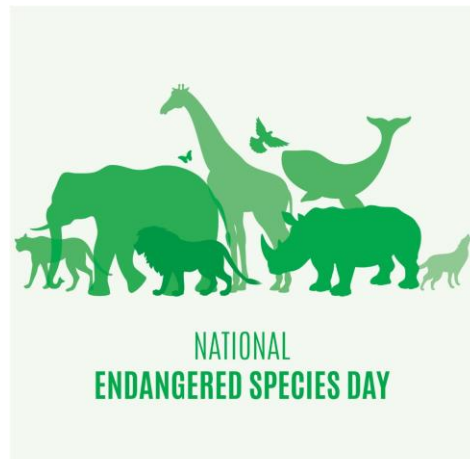
April 28, 2023



May is “Garden for Wildlife” month



May 13, 2023





May 19, 2023



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<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/list.aspx>
- b. Type your email address in the box and select “Sign In”
- c. To receive text messages enter your phone number and select “Save”
- d. Click  (to subscribe/unsubscribe to emails) and/or  (to subscribe/unsubscribe) next to the lists to which you wish to subscribe / unsubscribe (e.g. “Green Fitchburg” is the mailing list for environmentally friendly suggestions or events)

Please contact Phil Grupe, Sustainability Specialist, at phil.grupe@fitchburgwi.gov or (608) 270-4259, if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions for future Green E-News topics.

