

# COUNTY OF KANE

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## Earth Day Events Beautify Kane County

Spring is a time of year when the blanket of winter is lifted and litter rears its ugly head. At the same time, the public can help beautify Kane County by taking part in community clean up events during several Earth Day celebrations.

On April 23 in Aurora, the office of State Rep. Barbara Hernandez is teaming up with the Fox Valley Park District for an Earth Day clean-up event at Gregory Island Park on Indian Trail Road. The event is from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d44a5aa22a2fcc52-earth1>.

Also, on April 23 in honor of Earth Day, the Forest Preserve District of Kane County will be planting hundreds of trees at the Elburn Forest Preserve. The public is invited to help plant the trees in pre-dug holes with the District's Natural Resources staff from 9 a.m. – Noon or until they run out of trees. The public is encouraged to arrive at 9:00 a.m. and groups of 10 or more should contact the volunteer coordinator at 630-208-8662.

The annual Great Western Trail and Illinois Prairie Path all volunteer trails cleanup will take place in honor of Earth Day from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on April 23 (rain/snow date is April 30). Volunteers should wear work gloves and bring their own garbage bags.



### Great Western Trail



Friends of the Great Western Trails Voluntary Chairman Don Kirchenberg said the cleanup event this year takes on even greater significance than past events.

“We haven’t had an official cleanup in two years because of COVID. So, this is an incredibly important year,” Kirchenberg said.

For additional information visit [www.ipp.org](http://www.ipp.org) or [www.friendsofthegreatwesterntrails.com](http://www.friendsofthegreatwesterntrails.com).

In Geneva, Peck Farm Park is hosting an Earth Day Celebration from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. with the city’s Natural Resources Committee and the Geneva Park District. This free event will feature nature crafts, an opportunity for tree planting (registration required) and recycling opportunities.

“I will have a table at the event, and I’ll be collecting all dry-cell household batteries for recycling (2 lbs. limit per household please),” said Kane County Recycling Coordinator Clair Ryan.

More information is available at <https://www.genevaparks.org/special-events/earth-day-celebration/>.

In West Dundee, the Randall Oaks Zoo and the Dundee Township Park District will host an Earth Day Weekend Celebration Friday April 22 – Sunday April 24. Participants will enjoy educational activities, crafts and games. For more information, visit

[https://www.facebook.com/events/487848809380062/487848812713395/?active\\_tab=about](https://www.facebook.com/events/487848809380062/487848812713395/?active_tab=about).

Individual clean-up efforts start with a keen eye, a protective glove and a plastic shopping bag or two to hold the trash you find. A safety vest or brightly colored clothing is recommended if your route will take you along any busy roads. Litter can be disposed of through your curbside trash and/or recycling however, municipalities, park districts and forest preserves are also generally happy for their public receptacles to be used for litter.

***Kane County Recycling Coordinator Clair Ryan contributed to this story.***

*Pictured: Trash timeline: Litter might be out of sight, out of mind for some, but in reality it can last in the environment for a very long time. Kane County’s trash timeline display shows the decomposition time for several common items. Coming to an Earth Day event near you!*