



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Earth Day at Huron-Clinton Metroparks is About More Than One Day
of Cleanup Events**

***Join us for an Earth Day cleanup or virtual happy hour, learn more about what
Metroparks is doing in celebration of this holiday and take action to protect our parks
and the planet.***

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN – As Earth Day approaches, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks is inviting everyone in the community to get involved in making a positive impact on the environment. This year, they're encouraging visitors to roll up their sleeves, grab a pair of gloves, and join an Earth Day Cleanup in a shared commitment to sustainability, but they remind us all that there are other ways to support and improve our environment all year long.

Earth Day Cleanup Events:

There are five different opportunities to get involved in a cleanup in your Metroparks from April 19 to April 27. From cleaning up rivers in Macomb County to shorelines in Wayne County to removing invasive species at Kensington Metropark – there is something for everyone to get involved in. By participating in a cleanup, you're not just helping to pick up trash — you're taking a step toward creating a better experience for park visitors, cleaner waterways and a better habitat for wildlife that call the parks home.

There is a full list of events and details at the end of this release.

New Earth Week Virtual Happy Hours:

If you aren't available to join for a clean-up, then consider joining one of [the new Earth Week Virtual Happy Hours from April 21 - 25](#). Each day, Metroparks will spotlight a different aspect of their [5-year Climate Action Plan](#), offering practical tips for eco-friendly practices you can take at home - from harnessing the power of rain barrels and creating vibrant rain gardens to effective composting and waste management. Plus, unwind with a new mocktail recipe every day, perfectly crafted to complement the topic.

Additional Ways to Help Protect Our Parks and Fight Climate Change:

Metroparks CEO, Amy McMillan, who was named a Notable Leader in Sustainability by Cains in 2024, reminds us that attending an Earth Day event is just one way to make a difference, and that efforts shouldn't stop when the day is over. "There are other simple yet impactful actions that park visitors can take alongside the Metroparks to protect the environment and combat climate change" said McMillan, "we encourage you to consider how you can be a better steward to our natural spaces." Here are a few actions you can take while visiting the parks:

1. Don't Litter – Use Trash Cans:

When you visit, always dispose of trash in the appropriate bins. Litter harms the environment, wildlife, and the beauty of our parks. Proper disposal is an easy way to keep our parks clean and reduce the environmental impact of trash.

2. Recycle Responsibly:

Starting this year, the Metroparks have introduced single-stream recycling bins in all parks, so you can now put all your recyclable materials in one can. However, it's crucial to ensure that only the appropriate materials — paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and metal — are placed in the bins. More importantly, make sure to reference the labels on the bins for details of which materials are acceptable, and make sure they are clean. Remember not to put food waste and things like dirty pizza boxes into recycle bins. Quality recycling makes a difference, and when we recycle correctly, it reduces waste and helps conserve resources.

3. Support "Let It Grow" Zones:

Our ["Let It Grow" Zones](#) are areas that are intentionally left unmowed to promote native plant growth. These zones help reduce emissions, improve wildlife habitats, enhance stormwater management, and improve water quality while reducing flooding. You can support these initiatives by sharing with your own friends and family why these efforts are beneficial the next time you hear them wondering why areas of the parks don't look mowed.

4. Reducing Carbon Emissions Together:

The Metroparks is committed to reducing its carbon footprint. This year, they have replaced fleets of previously gas powered golf carts with electric carts at Willow and Stony Creek Metroparks' golf courses, bringing their count to 4 out of 7 courses that are using electric with the other 3 courses slated for conversion in 2026 - 2028. They are also piloting electric mowers, and other small equipment when replacing previously gas-powered equipment. They are testing electric and hybrid vehicles for park staff and implementing the first EV charging stations at Willow Metropark golf course for park visitors. Additionally, the Metroparks is conducting a study to set a baseline of their carbon emissions and explore other areas of operations where changes might result in reduced emissions. These efforts target the primary driver of climate change – rampant CO² emissions. You can support these initiatives by considering practices in your daily life that reduce your own carbon footprint.

Together, We Can Make a Difference!

Whether you're participating in an Earth Day clean-up or adopting other sustainable habits, every action counts. The Huron-Clinton Metroparks is dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of Southeast Michigan for future generations. That is why in 2024 we launched our [5-year Climate Action Plan](#).

As weather events in our corner of the region become more extreme, air and water quality become increasingly worrisome, and the residents of our region become interested in actively combatting the impact of climate change on our daily lives, the Metroparks knew it was time to act with intention and focus. To ensure that goals align with the concerns and interests of our region, Metroparks actively sought input from residents and partners to create a 5-year action plan with help from consultants and all levels of Metroparks staff. Now, your support and participation in these efforts will go a long way in protecting our environment, reducing our carbon footprint, and ensuring our parks remain vibrant for years to come.

For more information on Earth Day events and how you can help, visit www.metroparks.com or follow us on social media.

Full list of Earth Day Clean-ups:

Natural Resources Workday at Kensington

Date: April 19; 10am-noon

Location: Kensington Metropark

Event Type: Join the Natural Resources crew to celebrate Earth Day at Kensington Metropark. Get outside and work with us to remove invasive species like garlic mustard from a beautiful forest ecosystem.

[Pre-registration is required at this link.](#)

Earth Day Clean-up: Stony Creek

Date: April 19; 9am-3pm

Location: Stony Creek Metropark

Event Type: Litter and plastic can be dangerous to animals and unsightly to look at in the parks. We need your help to keep Stony Creek Metropark beautiful and safe for people visiting and for the wildlife that live here. Check in at the Park Office to pick up your tools (trash bags and gloves), and directions/map to your assigned cleanup area. Registered volunteers will also get into the park for free that day. A limited number of commemorative volunteer patches will be available for scouts and other volunteers.

[Pre-register at this link.](#)

Clinton Cleanup

Date: April 19; 11am-noon

Location: Wolcott Mill Metropark, Historic Center

Event Type: In collaboration with the Clinton River Watershed Council's Clinton Clean-Up Day, join staff riverside at the Historic Wolcott Mill as we do our part to keep the Clinton River and all

its tributaries and confluences clean for future generations to enjoy. Learn about your impact on stormwater and water quality while we pick up around and in the river. All ages are welcome, water gear is advised.

[Pre-register at this link.](#)

Earth Day Shoreline Cleanup: Lake Erie

Date: April 26; 10am-noon

Location: Lake Erie Metropark

Event Type: Help keep Lake Erie Metropark clean by joining us as we clean along the picnic areas and shoreline of the park. You or your group will be assigned an area to help clean. We will join back up at the Food Bar around noon for lunch and you will receive free daily park entry as a volunteer.

[Pre register at this link.](#)

Earth Day Cleanup: Lake St. Clair

Date: April 27; 10am-1pm

Location: Lake St. Clair Metropark

Event Type: Help us keep the park clean for both visitors and wildlife. Volunteers will receive free entry into the park on clean-up day. All members of a group must be registered to participate and properly assign tasks. Snacks and water will be provided. Recyclable materials collected during this cleanup will be used by students and visitors at a later date to eventually create recycled art in the park as well.

[Pre-register at this link.](#)

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About the Huron-Clinton Metroparks:

One of America's premier metropolitan park systems, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks have served the people of Southeast Michigan since 1940. The Metroparks encompasses 13 unique properties in Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties, offering a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities, environmental education programs, and community events. The Metroparks are committed to fostering environmental stewardship, preserving natural resources, and creating a sustainable future for all as they bring the benefits of parks and recreation to the people of southeast Michigan. All the people. All their lives.