



Make everyday Earth Day - Green your Choices - Save Resources - Be Happy



Being Green in the Natural and Virtual World

This month we celebrate the many ways we can improve the world by being "green" and getting together virtually. Starting with a Green Drinks to be held from the privacy of your own home and ending with the simple, but highly impactful act of recycling. Breeze through our newsletter for up-to-date information and ways to make every day Earth Day!

[Visit Our Website](#)

Green Drinks - Virtual Social Opportunity - May 7

Every other month, the Conservation Foundation offers a speaker on an environmental topic at a local food and beverage establishment. Since that isn't possible for May, the group is reaching out to create a virtual get together on Thursday, May 7 at 6pm. Register to attend through this [link](#)

and bring your environmental questions, updates or just a friendly smile!



International Compost Week: May 3-9

Last year we were able to offer several compost giveaway events, kicking them off during International Compost Awareness Week. However, the Coronavirus has made that impossible. Still, we are encouraging everyone that is able to try composting in their own yard or under their sink. If the second option surprises you, please see our information on Worm Bin Composting (also known as Vermicompost). We have been working with classrooms to offer this option for decades. The red-wiggler worms love veggie scraps and egg shells. They turn them into a rich soil amendment that can be used on indoor or outdoor plants instead of expensive chemical based fertilizers.



We offer backyard composting instructions on our website under the [Green Guide Tab: Composting Information](#) and encourage you to take a look. Instead of sending potato peels, apple cores or pepper tops to the landfill, compost them to make an earthy smelling, all natural fertilizer.

Make Earth Day Every Day and Earn Points for Prizes!

April 22, 1970 marked the first Earth Day when people across the United States asked the local and federal government to enact laws to protect the water, the air, the land and natural areas. Shortly afterward, the US EPA was created. Over the past 50 years, the Bald Eagle has returned as reductions in pollution and a variety of environmental improvements were accomplished. Will County, (Land Use, Health and Forest Preserve) joined with local colleges to offer everyone a way to celebrate the many actions they take every day to be better stewards of our Earth's resources. A number of local businesses contributed



prizes that are being raffled every 50 days to participants. Our first drawing gave away a \$50 gift card to Target and a Rainbarrel from the Conservation Foundation. [Click to join for the next raffle!](#)

Regional Household Hazardous Waste Site Re-Opens!

The Naperville Household Hazardous Waste has been open every Saturday and Sunday since 1992 until COVID-19. The site is re-opening on Saturday, May 9 and resuming normal operation 156 Fort Hill Drive, from 9am to 2pm to allow residents a safe way to dispose or recycle hazardous chemicals such as:



- Aerosol cans
- Automotive fluids (including oil, gasoline and anti-freeze)
- Asbestos materials (must fit in a 55-gallon drum and not in excess of 50 pounds)
- Batteries (automotive, marine, sump pump and non- alkaline)
- Fire extinguishers
- Flammables
- Fluorescent bulbs, CFLs (sealed, unbroken only)
- Household cleaners, drain openers and pool chemicals
- Mercury
- Paints and stains (oil-based only)
- Peanut oil
- Poison, pesticides and fertilizers
- Non-controlled prescription and over-the-counter medications
- Propane tanks (20 pounds)
- Solvents and strippers
- Mercury Thermostats
- Unknown hazardous substances

Virtual Learning Opportunities Abound

Online classes aren't just for the children! After an Illinois Environmental Council Lunch and Learn webinar, or instead, we encourage you to join one of the many online webinars being offered by the Conservation Foundation. Coming up are topics such as:

- May 7 Edible Native Landscaping
- May 11 Conservation Landscaping
- May 14 Pollinator Gardens
- May 18 Pond to Habitat



The graphic features the Conservation Foundation logo at the top left, a yellow banner with the word "WEBINAR" in large black letters, and the title "Edible Landscaping" below it. It is presented by Connie Kollmeyer. Three webinar events are listed: May 7 (Edible Native Landscaping Webinar, Thu 1 PM), May 11 (Conservation@Home: Bring Nature Home!, Mon 1 PM), and May 14 (Planting a Pollinator Garden, Thu 1 PM). Each event has an "Interested" button.

While at home, many people are exploring new ideas for their yard. Reduce grass and increase plantings to reduce mowing and help the Earth.

Will County Parking Lots become Energy Efficient

Lighting upgrades are the number one item on many businesses lists of ways to save energy and Will County is no exception. Parking lot lights, which run all night long are an excellent target for any business. At the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, three lots were upgraded from Metal Halides lamps to LEDs. This has made the Sunny Hill Nursing Home lot, a lot by the Adult Detention Facility used by citizens on jury duty at the Courthouse, and the lot at the Community Health Center brighter, increasing illumination while using far less energy. This additional illumination increases safety and decrease maintenance since LEDs are expected to last years longer.



Improving Our Food System

A movement to improve our fresh food delivery system is underway. A case study summary of Good Food Purchasing Practices and Food Service Guidelines is being offered by the Will



County Regional Sustainability Network (WCRSN) on June 2. Sign up to attend from home! For more information, please [visit the event page](#).

What to do with Donation Items during COVID-19

Will County has postponed our annual Textile Collection event but has our partner standing by for a one-week collection at the County Office Building as soon as the Shelter-in-Place order allows. Since people can't shop, thrift stores cannot move materials and there is no room for them to simply accept them. We know many people took the opportunity to clean and de-clutter so we are asking you to hold on to those bags and boxes a bit longer rather than toss them in the landfill. There may be more people in need over the next few months and these unwanted items will be exactly what many will be looking to find. Please stay tuned for an event announcement!



Check out the Baby Bison at Midwin

Midwin National Tall Grass Prairie introduced a herd of bison in 2015 and they began having calves soon after arriving at their 1,200 acre new home. As of May 4, they have had three new calves arrive. The Midwin is managed by the USDA Forest Service



and they offer open access to visitors virtually through Bison Cam or in person. [Click to learn more about this natural Will County jewel.](#)

Want to Plant a Garden?

The University of Illinois offers an amazing amount of information on gardening: everything from what to plant in our area and how to keep pests from eating it. Visit this site to find everything you need to know about planting, caring for, and harvesting the 28 main veggies suited to Northern Illinois. [Just Click here!](#)



Recycling is Important

With many commercial businesses closed, tons of cardboard is not making it to the recycling stream. Residents that get home deliveries can help. Be sure to flatten cardboard boxes and place them in the recycling cart. If they are large, rip or cut them so they will fall out when the cart is tipped. Unless contaminated with food, grease or paint, cardboard is an important item to recover. (No curbside service? [Click this link for drop-off locations.](#))



Of course like all paper products, cardboard is made from trees. It takes enormous amounts of energy to turn a tree into fiber products. Like other recyclables, it saves water and energy when it can be made from recovered materials instead of from a new tree. It is significant to understand all paper products are soaked in water and cleaned when they are made into new products.

Click for more information:

[Battery Recycling](#)

[Book Reuse](#)

[CFL Recycling](#)

[Electron](#)

[Latex Paint](#)

[Medication](#)

[Plastic Bags/Film](#)

[Styrofoa](#)

[Textiles](#)

[Thermostats](#)

[Traditional Drop-Offs](#)

[Tire Recyc](#)



Play a fun game!

MEMBER
Will County Green Business Program



willcountygreen.com

GREEN Business



Join the School Earth Flag Program



Virtual Tour Recycling Sites



EV Charging



Commuter Options



Community and School Garden Program



Farmer's Markets and Fresh Food Options



Solar Info



Wind Info



Water Conservation



Geothermal Info

Upcoming Events

**Will County
Earth Day
50th
Anniversary
Passport**

Variety of
locations
Multiple Days
**March 14-
Sept 15**
Varies

**Textile
Collection
Week**

Joliet
**County
Office
Building
Parking Lot**
**Monday-
Friday**
TBA
**8:30am-
4:30pm**

**Book Reuse &
Recycling Event**

Pilcher Park
Nature Center in
Joliet
**Fri, Sat, &
Sunday**
RESCHEDULED
Sept 18, 19, 20
9am-4pm

Love Monee
Various Activities at
different Locations in
Monee

Shredding Event
Saturday
July 25
9am-11am



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STAY CONNECTED:



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