

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Save the Date For Earth Month Events in Rockville

Earth Day is Thursday, April 22, and Rockville is celebrating with events in March, April and May, including the following free or low-cost activities that promote getting outside and helping nature.

Important Note: All in-person events require participants to wear a face covering and practice social distancing of at least 6 feet.

March Events



Thursday, March 18: How to Maintain a Healthy, Organic Lawn, 7-8 p.m., Virtual. Learn how to maintain an organic lawn without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides, understand soil health and discuss organic soil amendments. Register at bit.ly/healthyorganiclawn.

Saturday, March 20: Trail Cleanup, 9 a.m. to noon at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Help improve your community and the environment by cleaning up in the Hayes Forest Preserve. Each participant will receive gloves, a garbage bag and a set of trash pickers to use for the morning. Return the trash

Saturday, March 27: Ask A Naturalist, 10 a.m. on Facebook Live. Curiosity drives nature exploration. Looking for answers about something you saw on a recent hike? Wondering which animals hibernate in winter? Are blue jays even blue? Pop in to our Facebook Live and ask our naturalists your nature questions at facebook.com/croydoncreek.

Saturday, March 27: Earth Hour, 8:30–9:30 p.m. Lights out! Rockville will turn out the lights in observance of Earth Hour, an international effort in support of climate change action. Join the city and turn off non-essential lights in your homes and businesses for one hour. Learn more at earthhour.org.

April Events



Saturday, April 3: Critter Tales at Croydon Creek, 10 a.m. on Facebook Live. Join Croydon Creek on Facebook Live for a story and an introduction to something special in nature! Watch at facebook.com/croydoncreek.

Saturday, April 10: 33rd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanups:

- Croydon Creek Nature Center, 9 a.m. to noon.
- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 9:30–11 a.m.
- Maryvale Park, 10 a.m. to noon.

Student Service Learning hours are available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, or to register, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/636/Adopt-a-Stream.

Wednesdays, April 14–May 26: Outdoor Nature Club, 3:30–4:30 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Spending time in nature builds resilience, self-confidence and creativity. We'll form a nature exploration pod and spend the hour outdoors investigating and learning about nature. Dress for the weather, wear a mask and be prepared to spend an hour in the great outdoors roaming the forest preserve with two experienced naturalists. Meets every other week for four sessions. Ages 6–8. [Register here](#).

Sunday, April 11: Exploring Vernal Pools, 2–4 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Discover what makes a vernal pool and who lives in one. Hike off the

Saturday, April 17: Little Explorers, 10-11 a.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Go on hiking adventures with our naturalists, play games and discover the fun that can be had outdoors. Spaces are limited. Dress for the weather and wear a mask. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Ages 2-5. [View more dates and register here.](#)

Saturday, April 24: Drug Take-Back, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Rockville City Police Station parking lot, 2 W. Montgomery Ave. Safely dispose of unused or expired medications and help keep them out of our environment. Officers will be outside with easy drive-up and drop-off access, so there is no need to get out of your vehicle. Learn more about National Drug Take-Back Day at dea.gov or call Cpl. Derrick Tibbs at 240-314-8922.

Sunday, April 25: City Nature Challenge: iNaturalist Training, 2-3 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Learn about the City Nature Challenge scheduled for April 30-May 3, including how to use the iNaturalist app to participate in this regionwide bio blitz. Ages 12 and up. [Register here.](#)

May Events



Saturday, May 1: Family Bird Hike, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Grab your binoculars or borrow some from us and enjoy a hike identifying birds that live around the nature center. All participants, including adults, must register. Ages 5 and up. All participants, including adults, must [register here.](#)

Saturday, May 1: Weed Warrior Workday, Various Locations. Join Rockville Weed Warrior Leaders for a non-native, invasive plant removal workday. SSL hours available. View more dates and register at www.rockvillemd.gov/weedwarriors.

Sunday, May 2: Trail Cleanup: Invasive Species Pull, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Help improve your community and the environment by cleaning up in the Hayes Forest Preserve. Each participant will receive gloves, a garbage bag and a set of trash pickers to use for the morning. Return the trash pickers to receive your SSL form. Help us to

Spring Bird Walks

Discover the joy of watching birds! Join us on a socially distant morning walk for beginning birders. Learn how to use binoculars for birding, how to identify common local species, how to use bird guides and apps, and much more. Binoculars provided, or bring your own. Ages 16 and up.

- **Saturday, May 8:** 7:30–9 a.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center (paths are not paved). [Register here.](#)
- **Tuesday, May 18:** 7:30–9 a.m. at RedGate Park (paths are paved). [Register here.](#)

Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

CleanUp Rockville

Volunteer to complete a self-guided litter cleanup to help keep Rockville free of trash and earn SSL hours while doing it! [Learn more and register.](#)

Take the Plogging Pledge

Pledge to clean up litter while you walk, jog or run through Rockville, and receive a free plogging bag! Bags are limited. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment to take the pledge.

Solar and EV Charger Co-Op Coming Soon

Are you interested in rooftop solar or looking to install an electric vehicle charger? This is the opportunity for you! Watch for updates in our next newsletter and at www.rockvillemd.gov/solarhomes.

Visit us at www.rockvillemd.gov/environment.

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