



## Washington Township Environmental Commission



### CELEBRATE **EARTH DAY AND ARBOR DAY**

#### Scheduled Activities

**April 1 – 30 Exhibit: *Plastic pollution*** -- Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library



Learn about the nature and scope of the problems caused by our favorite convenience material, plastic. An exhibit in the “New Books” area describes some of the impacts from plastic waste that makes its way into our waterways and landscapes. Take-away information will be available, and here will be a collection bin for single-use plastic bags at the display.

**April 1 – 26 *Rain Barrel Art Challenge***

Calling all artists! Individual artists, studios, classes and groups are invited to take the barrel challenge! Participants will decorate rain barrels to demonstrate how an environmentally friendly way to conserve water and keep your garden green can also be a beautiful addition to your home landscape. Selected works of barrel art will be displayed at public locations throughout town. See [www.twp.washington.nj.us](http://www.twp.washington.nj.us) for more details.

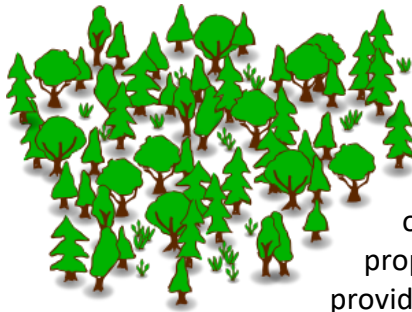


**Tuesday, April 2 – 7:00 pm – *Home Composting: Turning Waste to Gold for Your Garden*** – Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library

Home composting is the ultimate in recycling. In this presentation by the Gloucester County Certified Gardeners, learn how to turn kitchen and yard waste into nutrient-rich material that can help transform your garden, with tips on “do’s and don’t’s.” As a bonus, attendees can enter a raffle to receive a free home composting unit. Advance registration required; go to Programs and Events at [www.hegganlibrary.org](http://www.hegganlibrary.org). ***Bag exchange*** – bring in 10 single-use plastic bags and receive a reusable grocery tote. (One per household, please.)



**Saturday, April 6 – 9:00 am – Noon – *Washington Township Re-Leaf: Tree Seedling Giveaway* – near Rangers Station in Washington Lake Park and at Shred Event, Township Municipal Building**



As part of the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign, residents can pick up tree seedlings to replace trees destroyed by storms such as Superstorm Sandy or the 2015 microburst. The seedlings come with instructions on how to store, care for and plant them. (Trees should be planted within two days after pick-up to prevent roots from drying out. Planting trees can beautify your neighborhood, increase your property value, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat. Every leaf counts!

**Sunday, April 7 – 1:30 pm - *Hunters of the Sky* – Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library**

For the whole family. Meet three different raptors (birds of prey) up close, as experts from the Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife refuge introduce participants to each species unique characteristics, adaptations for survival, and how it fits in the ecosystem and food chain. Advance registration required; go to Programs and Events at [www.hegganlibrary.org](http://www.hegganlibrary.org). Baq exchange – bring in 10 single-use plastic bags and receive a reusable grocery tote. (One per household, please.)



**Thursday, April 11 – 7:00 pm – *What’s All This Talk About Climate Change?* – Margaret E. Heggan Free Public Library**



Learn about one of the most important issues of our time. Professor James Miller of Rutgers Climate Institute will provide an overview of how our climate is changing, describe some of the effects and consequences of climate change for the planet, and effects we can observe today and might anticipate in New Jersey. Advance registration required; go to Programs and Events at [www.hegganlibrary.org](http://www.hegganlibrary.org) . Baq exchange – bring in 10 single-use plastic bags and receive a reusable grocery tote. (One per household, please.)

**Sunday, April 14 – Noon – *2019 Community Garden Opening* - Washington Lake Park**

As fresh as fresh can get! This event will be a gathering of subscribed gardeners to say hello and dig in! A limited number of garden plots are available to residents on a first come-first served basis to grow vegetables, herbs, and/or flowers through the season. To reserve a 10 ft x 10 ft plot, call 856-589-0523. The fee for the 2019 season is \$15 before April 15, or \$25 afterwards.



**Monday, April 15 – Thursday, April 18 – *Teaching about Trees***



Third-grade students will learn about the value of trees, their planting and their care, and will be given tree seedlings to plant at home. All Washington Township elementary schools; closed to general public.

**Monday, April 22 *Earth Day - Celebrate our planet in all her beauty and for all her gifts!***



**Friday, April 26 *Arbor Day - Have you thanked a tree today?***



**Saturday, April 27, 11 am – 4 pm – *Environmental Outreach at Duffield's Farm Market***

Visit the Washington Township Environmental Commission's tent at Duffield Farm Market's *Down to Earth Food Truck Festival*, for earth-friendly fun and giveaways. Learn how to join our Monarch Rescue Campaign, how you can be a Bluebird Buddy, and about our other environmental projects. Bag exchange – bring in 10 single-use plastic bags and receive a reusable grocery tote. (One per household, please.)



**Saturday, May 4, 9 am – Noon – *Stream and Lake Sampling***



The Environmental Commission will lead students on field visits to local watersheds, where they will take samples, observe environmental conditions, and examine the critters that make the water habitats their homes. Afterwards, students will perform chemical analyses on water samples they've collected, in a classroom laboratory. Closed to general public.