

Earth Week Programs

All Earth Week Programs are FREE and open to the public. All programs will be held at Retzer Nature Center unless specified otherwise.

Registration is required for most programs. Please see program description for registration information.

Join us for a
Waukesha Community Open House
Saturday, April 21
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Waukesha County Recycling Facility
City of Waukesha Wastewater Treatment Plant
City of Waukesha Water Utility
Waukesha School District EB Shurts
Environmental Center

Tours-Prize Drawings-Family Fun!

www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling
(262) 896-8300

EARTH DAY

The first Earth Day was held April 22, 1970. It was the expression of a new developing consciousness of our duty to preserve the natural environment, a consciousness that has continued to grow now for a generation. In the time since that Earth Day, Waukesha County has tried to identify & preserve high quality natural land in its park system, & to make these parklands an asset to our quality of life in the county. As part of the Waukesha County Park System, Retzer Nature Center offers programs of education & enjoyment, to enrich the experience of county residents, & to share with them a value for the land. If people see the land as something to enjoy, something to learn about, something to value, then taking care of the land becomes a logical & obvious part of everyday life. As we continue the tradition of Earth Day, we re-dedicate ourselves to the goal we try to achieve every day: to share with people a value for land.

-Larry Kascht

Waukesha County Department of
Parks & Land Use
Park System Division
515 W. Moreland Blvd., AC230
Waukesha, WI 53188

www.waukeshacountyparks.com



Waukesha County
Park System

Retzer Nature Center's FREE Earth Week Events



www.waukeshacountyparks.com



Retzer Nature Center
S14W28167 Madison Street
Waukesha, WI 53188
(262) 896-8007

Earth Week Programs

All Earth Week Programs are **FREE**

Canoe Outing—Sunday, April 22 (1 PM)

Experience the sights, sounds & smells of the marsh, river & wetlands in spring on a naturalist guided canoe outing led by Retzer staff & guest naturalists. We will canoe the Oconomowoc River to Lowe's Lake. A wearable Coast Guard Approved Life Preserver (PFD) is required. Participants must provide their own canoe. Please call (262) 896-8007 for more information or to **register by April 16**.



GPS Aided Hiking—Tuesday, April 24

(10-11:30 AM)

Adult Program

In this adult program, we will review basic GPS operation while hiking, and develop orienteering skills. An indoor GPS discussion in the event of rain. Call (262) 548-7801 to **register by April 20**. Class is limited to 6 people.

Wisconsin Bats: Ecology & Monitoring

Tuesday, April 24 (7:00-9:00 PM)

Adults & Families with Children 10+

Bill Mueller of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory will discuss WI bat ecology and monitoring their populations. Learn about threats facing WI bats, and our need to learn about their numbers and distribution. Learn how to use electronic equipment to survey for bats. Call (262) 548-7801 to **register by April 22**. Seating is limited to 100 people.

Birds of Prey

Wednesday, April 25 (7-8:30 PM)

Adult Program

Join wildlife rehabilitator Mary Schmaus for her program featuring live birds of prey (hawks and owls). Mary is an expert in the care & healing of injured birds of prey. Her goal is to release them, healthy & whole, back to the wild. She uses special hawks and owls, which cannot be released, to share the wonders of these marvelous birds. Please call (262) 548-7801 to **register by April 23**. Seating is limited to 100 people.

Preschool Nature Exploration

Thursday, April 26 - (10-11 AM) - 2-3 yr. or (1-2 PM) - 4-6 yr.

A nature experience awaits children on a Retzer hike. Come & explore the sensory wonders of the outdoors while observing & comparing spring insects, flowers & other treasures. Participants must be accompanied by an adult. Call (262) 548-7801 to **register by April 23**. Max 15, min 5 per session.

Morning Bird Hike

Friday, April 27 (7-8:30 AM)

Discover the birds returning to the diverse habitats of Brown's Fen—one of Retzer's finest nature areas. **No need to register.**



Earth Day Finale

Retzer Programs

Saturday, April 28

JACK YOUNG MEMORIAL EARTH WATCH

(5 AM-12:30 PM)

Experience nature's beauty in a whole new way by volunteering for Earth Watch. You'll observe the often unnoticed activities of the birds & animals of Retzer during your 2 1/2 hour shift at one of our observation sites. Equipment is provided for watching & identifying the many beautiful creatures of the wild. **Please call (262) 896-8007 to reserve your spot.**

FAMILY BIRD WATCH

Groups depart at 9, 10, 11 AM - meet by main entrance

Join Retzer Naturalist Larry Kascht for a bird watching adventure. Learn how to participate in this fascinating & fun activity through a guided tour of feathered wildlife. This program includes 1/2 hour discussion and 1/2 hour hike on wooded and open areas on gentle terrain, near the building. **No need to register.**

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

(9 AM-3 PM)

Nature activities & games - "A SPRING FLING" Kids of all ages will enjoy a variety of crafts and activities celebrating the best of spring.

- ♦ Geared for All Ages
Bubble Machine | Sunprints | Family Trail Rally
- ♦ Geared for Ages 7 and up
Sprout a seed necklace | Sun & Moon Spiral Windchime
- ♦ Geared for Ages 6 and under
Sprout a seed sunflower magnet | Discovery Fun Binoculars

FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE (10 AM-4 PM)

MEET THE EDITORS

(Noon-3 PM)

The editors of MilwaukeeMoms.com and MetroParent magazine will teach you how to make a newspaper hat.



Retzer Programs Continued

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

(Noon-3 PM) - Age 14 thru Adult

Join Retzer staff in this worthwhile volunteer project of invasive species removal or spreading wood chips on trails. Call (262) 896-8074 to **register by April 20**.

SAVE WATER, SAVE MONEY WITH RAIN GARDENS & RAIN BARRELS

(1-2 PM)

When it rains—where does your rainwater go? In this program, we will learn about two great ways to capture your runoff—rain gardens and rain barrels. You will learn the basic design principles to design and install your own rain garden and rain barrel. Handouts will be provided. **No need to register.**

TREES & WILDFLOWERS HIKE

(2-3 PM) - meet by main entrance

Enjoy this guided hike on trails in wooded and open areas on moderately hilly terrain. **No need to register.**

CONCERT BY TOM PEASE (3-5 PM)

His music will get the whole family singing and dancing.

CAMPFIRE SONGS & S'MORES (5-7 PM)

MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR: Guided Twilight Hike Into Brown's Fen (Approx. 7:15-9:00 PM)

This nature area features frogs and peepers, woodcocks, coyotes, and constellations. Enjoy our own Treasure Hunt! This hike is on very hilly terrain, in twilight and darkness, so bring your flashlight. Recommended for older children. **No need to register.**

Earth Day Finale

Charles Z. Horwitz Planetarium Shows

Saturday, April 28

"SPRING SKY LEGENDS"

(9, 10, 11 AM, Noon, 1, 2, and 3 PM)

This program highlights the beauty of the spring season here in Wisconsin. Watch your favorite constellation characters like Leo, the Lion, Hercules, the Strong Man and Hydra, the Water Snake magically come alive to tell of their amazing sky adventures. Bring the whole family, program is suitable for all ages.

Earth Day Planetarium programs are presented FREE to the public to coordinate with Retzer's Earth Day celebrations. Tickets for each show will be available starting at 8:00 AM at the Planetarium Ticket Office. Space is limited, so arrive early.

