

## 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.**

**Waukesha Recycling Facility  
Open House  
*April 20*  
10am – Noon**

Tour Waukesha County's Materials Recycling Facility and enjoy refreshments, music and prizes. Children will have the opportunity to meet Recycle Raccoon, collect trading cards and learn more about recycling. Pick up a free recycling bin (while supplies last) and register to win additional prizes including a home compost bin, laptop, lunch box, kitchen compost collector and more.

*Enjoy this FREE event!*  
Materials Recycling Facility  
220 S. Prairie Ave, Waukesha

[www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling](http://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 rededicate 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](http://www.waukeshacountyparks.com)



Waukesha County  
Park System

Retzer Nature Center's  
**FREE**  
Earth Week Events



**Phone: 262-896-8007**  
**Fax: 262-896-6822**  
**Register: 262-896-8007**  
**Email:**  
**[retzer@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:retzer@waukeshacounty.gov)**

[www.waukeshacountyparks.com](http://www.waukeshacountyparks.com)



**Retzer Nature Center**  
**514 W 28167 Madison Street**  
**Waukesha, WI 53188**  
**(262) 896-8007**

# Earth Week Programs

All Earth Week Programs are **FREE**

## Canoe Outing—Sunday, April 21

(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 is required. Participants must provide their own canoe. **Register by April 15.**



## GPS Aided Hiking— Wednesday, 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 will be held in the event of rain.

**Register by April 17.** Class is limited to 6 people.

## Birds of Prey

Wednesday, April 24 (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. **Register by April 23.**

Seating is limited to 100 people.

## Preschool Nature Exploration

Thursday, April 25 - (10-11 AM) - 2-3 yr. or (1-2 PM) - 4-6 yr.

A nature experience awaits children on a Retzer hike. Explore the sensory wonders of the outdoors while observing and comparing spring insects, flowers & other treasures. Participants must be accompanied by an adult. **Register by April 22.**

Max 15, min 5 per session.

## Morning Bird Hike

Friday, April 26 (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 27

## 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.

**Register by April 24.**

## 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 Climate Mystery"** Kids of all ages will enjoy a variety of crafts and activities exploring the mystery surrounding our changing climate. Create a Litter Bug out of recycled items, go on a "Climate Mystery" Scavenger Hunt, start a garden to take home, and have fun creating cool crafts with everyday items found around the house.

## FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE (10 AM-4 PM)

## COMPOST- TURN YOUR GREEN INTO GOLD

(10-11 AM)

Join UW Extension Master Gardener Volunteers, as they show you the perfect recipe for creating the best compost to be used in your garden beds.

## CONTAINER GARDENING (11:30 AM-12:30 PM)

Spruce up your landscape as UW Extension Master Gardener Volunteers show you how to grow vegetables, flowers, and herbs in containers.

## FAMILY PHOTO SPOT

(Noon-3 PM)

Meet the editors of the Waukesha County Patch sites and get a free group photo so you can take your memories home with you.

**Patch.**

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.**

## WIGGLE WITH WORMS

(1-2 PM)

Children will learn another great method of recycling – composting! We will talk about nature's ultimate recyclers, worms, and vermicomposting. Children will be able to touch, learn about, and feed our worms as well as find cool "decomposer" bugs. Make a recycled, biodegradable seed pot that they will plant to take home! We will challenge children to learn about all items that can be recycled and actions everyone can take to become more environmentally-friendly at home!

## 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.

## FAMILY CONCERT BY TOM PEASE (3-5 PM)

Music to 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 PM)

This nature area features frogs and peepers, woodcocks, coyotes, and constellations. Enjoy your own Treasure Hunt! This hike is on very hilly terrain, in twilight and darkness, so bring your flashlight. Recommended for older children.

# Earth Day Finale Charles Z. Horwitz Planetarium Shows

Saturday, April 27

## "Cosmic Colors"

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

Sit back and enjoy how colors display their personalities. See how scientists use the vast wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum to study the mysteries in deep space.

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.