

PRESS RELEASE



Earth Day Trash Bash Returns April 19 *Over 1,800 Volunteers Needed to Help Green Up the Metro*

For Immediate Release:

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DES MOINES, IOWA – Tuesday, March 12, 2019 – Earth Day Trash Bash, Iowa’s largest Earth Day volunteer event, is a collaborative project between the cities and residents of Des Moines, West Des Moines, Clive, Pleasant Hill, Johnston, Urbandale, Norwalk, Polk County Conservation, Ingersoll Business Committee, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Des Moines West Side Chamber of Commerce, Polk Soil and Water Conservation District, Greater Des Moines Botanical Gardens and Des Moines Water Works.

Earth Day Trash Bash will be held Friday April 19 (Rain Date Monday, April 22) from 12 - 5 p.m. for teams and Saturday, April 20 for individuals and families. This will give the metro area and its parks a fresh start to the spring season. Over 1,800 volunteers are needed to clear away winter debris, remove invasive species to improve wildlife habitat, clean up litter, and beautify our parks, trails, cemeteries and other public spaces in our community.

Team registration is now open today at <https://earthday.dmgov.org/> thru March 31. Teams will be matched with volunteer sites throughout the Metro and notified at a Captain’s Meeting in early April. Team Captains receive a t-shirt as a thank you for organizing and leading a team. Earth Day Trash Bash will kick-off with a volunteer lunch, team introductions, music and educational booths at Cowles Commons in downtown Des Moines. Following lunch, registered teams volunteer in a park, on a trail or other public space from 1 – 5 p.m. All supplies are provided. Volunteers can compete for awards, such as Team Spirit, Finders Keepers (most unusual trash found), Ye Olde Bag (most used plastic grocery bags collected), Bigg Buttowski (most cigarette butts) and Best Selfie.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Earth Day Trash Bash is only successful through the support of sponsors. 2019’s Diamond Sponsors include [City of Des Moines](#), Lamar Advertising and MidAmerican Energy. This year’s Platinum Sponsors are Ankeny Sanitation, Alter Metal Recycling, Ernst & Young, Friends of Des Moines Parks, Meredith Corporation, Polk County Conservation, VOYA Financial. If your company would like to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, call Callie Le’au Courtright at 515-248-6380 or email trashbash@dmgov.org for more information.

Sustaining Our Future

The 2019 theme is "Think Downstream" and we encourage all citizens to think about their impacts on our waterways and those downstream from them. As of 2015, over 700 Iowa rivers, streams and lakes were found to be impaired with various pollutants at unsafe levels. Whether it is sediments, nutrients or plastics or other items in our water, we will work together to improve our water quality! We ALL need clean water to survive!

For more information about ways you can improve your watershed, visit [Des Moines' Water Works](#) or check out their educational video at <https://youtu.be/OUffWxmwfk>.

Individual and family opportunities continue Saturday, April 20 including a creek clean-up and educational activities. Volunteers are encouraged to meet-up in Pal Joey's parking lot, 6224 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa starting at 9:00 a.m. and going until noon for a fun family eco-hunt. Volunteers can give back, clean-up in and around Walnut Creek and search for "cached" prizes hidden in giant eggs throughout the clean-up area. To help us plan registration is preferred but volunteers can also drop-in the day of the event.

<https://cityofdesmoinesparksandrecreationdepartment.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=35574>

Starting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 20 celebrate the annual Downtown Earth Day Tour with the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, Iowa Rivers Revival and the Science Center of Iowa. FREE admission all day at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden (sponsored by Principal Financial Group) with activities from 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. Enjoy a short walk or ride between locations. Drop-in activities will be available at all locations.

2018 Earth Day Trash Bash Statistics

- More than 1,900 registered volunteers served on 88 teams at 75 locations
- Kick-off volunteer thank-you lunch/bash was ZERO WASTE with all excess being recycled or composted and nothing going to the landfill
- Over 81,000 pounds of trash, recyclables, tires, metal and brush were removed
- Almost 300 trees planted
- Over 34 pounds of cigarette butts collected
- More than 3,400 plastic bags recycled

Earth Day Trash Bash Statistics

In the past 10 years, over 13,100 volunteers have participated in Earth Day Trash Bash. In the past 10 years, over 530,000 pounds of litter, recyclables, tires, metal and compostable material have been removed from along our roads, trails and in our public spaces by Earth Day Trash Bash volunteers.

About Des Moines Parks and Recreation

Founded in 1892, the Parks and Recreation Department's mission is "Helping Des Moines Live Well, Play Hard and Protect the Earth." Our department is responsible for the management of 75 parks, over 4,000 acres of parkland, 81 miles of trails, seven cemeteries and numerous municipal facilities. In addition, we offer numerous programs in the areas of sports, urban conservation, environment education, sport instruction, volunteerism, rentals and special events. For more information on Des Moines Parks and Recreation programs or facilities, visit our website (dmparks.org), Facebook (facebook.com/desmoinesparks), Twitter ([@desmoinesparks](https://twitter.com/desmoinesparks)) or Instagram (instagram.com/desmoinesparks).

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