



In Columbia & Howard County, Maryland

## A Local Gardening, Plant, Eco & Farm-to-Table Resource of Events, Organizations & Opportunities

Online at [bit.ly/hoco-gardening-resources](https://bit.ly/hoco-gardening-resources)

### Hey, psst! Can you help keep this list fresh?

*This project needs ongoing community input to be its best and to stay fresh.*

- Got updates, additions or suggestions to offer? [Here's how.](#)
- Where might you be able to share this information?  
Groups, friends, local organizations, social media? (Every bit helps.)
- And, most certainly, feel free to republish any part of this document on any websites, social media or community newsletters.

**Last updated:** February 21, 2025

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## Resources for HoCo Gardeners

### Garden Plots for Rent

- [Columbia Gardeners](#) community gardens (three sites, ~ 600 plots for rent)
- [Howard County Conservancy](#) community garden plots (70 plots for rent)

### Plant Swaps & Give-aways

- April 26, 2025 - Wilde Lake Cares Annual Plant Exchange
- May 10, 2025 - Annual Community Plant Swap, Central Library

### Seed Libraries

- [HoCo Library Seed Library](#)
- Whipps Cemetery Garden

## Community Plant Sale Events

- May 2 & 3, 2025 - Whipps Garden Cemetery Plant Sale in EC
- May 4, 2025 - [Native Plant Palooza, at Robinson Nature Center](#)
- April 12, 2025 - [GreenFest](#) - native plant sales
- (confirm) Mother's Day - Plantapalooza at [Community Ecology Institute](#) - Vegetable and herb starts, baked goods, special flowers, mother's day activities & more.

## Starter Plant Sales

- Frank's Produce & Greenhouse (April 1st & onward) in ElkrIDGE
- Farmers market vendors often have starter plants (mid-May and onward)
- Check springtime plant-related events for availability
- Mary's Land Farm - Native and non-native tree and fruit orchard saplings

## Tree Give-aways

- Early Spring - [Trees for Bees](#), Spring Give-away of pollinator trees (full-sized trees and shrubs. 2-6' tall and in 2-, 3- and 5-gallon pots)
- [Live Green Howard Fall Tree Give-away](#)
- HoCo Gov [County tree programs](#) for individual home and property owners
  - Turf to Trees
  - Stream ReLeaf
  - Tree Canopy

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# Farmers Markets, CSAs & Local Produce

## Farmers markets

**Full LIST** of farmers markets in Howard County from Visit Howard County.

[#CSA](#) [#LocalProduce](#)

## CSAs / farm-share programs

Support local farmers and get lots of seasonal produce (and maybe more) by purchasing a share in these community-supported agriculture (CSA) programs. Each CSA is different. Seasons are different. What is offered is different. Some require pickup. Some do delivery. Shares often sell out quickly, so if you're interested, don't delay. Check the

farms listed below and this [website](#) to find CSA shares available in Howard County.

- [Breezy Willow Farm](#)
- [Bupperts Farm](#)
- [TLV Tree Farm](#)
- [Clark's Elioak](#)
- [Gorman Farm](#)
- [Wheeler Farm](#)
- [Mary's Land Farm](#)

## Local produce markets, stands & at-farm sales

### *Seasonal*

- [Baughers Fruits & Vegetables](#) - Roadside stand
- [Clark's Farm](#) - Roadside stand
- [Roving Radish](#) - mobile
- [HoCo farmers markets](#) (scroll down)
- [Roving Radish](#) - a HoCoGov program
- [Community Ecology Institute](#)

### *Year-round*

- [Breezy Willow Country Market](#), including protein
- [Farm-raised Proteins](#) - TLV Tree Farm
- [Wagner's Meat & Mt. Airy Meat Locker](#) - Locally grown & fully processed beef, pork and chicken, as well as other meats and products
- [Hensing Farm](#) - poultry, pork, beef, dairy
- [Ritter Family Farm](#) - meat
- [Heron's Meadow Farm](#) - views of wildlife, flavorful tea, handmade stoneware
- [Mary's Land Farm Store](#) - Secolari oils and vinegars, fresh produce, meat, gourmet surprises, books, handmade pottery and gifts.

## Pick Your Own

### **Vegetables & Fruit**

- [Fruits & Vegetables](#) - Larriland Farm
- **Produce** - [Singh Sugar Maple Farm](#) (July through October)
- [Pick-Your-Own Strawberries](#) - Gorman Farms
- [Orchards & Fruit](#) - Baughers' in Carroll County
- [Apples](#) - Gaver Farm

## Flowers

- [Sunflowers](#) - Gaver Farm
  - 50 types of flowers - [Singh Sugar Maple Farm](#)
  - [Cut Your Own Flowers](#) - Clark's Elioak Farm
  - [Blue Gables Farm](#) - a flower-focused farm in Clarksville
- 

# Local Gardening Resources & Information

- [Vegetable Planting Calendar](#) from the University of Maryland Extension Program
- [Farm & Flavor Guide](#) - Visit Howard County's guide to local farms, farmers' markets, and farm-to-table food.
- [Find a Farm map](#)
- [GreenFest 2025](#) - HoCo's biggest Earth Day Celebration with free document-shredding, rain-barrel and compost-bin giveaways, old light-bulb collection, vendors, native-plant giveaways and more
- [Jim Duke's Green Farmacy](#)
- [Native Plant Pollinator Garden Design Templates](#)

## Eco & Native Plants & Trees

- GreenFest / Earth Day (by Live Green Howard)
  - [Seeds of Change](#) native plant nursery & nonprofit (Howard EcoWorks)
  - Trees for Bees, Spring native tree and shrub give-away
  - Fall native-tree give-away (HoCoGov)
  - Mary's Land Farm & Orchard, [small trees for sale](#), native and non-native
  - [Lauren's Garden Service & Native Plant Nursery](#)
  - EcoWorks' [native-plant nursery](#) (they sell plants at their seasonal [farm stand](#))
  - EcoWorks' [native-plant wildflower online seed store](#)
- 

# Seed Libraries

## Seed Library at the library

A place and way to donate, offload and/or get vegetable, herb and flower seeds.

[Website](#) \* [Events](#)

[#SeedLibrary](#) [#Free](#) [#Give](#) [#Take](#)

## Seed Library at Whipps Garden Cemetery

3651 St Johns Lane Ellicott City, MD 21042

In addition to the seed library, they have pretty gardens to visit, events, a community Daffodil Day, a spring plant sale, volunteer opportunities and more.

[Website](#) \* [Facebook](#)

[#SeedLibrary](#) [#Free](#) [#Give](#) [#Take](#)

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# Education & Workshops

These local organizations and businesses offer many garden-, plant-, eco- and local-food-related events. Check their websites and social media pages for upcoming events, or sign up for their email newsletters to keep abreast of their events and activities.

## Gardening & Eco

- [HoCo Master Gardeners](#) - wide range of gardening-related discussions
- [Freetown Farm / Community Ecology Institute](#)
- [Nourishing Gardens Year-long Program at Freetown Farm](#)
- [Dr. Duke's Green Farmacy Garden](#)
- [HoCo Library](#) (gardening-focused events)
- [Howard EcoWorks](#) - Environmental workshops & webinars
- [Patapsco Heritage Greenway](#) - Workshops, guided hikes, family days and lectures on water quality, invasive species, native plants, vernal pools, sustainable practices and more
- [Howard County Bee City](#)
- [Mary's Land Farm gardening classes](#)

## Farm to table

- [Mary's Land Farm](#) - Cooking classes and workshops
  - [Manor Hill Farm](#) - tasting room, social
  - [Visit Howard County](#) - farm-related events calendar
-

# Places to Visit – List

- [Howard County Conservancy](#)
  - [Duke's Green Farmacy Garden](#)
  - [Howard County Living Farm Heritage Museum](#) & [FB page](#)
  - [Farm Immersion Program](#) at Mary's Land
  - [Manor Hill Farm](#) - tasting room, food truck, live music and farm visits
  - [Heron's Meadow Farm](#) - views of wildlife, flavorful tea, handmade stoneware
  - [Clark's Elioak Farm](#) - Kids programming, petting zoo and activities
  - [Farm field trips](#) - Gaver Farm
  - [Community Ecology Institute](#)
  - [Belmont Pollinator Meadow](#)
  - [Little Portion Farm](#) - Franciscans
- 

# Garden, Plant & Outdoor Volunteer Opportunities

- Wilde Lake Cares [Adopt-a-Spot clean-ups](#)
  - [Students Branching Out](#)
  - [HoCo Food Banks - community garden](#)
  - [Habitat Restoration](#) in the [Middle Patuxent Environmental Area](#)
  - [Howard EcoWorks Employment Programs](#) - young-adult workforce development programs focused on conservation and environmental restoration. And [Volunteer Opportunities](#) for all ages.
  - [Agroecology in Action](#) - growing, harvesting and distribution food locally
  - Howard County Conservancy offers [Wednesday morning gardening](#) or [Habitat Restoration Work Groups](#) for youth on Tuesday afternoons
  - [The Green Farmacy Garden](#)
  - [Howard County Bee City](#)
-

# Tree-planting Programs

## Stream ReLeaf Tree-planting Program

The [Stream ReLeaf](#) program helps property owners plant riparian buffers along a stream which help prevent erosion, provide vegetative cover, and trap nutrients. Thousands of trees have been planted this way. Eligible property owners must commit to planting a minimum of a dozen trees or shrubs within 75 feet of a stream. Recreation and Parks' staff will work with homeowners on a personalized plan.

## Turf to Trees Tree-planting Program

This Recreation and Parks program provides trees and planting services to Howard County property owners with lots of 1.5 to 10 acres in size, free of cost, with the aim of reducing stormwater runoff by increasing using tree coverage throughout the county. Property owners in the program must plant and maintain a minimum of 50 trees, provided by the County and then maintained by the property owner. \* [Turf to Trees](#)

## Tree Canopy Tree-planting Program

The [Tree Canopy](#) program focuses on tree planting in communities with lower tree canopy coverage. Full size, native species, canopy trees are prioritized with the goal of providing shade and reduce heat islands. The county provides the trees; the property owners must commit to planting and maintaining one to 10 trees on their property. An emphasis is given to planting full-size canopy trees.

#FreeTrees #GovernmentProgram

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# Birds, Bees & Butterflies

- [Howard County Beekeepers Association](#)
- [HoCo Bee City](#)
- [Howard County Butterflies](#)
- [Howard County Bird Club](#)
- [HoCo Pollinator Resources](#)
- [Pollinator Fest](#) at Hoco Conservancy – Celebrates the butterflies, moths, bats, birds and bees that pollinate our world. Join us to learn about these fascinating, essential critters and for seed giveaways, a nature book swap, native garden

tours, plant sales, beekeeper information, games and crafts, plus music from a one-man band. [Registration required.](#)

- [Native Plant Templates](#)
  - [Habitat Registration](#)
- 

## HoCo Garden-related Events

Check the websites and social media pages of local organizations offering events and workshops to get the latest information on events.

### April

#### **Frank's Produce & Greenhouse** opens for the season!

**April 1, 2025**

6686 Old Waterloo Rd, Elkridge, MD 21075

The date we all wait for. If you have a vegetable garden (or even “just” a yard), you gotta know about Frank's in Elkridge! Get your vegetable garden up and running with their 4-inch vegetable starter plants. Get there earlier in the season as they go quickly.

[Website](#) \* [Facebook](#)

#### **Earth Day Celebration**

**April 19, 2025** \* 10am-1pm

At [Clarksville Commons](#)

#### **GreenFest 2025**

**Saturday, April 12, 2025** \* 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Howard Community College

Native-plant sale, workshops, demonstrations and more! GreenFest is Howard County's largest Earth Day celebration. The event aims to connect residents with the resources that local businesses, nonprofits and government provide to help anyone be a good steward to the environment. Interact with local green vendors, take home some native plants, attend a workshop or demonstration and much more! \* [Website](#)

#### **Plant Exchange** (and a whole lot more!)

**Saturday, April 26, 2025** \* 11:30 a.m. sharp (or before)

Wilde Lake Village Center

Bring your extra seeds, gardening tools, pots, house plants, divided perennials, garden tools and plant-related whatnot to this mega-swap. This annual Plant Exchange at Wilde Lake is open to everyone ... well, to everyone who brings related items to donate to the swap area. What to bring? All kinds of plant and garden-related items: house plants, vegetable seeds and seedlings, garden tools and nutrients, perennials you need to split, shrubs, and even tree saplings. Please arrive by 11:30 a.m., or earlier. Volunteers will then help sort the items. The Exchange will open promptly at 12 noon, and, as has happened in previous exchanges, the gifted items tend to be picked up rather quickly! If you need help carrying your items from your vehicle, just let folks know and some kind soul will help you. [Website](#)

### **Earth Day Celebration**

Saturday, **April 26, 2025** \* 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wilde Lake Village Center

Live music, opportunities to connect with local merchants and organizations, and fun, eco-friendly activities for all ages ... plus the 8th Annual Plant Exchange, above. [Website](#)

### **Earth Day Celebration**

Saturday, **April 26, 2025** \* 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Howard County Conservancy

All are welcome to join the Conservancy for a tree planting, animal encounters, farmhouse and native garden tours, a scavenger hunt, a story walk, blacksmith demonstrations, children's nature education activities, a Youth Climate Institute showcase, anniversary cake and more. [Website](#)

### **Earth Day Celebration**

Sunday, April **27, 2025** \* 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

The Green Farmacy Garden \* [Website](#)

### **Rain Barrel giveaway**

Sign up to receive one of the rain barrels the HoCoGov gives away each year at GreenFest. [Website](#)

#Giveaway #Eco

## **May**

### **Spring Plant Sale**

Friday & Saturday, **May 2 & 3, 2025**

Whipps Garden Cemetery in Ellicott City \* [More info here](#)

## **Native Plant Palooza**

Sunday, **May 4, 2025** \* 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.

Robinson Nature Center \* [Website](#)

Spring native plant sale, several native plant suppliers participate

## **Community Plant Swap, Central Library**

Saturday, **May 10, 2025** \* 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Central Branch Library, 10375 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia, MD 21044

Calling all plant lovers and the plant-curious! The library is hosting its first plant swap.

Donations can also be dropped off the day before, May 9, from 10am-5pm. Feel free to bring –

- Potted plants
- Bare root plants
- Plant cuttings or “babies”
- Mid-season – late-season seedlings/starts for vegetable gardens
- Gardening tools
- Pots, vases, and containers
- Small, sealed bags of potting soil, coco coir, vermiculite, etc. (ex. 8 qt bag of all-purpose potting mix)
- Plant food/fertilizer
- Bulbs
- Seeds of all types to donate to the new Seed Library!

[Website](#)

#Free #Plants #Gardening #Swap #Spring

## **Trees for Bees, Spring Give-away**

March and April

Native trees and shrubs for pollinators. Sign up in March; pick ‘em up in April. The details are important, so read their [website](#).

#Giveaway #Trees #Natives #Spring #Free

## **Summer Events**

[Sunflower Festival](#) - Gaver Farm

[Pollinator Week Events](#) , via Howard County Bee City

## Garden- & Yard-friendly fall Events

### Fall Tree Give-Away

Sign up to get notifications and dates

The date for this annual event offered by the HoCoGov Parks & Rec is not yet set. Registration usually begins in early September with the tree pick up in early October. All trees gifted through this program (over 12,000 to date) are native species and well-adapted to the local climate and conditions. Past tree-give-aways have included Eastern Redbud, River Birch, Northern Red Oak, Swamp White Oak, Red Maple, Sycamore, American Hornbeam, Flowering Dogwood, Black Gum and more. The trees are typically 5- to 8-feet tall.

[Program information](#) (scroll down)

[Sign up to get email notifications](#)

#Giveaway #Trees #Natives #Fall #County #Free

### Rake and Take Program

Mid fall, each year

Got a lot of raked leaves? Want a bunch of raked leaves (to mulch and compost)? The Howard County Master Gardeners organization helps coordinate “the rakers and takers.” [More info](#)

#Eco #Fall #Free #Swap #Give #Take

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## Family-friendly Fall events

These lists are a jumping off point—a place for you to begin your search for local, garden-, farm- and eco-focused events. Check organizations’ websites and social media accounts for updated information, and definitely take a look at the HoCo Tourism’s page, [Visit Howard County](#).

### Pumpkins! Fall Activities & more

Check this [list of pumpkin patches](#) from Visit Howard County

- [Frank's Produce & Nursery in Elkridge](#)
- [TLV Tree Farm](#)
- [Sharp's at Waterford Farm](#)
- [Mary's A-Maze-ing Pumpkins & Patch](#) in Ellicott City
- [Larriland Farms](#)

- [Fall Fun Festival](#) at Gaver Farm in Mt Airy
- [Clarks Elioak Farm](#)
- [Singh Sugar Maple Farm](#)

[After-Halloween Pumpkin Palooza](#) - Bring your pumpkins and jack-'o-lanterns to be composted at Alpha Ridge Landfill. This family-friendly festival will have games, composting demonstrations, food trucks, and more!

## Local Turkeys for Thanksgiving

- [TLV Tree Farm Turkeys](#)
- [Sho Nuf Turkeys](#)
- [Mary's Land Farm](#)

## Local Christmas Trees & Events

- [TLV Farm Christmas Trees & Santa's Workshop](#) in Glenelg
- [Payne Christmas Trees & Holiday Market](#) in Elkridge
- [Frank's Produce, Christmas Trees & Holiday Market](#) in Elkridge
- [Hilltop Farms Christmas Trees](#) in Lisbon
- [Christmas at the Farm & Holiday Market](#) - Mary's Land Farm
- [Cut your own tree & Christmas cafe](#) - Gaver Farm
- [Greenway Trees](#)

# Local Groups & Resources

## Local Groups

- [Columbia Gardeners](#)
- [Longfellow Gardeners](#)
- [HoCo Gardeners](#) Facebook group (active)
- [HoCo 4-H](#) (for kids)
- [Howard County Beekeepers Association](#)
- [Howard County Butterflies](#)
- [Howard County Bird Club](#)
- [Agroecology in Action](#)
- [Howard County Bee City](#)

## Vegetable Planting Calendar

Extensive and informative planting calendar from the University of Maryland Extension.

[Vegetable Planting Calendar](#)

#Gardening

## Columbia Gardeners

A volunteer-led nonprofit organization that manages, in tandem with the Howard County Parks & Recreation Department, three Columbia area garden-plot sites – Elkhorn, Long Reach and “the West Side” – with over 600 plots total and one organic-gardening only section.

To get on the **Wait List** to get a plot, [complete this form](#).

[Website](#) \* [Facebook](#) - specific for people who have plots; use the [HoCo Gardeners'](#) FB group for general garden questions

#GardenPlots

## Master Gardeners, Howard County

Part of the University of Maryland Extension Program.

Classes, workshops, speakers' bureau and expert advice.

[Website](#) \* [Facebook](#) \* [Event listings](#)

#Giveaway #Eco #Fall #Free

[UME Home & Garden Information Center](#); send gardening/insect questions 24/7 through [Ask Extension](#)

## Wilde Lake Cares

Big annual plant and garden-stuff swap in April around Earth Day. Also, nature walks and talks, and Adopt-a-spot clean-up volunteer opportunities..

[Facebook](#)

#Volunteer #Learn #PlantSwap

## Agroecology in Action

Works to address food insecurity in our community by growing and sharing food and knowledge. Each year, they grow a wide variety of vegetables, herbs and flowers using regenerative agricultural practices to improve the soil and make produce more nutritious and better tasting. They then harvest and distribute thousands of pounds of this produce, prioritizing sharing it with neighbors participating in food-assistance programs with the help of distribution partners, who ensure the food reaches tens of thousands of people across Howard County. [Website](#)

## Longfellow Gardeners

Events, walks and talks. [Facebook](#)

[#Learn](#) [#Connect](#) [#Participate](#)

## Howard County Gardeners

An online [Facebook group](#) for local gardeners' questions and info-sharing.

[#Learn](#) [#Connect](#) [#Share](#)

## Howard County Bee City

Raising awareness and educating the community about creating and sustaining healthy habitats for pollinators, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides. [Website](#)

## Howard County Beekeepers Association

[Website](#) \* [Facebook](#)

[#Learn](#) [#Connect](#) [#Participate](#) [#TreeGiveaway](#)

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# Places to Visit

There are many organizations and locations that have events and activities of interest to gardeners, plant-lovers and those interested in ecology. Check out the events pages of these organizations.

## Herb Garden, Maryland University of Integrative Health

Herb garden with more than 125 medicinal plant species from around the world. Herb garden walks and more to learn about medicinal uses for the different plants, harvesting approaches, medicine making tips, conservation issues and more.

[Website](#)

[#Learn](#) [#Herbs](#) [#Visit](#)

## Howard County Conservancy

[Website](#) \* [Events](#)

A 232-acre preserved farmstead, with forests, meadows, wetlands and streams, as well as an historic farmhouse and outbuildings. A 1.8-acre native plant garden with water

features, trees, shrubs and flowering plants demonstrates the power of pollinator-friendly native planting. Visit rescue animals, pollinator gardens, a vernal pool, a children's play space and five miles of trails.

## **Robinson Nature Center**

Facilitating the enjoyment and understanding of our natural resources. Indoor exhibits, a children's discovery room, outdoor trails and natural play area, planetarium, gift shop, rental spaces and more. \* [Website](#)

## **Patapsco Heritage Greenway**

Hikes, trails, volunteer opportunities. \* [Website](#)

## **Howard County Fair**

A family-friendly celebration of Howard County's rich agricultural activities.

<https://howardcountyfairmd.com/>

## **Kids Garden-, Eco- & Farming Programs**

- [Roots & Wings farm-based education for kids](#)
- Sharps Farm [Educational Farm Tours](#)
- [Howard County Historical Society](#)
- [HoCo 4-H](#)

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# **Foraging, Wild Edibles & Medicinals**

Eating fresh, local produce from your garden, a farmers market or CSA can provide quite the seasonal delights. For those in the know (or with a few links and resources on hand), yards, along the many suburban paths and the edges of woods can open a whole new range of food options by foraging for wild edibles.

[Jim Duke's Green Farmacy Garden](#) in Fulton offers foraging walks and culinary, medicinal classes as well.

[Foraging for Wild Edibles in Howard County, Maryland](#)

A Pinterest board with dozens of wild foods you can forage seasonally, and eat.

### [The Foraging and Interdependence Collection](#)

A collection of events offered by The Green Farmacy Garden in Howard County that are foraging and interdependence-related.

### [Forage Maryland](#)

Foraging and wild-craft food Facebook group.

### [Maryland Mushrooms and Mycology](#)

Workshops, meetups, foraging activities, help with mushroom identification and more.

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## Updates? Suggestions?

This compilation of events, organizations and resources for gardeners, farm-to-table enthusiasts and those with an eco-bent in the Columbia and Howard County, Maryland, area was pulled together by an individual – and there is no plan, budget, set of volunteers or mandate to keep it fresh and up to date.

**But you can help**, if you feel so inclined. Here's how –

1. You can highlight any text, choose the Insert / Comment option and add a note or link.
2. You can use the Suggested Editing option in Google Docs (found in the upper right corner of your screen).
3. You can send a specific and clear email to [hello@jessienewburnwriter.com](mailto:hello@jessienewburnwriter.com), stating what to change and where.

### **Tips when submitting updates**

For events–when and where possible–link to an organization's EVENTS page on Facebook, not to the actual event on Facebook. *Why?* Many events are annual, and that link will get old and not work for future years, and the more self-refreshing this document is, the better. **Here's the trick:** Instead of linking to, for example, the 2025 *Earth Day event page* on an organization's website, go to the organization's website event page, but first put in a search term: In this case, it would be *Earth Day*. Hit enter (to activate the search), then copy that link. (See below for an example.) By adding event information this way, the link and resource will stay fresher. Thank you!

<https://howardnature.org/events/list/?tribe-bar-search=earth+day>

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# Publish this resource freely!

This compilation has been started. Run with it if you'd like. Post it on your organization's website. Include sections in your organization's newsletter or social media accounts. Share it, share bits, just share it.

Need to contact the original creator? Send an email to [hello@jessienewburnwriter.com](mailto:hello@jessienewburnwriter.com).