

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michelle Dunn, Program Coordinator
Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful
Tel: (724) 836-4121 x113
Email: mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org
Web site: www.keeppabeautiful.org



Communities Celebrate Earth Day by Joining Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Pick Up Pennsylvania



(April 15, 2021) In celebration of Earth Day, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, whose vision is a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania, encourages residents to join the 2021 Pick Up Pennsylvania initiative. Events registered through May 31 receive free trash bags, gloves, and safety vests from PennDOT district offices, as supplies last. Pick Up Pennsylvania engages over 150,000 volunteers annually in litter cleanups, illegal dump cleanups, beautification projects, special collections, and educational events. To help with the cost of trash disposal, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association are sponsoring Let's Pick It Up PA from April 1 through April 30. During this time, trash collected at registered events can be taken to participating landfills and receive disposal, free or at a reduced cost, with prior approval.

Pick Up Pennsylvania Earth Day Events

Highlighted below are just a few of the many Pick Up Pennsylvania events scheduled in and around Earth Day, April 22, 2021. All events are planned according to the most recent social distancing guidelines. If you would like to join an event below or one listed on the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Calendar of Events, please contact the coordinator to confirm participation.

- Pick Up the Poconos Spring Cleanup, Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties, April 24 – Regionwide litter sweep. Contact Brianna Strunk at bstrunk@poconos.org or 570-856-3050.

- Fry's Landing and Horseshoe Pond, Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, April 21 - Presque Isle Audubon Society will clean up the shoreline around Fry's Landing and Horseshoe Pond. Contact Sue Murawski at suemurawski94@gmail.com or 814-812-6072.
- Sandy Township Clean-Up Day, Dubois, Clearfield County, April 22 - Residents are invited to do a litter sweep of the township roadways and streams. Contact Shawn Arbaugh at sarbaugh@sandytownship.net or 814-371-4220.
- D&H Rail-Trail, Union Dale, Susquehanna County, April 22 - Volunteers can bike or walk while picking up litter along the 20-mile D&H Rail Trail from Simpson to Ararat. Contact Lynn Conrad at trails@nep.net or 570-679-9300.
- Oil Creek State Park, Oil City, Venango County, April 22 - Volunteers will work on a number of projects, from roadside litter pick-up to light trail maintenance. Visit https://events.dcnr.pa.gov/event/earth_day_clean_up_8343 or contact the park naturalist at 814-676-1810.
- Capital Area Greenbelt, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, through April 24 – The Capital Area Greenbelt Association is sponsoring pop-up cleanups. Contact Diane Kripas at dwkripas@gmail.com or 717-991-2534.

To host an event, join an event near you, or to inquire about free supplies and trash disposal, visit gacofpa.org or contact Michelle Dunn, Pick Up Pennsylvania Program Coordinator, at 877-772-3673 ext. 113 or mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org.

"We are so grateful to our volunteers and sponsors who help make our Pick Up Pennsylvania, the state's premier community improvement initiative, possible," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "Last year, 11,456 Pennsylvanians coordinated and participated in 1,266 events. Over 900,000 pounds of trash and tires were removed from our beautiful landscape. This year we hope even more people find the time to help improve their communities and make every day Earth Day."

Anyone participating in Pick Up Pennsylvania can earn cash prizes for their nonprofit or charity of choice by entering the Pick Up Pennsylvania Video Contest. Send Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful a 60-second video of your event showing how you keep Pennsylvania beautiful. Your event must be registered with Pick Up Pennsylvania to participate. For details go to gacofpa.org and choose Video Contest.

Current 2021 Pick Up Pennsylvania supporters include: Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania funded by the NiSource Charitable Foundation, The Giant Company, Coca-Cola, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, Wawa, Giant Eagle, Luminent - Fayette Energy Facility, Mahantango Enterprises, Inc., Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, Republic Services and Wegmans.

###

About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's vision is a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful has worked with hundreds of thousands of volunteers across the state to pick up nearly 148 million pounds of trash from Pennsylvania's roadways, waterways,

greenways, vacant lots, forestlands and other community spaces. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's core programming focuses on litter and illegal dump prevention, cleanup, community greening, and proper waste handling and sustainable practices. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful works with many partnering organizations on the state and grassroots level to accomplish our goal of a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc., the nation's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit www.keeppabeautiful.org.