



Contact: Peter Osborne
513-729-9517
peter.osborne@keypointpr.com

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GREAT PARKS “PROTECT YOUR WILD” EARTH DAY CELEBRATION RETURNS ON APRIL 20

Great Parks and hundreds of volunteers and guests will celebrate Earth Day with the second “Protect Your Wild” event at Winton Woods on April 20. Volunteers will clean the banks and woods around Winton Lake from 9 a.m.-noon. The community and Great Parks volunteers are then welcome to a special Earth Day-themed celebration at Winton Harbor, continuing from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

“This is our biggest volunteer event of the year and one of the most fun!” said Joe Von Allmen, volunteer coordinator for Great Parks. “Not only can guests get the chance to help beautify one of the most impactful natural spaces in the county, but they can also connect with fellow community members over service and celebration. We look forward to seeing everyone for this remarkable event in honor of Earth Day.”

This year’s Earth Day celebration will again center on Winton Harbor, and include dozens of organizations offering food, games, music, environmental information, animal encounters, sustainable or homemade products for sale, and lots of fun. All guests are welcome to the Earth Day celebration, and people do not need to participate in the morning cleanup to join the celebration.

Winton Woods is one of the most popular Great Parks destinations, featuring over 2,500 acres of room to explore, including the 175-acre Winton Lake. Over many months, the tributaries that surround Winton Lake wash in litter and recyclables from the surrounding community. The annual volunteer-driven cleanup renews the park for another year. Last year during Protect Your Wild, volunteers collected dozens of bags of recycling and litter, tossing them into a dumpster before joining the Earth Day celebration later in the day.

While there is no charge to join the cleanup or celebration, cleanup volunteers are asked to register at greatparks.org by April 15 to ensure enough cleaning supplies are available.

The first Earth Day was in 1970, and since then millions of Americans and billions of people worldwide have joined the effort to protect the planet. The volunteers participating in Protect Your Wild will add to the more than 15 million cleanup volunteers who have participated in Earth Day events over the years.

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10245 Winton Road • Cincinnati, OH 45231 • greatparks.org