

Earth Day: April 22, 2017

April 22, 2017, marks the 47th Earth Day. This day brings together millions of people around the world to address many important issues such as climate change, air and water pollution, waste reduction and recycling, fossil fuel dependence, renewable energy, and environmental justice. Earth Day is a day to celebrate progress made, but also a day to bring forward all of the progress that still needs to be made. Although Earth Day is only on your calendar once, it doesn't mean you only "celebrate" it once. There are small and big things you can do every day that will contribute to a healthier environment for everyone. Here are a few general practices you can start on and continue after Earth Day.

- **Conserve water.**
 - Turn off the water when brushing your teeth.
 - Take shorter showers.
- **Conserve electricity.**
 - Turn off lights when you leave a room.
 - Turn off or unplug electronics when they're not being used.
- **Prevent and reduce waste.**
 - Bring reusable bags shopping.
 - Buy durable goods.
 - Pack low waste lunches.
 - Recycle correctly.



How to pack a low waste lunch:

Whether you're going to work, a picnic, on a road trip or any other activity that involves packing food to go, making your snack or meal low waste can save you money, time, and prevent unnecessary waste from being created. First, what items are in the average lunch? Food, a drink, containers and packaging, utensils, and a napkin or two. This lunch may consist of a sandwich in a plastic baggie, liquids in single-use bottles and utensils, and a few paper napkins for clean up. In this example, a lot of unnecessary waste is being created by the single-use items. For a low waste lunch, the goal is to first prevent as much waste as possible—replacing plastic baggies with a reusable container, using reusable utensils, placing liquids in a reusable bottle, and bringing a reusable cloth for the cleanup—all of these things prevent waste from being created. The second goal is to reduce the amount of waste being put into the garbage bin—composting leftover food scraps and recycling any other recyclable materials.

When you tailor your purchases to low waste, recurring purchases for single-use items, such as napkins and plastic silverware, disappear. Plus buying in bulk becomes the only way to reduce food packaging. Both of these ultimately decrease the amount of money you're spending on your lunch.

Hosting an Event?

Events can draw hundreds of people. Often times, a venue lacks the proper infrastructure for the disposal of trash and recyclable materials. Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services has a program to improve event recycling! Through the Carlton County Event Recycling Program, anyone may rent receptacles **free of charge** for trash, food waste, plastics, paper, and aluminum cans.

If you would like to rent these receptacles, please contact Karola Dalen at karola.dalen@co.carlton.mn.us or (218) 384-9178 to fill out an application.



Watercraft Inspectors Patrol Carlton County Lakes

Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services has hired 7 Level I Watercraft Inspectors to inspect boats for aquatic invasive species (AIS). You can expect to see the inspectors on Carlton County boat landings from fishing opener to Labor Day. Inspectors will be at these lakes: Chub, Big, Park, Sand, Hay, Bob, Hanging Horn, Little Hanging Horn, Bear, Island, Eagle, Tamarack, Cole, and Moosehead as well as the St. Louis River.

Aquatic invasive species are any species of plants or animals that are not native to the area. They often thrive in their new environment, outcompeting native species for food and habitat space.

Eurasian Watermilfoil has infested Bear Lake and Chub Lake. It is the only known invasive species in Carlton County.



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HITCHHIKERS!**TM

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To prevent the spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil and other invasive species, please follow these rules:

1. **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreline.
2. **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, live well and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreline property. Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
3. **DRY** everything for at least five days OR wipe with a towel before reuse.
4. **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release live bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your live bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

