

# Metro area events mark Earth Day

Ursula Watson / The Detroit News

Mother Earth puts up with a lot and keeps on spinning.

Show your respect for the grand dame by cleaning up your act on [Earth Day](#) today. Established more than 40 years ago by former Wisconsin Sen. Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day and its many related events – recycling drives, street fairs and more – remind us of the ways that we can help the environment.

One simple way is just getting outdoors, says Stacey Yankee, nature event manager at the Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center in Troy.

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"Parents are sometimes uncomfortable trying to figure out what to do with their children outdoors," she says. "The nature center is one way that parents can just enjoy the experience with their child without the stress of coming up with [fun](#) activities."

Here are a few more ways to take loving responsibility for the Earth and find relief and fun along the way.

## Visit Troy nature center

The nature center offers two miles of [hiking](#) trails and exhibits such as the American Mastodon Discovery Dig. Children can dress up like bugs, tackle puzzles and read books. Check out an array of live creatures including salamanders, turtles and nearly 200 kinds of birds.

The nature center isn't just about families and youths. Yankee says adults often find much-needed solace at the 100-acre sanctuary. "Adults often come here by themselves. It is a way to reduce stress," she says. "They walk outside, walk through the woods or listen to the rapids by the river. They feel relieved."

Experience the various habitats such as wetlands by the north branch of the Rouge River, forested uplands and meadow areas. Climb the fabricated rocks in front of the nature center.

The Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center is at 6685 Coolidge Highway, Troy. Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission: \$1 per person. Call (248) 524-3567 or visit [troy.mi.gov/parksrec/naturecenter/](http://troy.mi.gov/parksrec/naturecenter/).

## Bid on a star

AShirtBag, an environmentally conscious nonprofit known for creating totes out of donated shirts, is offering a piece of stardom. Get a tote made from T-shirts and [tank tops](#) signed by Michigan natives such as Kid Rock, Sandra Bernhard, Mayer Hawthorne, Paradime, The Dirty Americans and Dita Von Teese. The money will go to



Kids get a nature lesson in the forested area of the Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center in Troy. (City of Troy)

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## More information

### More Earth Day events

#### Earth Day Expo

Exhibits featuring green products, services, career opportunities and more  
1-7 p.m. today  
King's Court Castle  
Olde World, Canterbury Village, 2369 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion  
(248) 391-1900, [www.orientownship.org](http://www.orientownship.org)

#### Michigan Earth Day Festival

More than 200 green and wellness exhibits, children's activities, arts, organic foods and drinks  
4-7 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-7p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

Third and Water streets, downtown Rochester

[www.miearthday.com](http://www.miearthday.com)

#### Novi Earth Day

Celebration

AShirt's mission to promote science and ecology programs at Detroit Public Schools. The bags will be on display 6-8 tonight at Pluto Post Production, 400 Hamilton Row, Birmingham; (248) 723-3333. Each donated bag will be available for bidding at [myworld.ebay.com/ashirtbag](http://myworld.ebay.com/ashirtbag) on Friday. Call (800) 915-9384 or visit [www.ashirtbag.org](http://www.ashirtbag.org).