



Shawnee National Forest || Harrisburg, IL

## Celebrate Earth Month



### April 2014

- Green Schools Symposium
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Green Jobs
- Earth Day in focus

green.illinois.gov  
Office of Governor Pat Quinn  
Comments, suggestions and  
submissions:  
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Click here to register for the Healthy & High Performing Schools Symposium!

## A Clean and Green Approach to Education

Governor Pat Quinn and USGBC-Illinois invite you and your organization to participate as an attendee, sponsor or exhibitor at the Illinois Healthy & High Performing Schools Symposium, hosted by the USGBC-Illinois Chapter, the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council and Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire on Friday, April 18, 2014.

This symposium for Illinois K-12 schools is free to attend and provides opportunities to exchange ideas with symposium participants such as school and district administrators, regional superintendents, school board members, facilities managers and custodial staff, teachers, school health practitioners,

facility planners and architects, school-related non-profits and agencies, and high school student environmental leaders. Applications for presenting are now open.

All sessions follow the Three Pillars of the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Program:

- Reduce environmental impacts
- Improve student and staff health and wellness
- Provide effective sustainability and environmental education

[Click here for more information on registration and sponsorship for the Healthy & High Performing Schools symposium.](#)

Contact [Anthony Cefali](#) with any questions or comments about the proposals and symposium.

## Events

### Higher Ed Energy Efficiency Forum

*Higher Ed Retrofit Project*  
April 4

### Sustainable Design Challenge for High School Students

*SCARCE*  
April 8

### Solar Powering Illinois

*Illinois Solar Association*  
April 8

### Behavior Change for Energy Efficiency

*IGEN*  
April 10

### Illinois Sustainable Living & Wellness Expo

*Illinois Wesleyan University*  
April 12

## Make an Impact During Earth Month

This Earth Month, make a difference in your community. Below are a number of volunteer opportunities and organizations throughout Illinois:

-**Earth Day Network**

-**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Earth Day Calendar**

-**Woodridge Parks Community Cleanup**

-**Fox River Cleanup**

-**Earth Day Chicago (database of parks and Earth Day activities throughout Chicagoland)**

-**Chicago Conservation Corps Earth Month Activities**

-**Illinois State University Earth Week Calendar**

-**University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Earth Week Events**

-**Crystal Lake Community Cleanup Day**

-**Wheaton Recycling Extravaganza!**

-**Boneyard Creek Community Day**

-**Oak Street Beach Cleanup**

-**Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Earth Day in the Parks**

-**Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful**

*[Check local listings and the Chicago Environmental Network for volunteer opportunities near you!](#)*

## Green Jobs Corner

- Chicago Conservation Leadership Program  
*Forest Preserves of Cook County*
- Information/Graphic Design Fellow  
*Foresight Design Initiative*
- GIS Specialist  
*McHenry County Conservation District*
- Program Development Intern  
*Illinois Solar Energy Association*
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Energy and Environment  
*Northern Illinois University*
- Various internship and fellowship opportunities  
*Environmental Law and Policy Center*

## Events

### Superbikeways

Chicago Center for Green  
Technology  
April 12

### Climate Change: Local Solutions

SCARCE  
April 14

### Earth Day

April 22

### Earth Day EcoJam!

UIC  
April 22

### Sustainability Film Festival

Illinois Sustainable  
Technology Center  
April 22 - 24

### Environmental Law and Policy Center Gala

Aqua Blue - Chicago  
April 24

### Arbor Day

April 25

## Towards a Greener Illinois

### **Governor's Sustainability Awards**

[Deadline: May 22, 2014](#)

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) is now accepting applications for the 2014 Governor's Sustainability Awards. Since 1987, ISTC has recognized sustainability efforts and technological advances from public and private organizations throughout the state of Illinois—the oldest sustainability recognition program in the nation.

### **Support Local Foods**

[April 7, Chicago](#)

The Illinois Department of Central Management Services invites you to the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago to meet local farmers and learn about receiving fresh vegetables, meats and more throughout the growing season.

### **Symposiums and Seminars**

*Spring brings with it a number of exciting environmental education opportunities.*

### **Illinois Bike Summit**

[April 15, Champaign](#)

Registration is open for the third annual Illinois Bike Summit in Champaign. Bike advocates from across the state will meet to discuss pertinent bike and transit issues of today. Topics include complete streets policies, the Illinois bike census and the Illinois Bike Transportation Plan.

### **Building Green Chicago**

[April 29, Chicago](#)

Learn how building code ordinances are making Illinois buildings greener. Speakers include experts in building codes, construction practices and sustainable design.

### **Illinois Joint Recycling Conference**

[June 3-4, Tinley Park](#)

The Illinois Recycling Association's *Joint Recycling Conference* brings together the best thinkers in Illinois waste management. From food scrap composting to DCEO grants for recycling, this conference features a wealth of speakers with waste management experience and expertise.

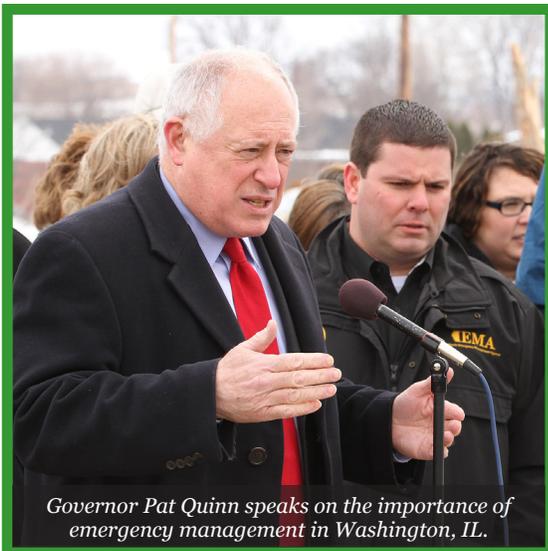
## The rapid rise of Earth Day

Earth Day—much like the U.S. environmental movement—came about organically. Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson channeled his passion for the environment into politics, winning a number of key legislative battles for natural spaces and pollution prevention.

Amidst the political unrest of the late

1960s, Nelson proposed a teach-in focused entirely on the environment. The idea took off and on April 22, 1970 students and educators across the U.S. participated in the first Earth Day. The initiative has grown, but maintains its grassroots beginnings.

[Learn more about Senator Gaylord Nelson and the history of Earth Day.](#)



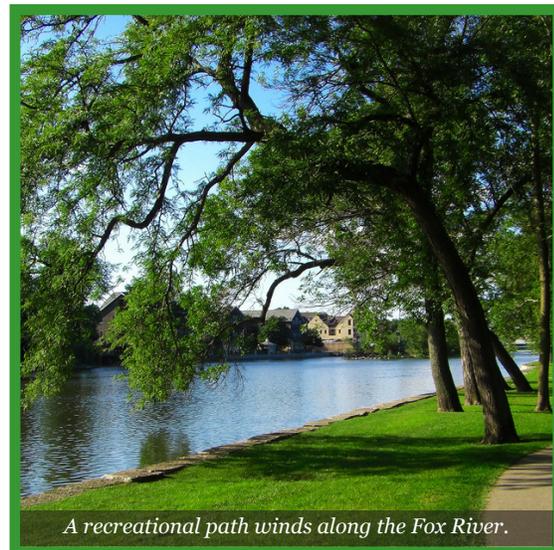
*Governor Pat Quinn speaks on the importance of emergency management in Washington, IL.*



*A bald eagle soars over the Peoria River.*



*Black-eyed Susans—in full bloom—dot a bike path near Blackberry Creak, Aurora.*



*A recreational path winds along the Fox River.*

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