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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

**Earth Month activities include plant sales, clean-ups, education, more**

What began as a one-day celebration of the the natural environment more than 40 years ago has expanded to include all of April. The first Earth Day, held on April 22, 1970, is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement. The passage of the landmark Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and many other groundbreaking environmental programs – all designed to protect the natural environment where we live, work and play – soon followed.

Springfield's observance of the 44th Earth Day is a month-long offering of activities and educational opportunities. Planned activities include a native plant sale at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., gardening and recycling classes at local libraries, Arbor Day celebrations at local schools, reduced-price admission to the Discovery Center on April 12, shoreline clean-ups at Lake Springfield and Table Rock Lake, Party for the Planet at the Dickerson Park Zoo on April 26 and many other opportunities for fun and learning.

A complete schedule of events is available at [www.OzarksEnvironment.com](http://www.OzarksEnvironment.com).

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