



SPONSOR: Rep. Heffernan on behalf of all Representatives &  
Sen. Hansen on behalf of all Senators

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 113

DESIGNATING APRIL 22ND, 2024 AS "EARTH DAY" IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE

1 WHEREAS, the original Earth Day was celebrated April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1970, and millions of Americans attended events  
2 across schools, universities, colleges, and communities to promote large scale environmental awareness and advocate for  
3 environmental protections; and

4 WHEREAS, the first Earth Day in 1970, founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, is recognized as  
5 the beginning of the modern-day environmental movement in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, the creation of Earth Day, and the subsequent modern day environmental movement in the U.S., was  
7 made possible by trailblazing environmental figures such as: Rachel Carson, activist and author of *Silent Spring*; John  
8 Muir, founder of the Sierra Club and "Father of the National Parks"; Aldo Leopold, environmental conservationist and  
9 author of *Sand County Almanac*; and Gifford Pinchot, first chief of the U.S. Forest Service; and

10 WHEREAS, countless environmentalists and environmental activists have continued to advocate for  
11 environmental protections, preservation, and conservation such as: Jane Goodall, Solomon Brown, Ding Darling, Greta  
12 Thunberg, Margaret Thomas Murie, Shelton Johnson, Rosalie Barrow Edge, David Brower, Lois Gibbs, Colonel Charles  
13 Young, MaVynee Betsch, Anna Botsford Comstock, Winona LaDuke, Al Gore, Robert Bilott, Majory Stoneman Douglas,  
14 Wangari Muta Maathai, Jane Fonda, John Audubon, Erin Brockovich, Ansel Adams, Sir David Frederick Attenborough,  
15 and President Theodore Roosevelt; and

16 WHEREAS, Delaware is home to a wide variety of state, federally, publicly, and privately protected areas such as  
17 White Clay Creek State Parks, Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Pemberton  
18 Forest Preserve, Lums Pond State Park, Delaware Seashore State Park, Fenwick Island State Park, Trap Pond State Park,  
19 Brandywine Creek State Park, Cape Henlopen State Park, and Nanticoke Wildlife Area, among others which provide  
20 Delawareans with access to have outdoor experiences and enjoy Delaware's beautiful ecosystems; and

21 WHEREAS, National Park Week is observed from Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> to encourage  
22 Americans to get outdoors and enjoy their national parks and celebrate Earth Day; and

23 WHEREAS, Earth Day is a time to reflect and acknowledge Delaware is the lowest lying state and will feel the  
24 direct impacts of climate change such as sea level rise, erosion, loss of land and habitat, eutrophication, saltwater intrusion,  
25 rise of infectious disease, and flooding among other effects; and

26 WHEREAS, impacts from climate change will affect Delaware’s beloved ecosystems as well as tourism,  
27 agriculture, municipal systems, infrastructure, healthcare systems, the health of Delawareans, transportation,  
28 manufacturing, local businesses, at-risk and vulnerable populations in Delaware, and the homes of Delawareans among  
29 many other areas; and

30 WHEREAS, Earth Day is a time to recognize and acknowledge Delaware and the United States’ role in lower  
31 carbon emissions and all forms of pollution to limit a temperature increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius or less about pre-  
32 industrial levels; and

33 WHEREAS, the theme for Earth Day 2024 is “Planet vs. Plastics” which calls for a commitment to end plastics for  
34 the health of all humans and the planet and calls for a 60% reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040; and

35 WHEREAS, there are a wide range of solutions Delaware can invest in to protect our beautiful, beloved  
36 ecosystems and environment such as: wildlife corridors, state-wide organic composting system, environmental remediation  
37 programs, planting more trees and native plant species, green roof and other ways to reduce heat island effect, agricultural  
38 alternatives such as urban farming, rooftop gardens, and aquaculture, and switching to more renewable energy among many  
39 other policy options; and

40 WHEREAS, all living things have a significant intrinsic value and each living thing plays a unique, special, and  
41 important role in ecosystems and web of life and therefore must be protected and conserved for future generations; and

42 WHEREAS, stewardship of the environment and our natural resources are of utmost importance to having a  
43 sustainable, healthy, clean, and greener environment for current and future generations; and

44 WHEREAS, Earth Day celebrations and taking care of the environment should not limited to just one day of the  
45 year, but rather we should be celebrating Earth Day every day.

46 NOW, THEREFORE:

47 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 152<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the  
48 Senate concurring therein, that the legislature designates April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 as “Earth Day” in the State of Delaware, and that  
49 Delawareans take the time to reflect and appreciate the importance of ecosystems and the environment around Delaware  
50 and the world.

SYNOPSIS

This concurrent resolution designates April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 as “Earth Day” in the State of Delaware.