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### **Celebrate Our Earth at Your Grand Traverse County Civic Center**

**Traverse City, MI** – Grand Traverse County’s Resource Recovery and Parks and Recreation will host the Third Annual Earth Celebration on Saturday, April 27 at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center.

According to Resource Recovery Manager David Schaffer, this event again will feature over 30 vendors who will share “unique, earth-friendly lessons.” From Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl to the Great Lakes Children’s Museum’s Energy Bus, this free, family event will offer tips for recycling, composting, protecting our water, earth-friendly gardening, conserving energy, and more! Said Schaffer, “We are thrilled to work with County Parks again to make it possible for county residents to celebrate our planet.”

Director of County Parks and Recreation Kristine Erickson agrees. “Our departments have combined resources to plan an ‘earth party’ that reaches more each year.” According to Erickson, Resource Recovery and Parks and Recreation co-sponsored the first Earth Celebration in 2017 at the Grand Traverse County’s Medalie Park property, with approximately 15 vendors and “a few hundred” visitors. Twin Lakes Park was home to the second annual Earth Celebration in 2018, with 30 vendors and approximately 500 attendees. “This year,” said Erickson, “we anticipate the celebration will be even more popular and well attended because of its convenient, in-town location at Civic Center Park, our ‘Central Park’.”

Activities, displays, demonstrations, and food will be both inside and outside of Civic Center’s Howe Arena. With butterfly and moth exhibits, face-painting, a scavenger hunt and prize drawings, a seedling giveaway, make-and-take eco-crafts, a firefighting brush truck, a campfire safety demonstration, food trucks and concessions, and live music and stories with “Alaskan Troubadour” Susan Grace, “there’s something for everyone,” says Schaffer.

Parallel 45 Theatre company, a County Parks and Recreation programming partner, will host two interactive theater workshops, one at 1 p.m. and one at 2 p.m., with “Addy the Adventurer” leading little ones on a storytelling journey through tangled jungles, volcanic islands, and mystical mountains. Each 35-minute workshop is recommended for children ages three to seven, and their families.

Looking for more grownup experiences? Learn about the effects of plastics on our Great Lakes, and check out quiet, battery-operated lawn mower and chainsaw demonstrations.

How about a swim? Enjoy the newly refurbished Easling Pool from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, when the Central YMCA will waive user fees. All guests must first sign in at the front desk.

The Earth Celebration takes place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Throughout the event, volunteers are invited to help Child and Family Services of NW Michigan YouthWork representatives “spring-clean” Civic Center Park by picking up sticks and trash. Check in with the Resource Recovery-Parks and Recreation tables upon arrival to sign up.

Because every day is Earth Day and parking at the Civic Center is limited, Resource Recovery and Parks and Recreation ask all to please consider walking, biking, carpooling, or taking BATA to this event. For more information about the celebration, visit [www.recyclesmart.info/1976](http://www.recyclesmart.info/1976) or call 231-922-4818.

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