



**Earth Day 2026**

**Our Power,  
Our Planet**

From global responsibility to local action  
in Gahanna

*A brief introduction to the Earth Day resolution*

# Why Earth Day matters

Earth Day is global in scope, but deeply local in meaning.

## One planet.

Shared responsibility.

Local action matters.

“Our Power, Our Planet” emphasizes that environmental progress is sustained by daily action from communities, educators, workers, and families — not by one election or one institution alone.



**Caring for the planet begins with caring for the places where people actually live — streams, neighborhoods, trees, parks, and shared public spaces.**

## A public leadership challenge

Don't wait for a perfect solution. Recognize that real progress requires people working together, learning together, adapting together.

*“The government’s highest calling is to empower people and galvanize their energy and resources to help solve our problems...”*

George V. Voinovich

- Complex problems rarely have simple, linear solutions.
- The work requires public leadership, community partnership, and practical action.
- That is why Earth Day belongs in city halls as much as in classrooms, parks, and neighborhoods.

**Earth Day is not only an environmental observance. It is also a civic invitation.**

# Human development and the natural world

The question is not people versus nature. The question is how we support both.

## We depend on nature

- Clean water
- Healthy ecosystems
- Stable climate systems
- Public green space



## We also shape it

- Land use
- Stormwater runoff
- Tree loss or gain
- Quality of public design



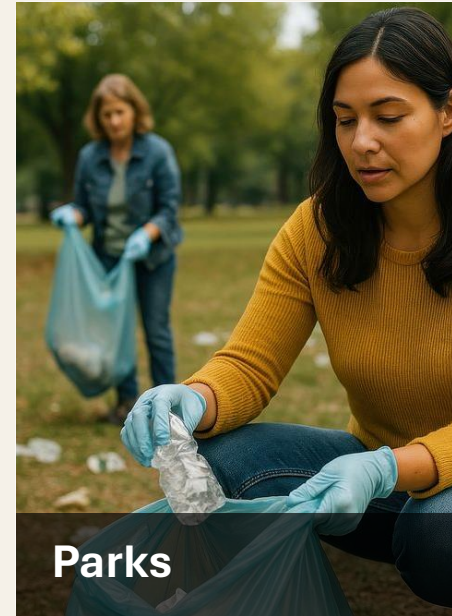
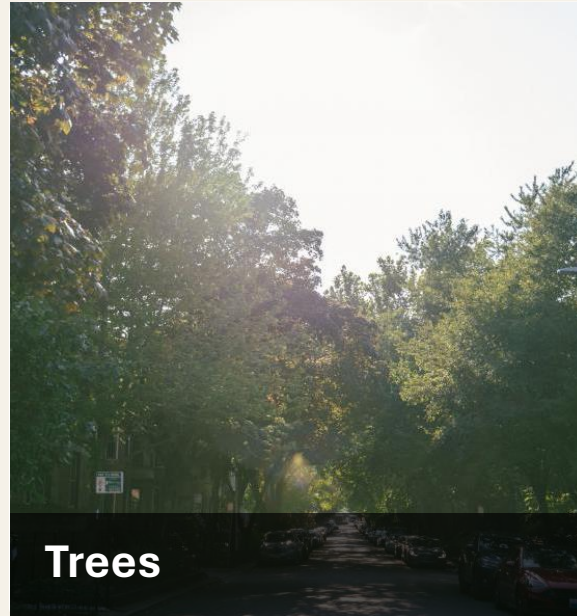
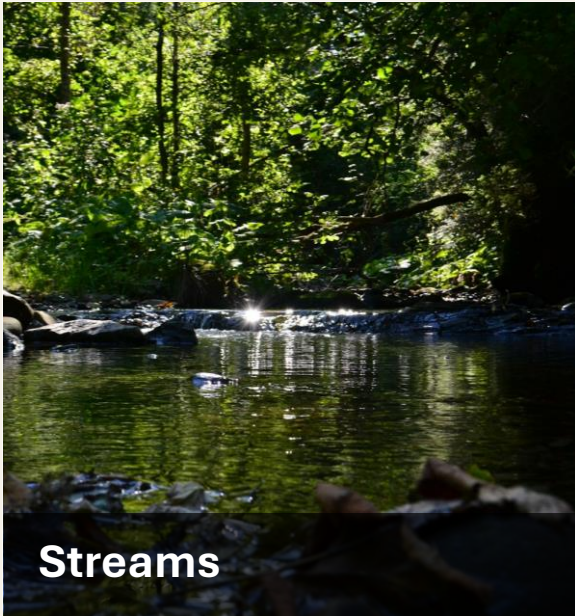
## Wise choices

Can improve both community well-being and ecological health.

**Development is most resilient when it works with natural systems, not against them.**

# What matters here in Gahanna

These are not extras. They are part of what makes a community livable.



## Human-centered design

Streets, sidewalks, public spaces, shade, and access all influence whether a community feels healthy, safe, connected, and welcoming.

EPA notes that green infrastructure can improve water quality, reduce localized flooding, improve air quality, and strengthen habitat connectivity.

# What this resolution does

Simple by design. Practical by intent.

- Recognizes Earth Day 2026 in the City of Gahanna
- Affirms stewardship as a shared responsibility
- Invites residents, institutions, and businesses into practical local action

## Focus area 1

### Tree canopy stewardship

planting, care, awareness, and the long-term value of trees

## Focus area 2

### Stream, watershed, and neighborhood stewardship

litter reduction, cleanup, watershed awareness, and care for shared spaces

**The resolution is ceremonial — but it also points the community toward visible, local priorities.**

## What residents can do

The point is not that everyone must do everything. The point is that everyone can do something.

- Plant and care for trees
- Reduce litter and protect storm drains
- Join stream or neighborhood cleanups
- Conserve water and energy
- Support parks, trails, and green spaces
- Help build a culture of stewardship



**Small, consistent actions add up to long-term local impact.**

## What institutions and businesses can do

- Organize cleanup or planting days
- Improve landscaping with trees and native plants
- Reduce waste and strengthen recycling
- Conserve water and energy in buildings
- Support stewardship events or Earth Week activities
- Partner with the City on visible local projects
- Model environmental care as part of everyday civic culture

Government has a role. Residents have a role. Schools, businesses, faith communities, and civic organizations have roles too.

**If we want a healthier and more resilient Gahanna, it will take all of us.**