

Plastic Free July



- ✓ An average American household generates 250 pounds of plastic waste every year, most of which comes from packaging.
- ✓ About 40% of the plastic products ever made are now in our oceans, rivers and on the ground. Less than 10% of the plastic produced has been recycled.
- ✓ Do not buy bottled water; purchase a reusable water bottle and fill it with tap water.
- ✓ Reuse plastic containers.

World Food Day - October 16



- ✓ One in seven US citizens is food insecure.
- ✓ The River Bend Food Bank, covering 23 counties in eastern Iowa and western Illinois, addresses the shortage at the local level with programs such as food drives, the Backpack Program, and the Senior Hunger Initiative (www.riverbendfoodbank.org).

August - Celebrate Pollinator Gardens



- ✓ Early in the spring, when the world becomes alive again, the bees and other pollinators emerge when very few other flowers have bloomed. Dandelions are vital for their nutrition.
- ✓ Plant flowers that bloom at different times during the growing season.
- ✓ Plant native pollinators like milkweed, leave a patch of clover after each mowing

America Recycles Day - November 15



- ✓ Reduce waste by reusing products or reduce purchases in the first place.
- ✓ Recycle your food waste by composting instead of dumping it in the landfill.
- ✓ Support companies that offer recycling options for their products, such as Crayola, Nike, and Cannon.
- ✓ Ask your community to increase their recycling efforts.

World Clean Up Day - September 18



- ✓ World Clean Up Day is an annual global social action program aimed at combating solid waste and marine debris. Since the origin of this event, 180 countries and over 50 million volunteers have participated in clean up events.
- ✓ What if everyone picked up one bag of litter? You can participate in an informal clean up yourself, or with family or friends.
- ✓ The simple act of cleaning up our environment can unify our planet.

World Soil Day - December 5



- ✓ Soil is a critical ecosystem that contributes to human health.
- ✓ It is a habitat for many species, and combats climate change by storing carbon.
- ✓ Half of habitable land is used for agriculture; practices like diverse crop rotation, nutrient management and conservation tillage help rebuild healthy soil.