



Mayor's Office | Phone: 860.584.6250 | Fax: 860-584-3835

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (Bristol CT) April 13, 2023

THE CITY OF BRISTOL REMINDS THE COMMUNITY ABOUT TWO EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE ON EARTH DAY

(BRISTOL, CT) –Saturday, April 22nd is Earth Day and the City of Bristol will be celebrating by hosting two events in partnership with the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services department and the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut.

The community is encouraged to participate in the third annual **Community Clean Up Day any time between 8:00 am and 12:00 pm on Saturday, April 22, 2023** or any time that works for you to clean up your corner of Bristol. The City is inviting groups and individuals to join them to help clean up several areas throughout the City. This event is ideal for civic organizations, Scout Troops, or school groups who are interested in volunteering or who may need community service credit.

Cleanup areas will include:

- Riverside Avenue
- Veterans Memorial Boulevard Park
- The West End Neighborhood
- Along the Railroad Tracks on North Main Street and Main Street
- Forestville Village and Along the Pequabuck River
- And *Your* Neighborhood!

Clean Up Day supplies will be available for pick up while supplies last on the day of the event from 8 to 10 am at the Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services Office, located at 51 High Street. Supplies will include garbage bags, event day t-shirt, instructions, locations of trash pickup areas, and safety guidelines. You are encouraged to provide your own gloves.

If you'll be working in your own neighborhood, Bristol Department of Public Works (DPW) is asking that you place bags of trash out on the curb at your home on your normal trash pick-up day to be collected with the regular trash collection on that day. For groups working in the following areas, please place bags of trash by the road where they are visible for DPW to pick them up that afternoon and throughout the week of April 24:

- Riverside Avenue
- Veterans Memorial Boulevard Park
- The West End Neighborhood

City of Bristol

111 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010
www.bristolct.gov

- Along the Railroad Tracks on North Main Street and Main Street
- Forestville Village and Along the Pequabuck River

“While one day is being set aside for this community-wide cleanup, I invite the residents of Bristol to continue cleanup efforts in your own neighborhoods throughout the year,” stated Mayor Caggiano.

Event day t-shirts are being generously funded by COVANTA who will also have employees on hand that day to assist with the cleanup efforts. Gloves are being donated by the City of Bristol’s Emergency Management Department and water bottles are being donated by Shop Rite of Bristol.

“We are very proud of all of the residents and community groups that come out every year to support this important event. We look forward to working together to beautify the city,” Dr. Joshua T. Medeiros, Ed.D., CPRE, Superintendent of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services.

The community is encouraged to take photos and post them to social media using the **#allheartcleanupday2023** hashtag.

In addition, the City of Bristol and the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut (ELCCT) are excited to announce **the opening of Pigeon Hill Preserve to the public on Saturday, April 22, 2023** to coincide with Earth Day. ELCCT volunteers will be on hand from 12 to around 2 pm to take community members on tours of the trails and to answer questions. After the park will be formally open and ready for community use from dawn to dusk.

The community is encouraged to take advantage of the trails and enjoying this land spanning the border of Bristol and Burlington which was purchased through a cooperative effort between ELCCT and the City of Bristol and supported by The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s Open Space and Watershed Acquisition Grant and many generous local donors. The acquisition of this land is intended to protect wildlife habitats, offer recreational opportunities, and serve as a buffer and adaptation to climate change. The Pigeon Hill Preserve adds 63.9 acres to the assemblage of The Barnes Nature Center and Seymour Park, making a contiguous recreational hub of over 138 acres for the people of Bristol and Burlington to enjoy. The Pigeon Hill Preserve is protected by a conservation and public recreation easement that will ensure the property is forever protected for public use and enjoyment.

“The acquisition of this property will allow this land to be used for passive recreation, opportunities to educate the public on the importance of wetlands and native plants and native wildlife for generations to come,” stated City of Bristol Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano.

“The Pigeon Hill Preserve provides another high-quality, passive recreation space allowing community members to get outdoors, exercise and enjoy the benefits of being in nature,” stated Dr. Joshua T. Medeiros, Ed.D., CPRE, Superintendent of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services.

“We are truly grateful to all those involved with making this important land acquisition possible and we continue to work hard to make this preserve an important resource for our community and to provide a quality habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals,” said Scott Heth, Executive Director of the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut.

Pigeon Hill Preserve will be open daily for community use from dawn to dusk.

Photos attached from the 2022 Clean Up Day and the Pigeon Hill Preserve area. See next page.

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Josh Medeiros, Superintendent of Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services (BPYCS) with BPYCS staff handing out t-shirts and supplies on Community Clean Up Day 2022.



From left to right: Councilwoman Cheryl Thibeault; Mayor Jeff Caggiano; BPYCS Superintendent Josh Medeiros; Councilwoman Jolene Lusitani; and Councilman Andrew Howe at last year's Community Clean Up Day.



Map of Pigeon Hill Preserve area located off of Shrub Road.

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