

# Information Report

**Title:** Community Environmental Initiatives

**Report Number:** Recreation & Community Programs-2025-02

**Director:** Community Services

**Manager:** Recreation & Community Programs

**Meeting Date:**

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

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## Executive Summary:

This Spring several community initiatives will be taking place, including Spring Clean Week, City Nature Challenge, Garlic Mustard Challenge and Invasive Species awareness, Goods Exchange Day, and Beach clean ups. These activities are aimed at engaging our community to participate in environmental stewardship and growing partnerships with local volunteers and organizations to further these initiatives.

## Context and Background Information:

### Beach Clean Up April 21, 2025

Events kick off during Earth Week, April 21-25, 2025 with Bar Down, Kincardine Environmental Action Network (KEAN) and the Municipality hosting a beach clean up day on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> focusing on Station Beach and north of the river up to Kingsway Street.

### Spring Clean Week April 21-28, 2025

Our third annual Spring Clean Week is a community wide campaign for members of the public to pitch in and help to pick up litter and clean up their surroundings. Community Services staff in partnership with the Kincardine Environmental Action Network (KEAN) will be promoting activities throughout the week to encourage individuals to participate. The Municipality will provide clean up kits that include garbage bags, gloves, safety information and a list of locations for garbage bag drop-offs. Promotional materials and social media posts will let participants know that kits will be available for pick up starting the week of April 14<sup>th</sup>.

In Canada, a total of 1,000,000+ individuals have participated in cleanup programs annually, cleaning up over 5 million pounds of litter. Programs such as our Spring Clean Week are dedicated to the preservation and sustainable growth of our natural ecosystems and communities.

### City Nature Challenge April 25-28, 2025

In 2024 the Huron Fringe Field Naturalists (now Huron Bruce Nature group) organized the event in the Municipality of Kincardine and received an honourable mention for having the most observations per capita.

Huron Bruce Nature is organizing the 2025 event that will take place with Spring Clean/Earth Week giving residents the opportunity to be a citizen scientist looking for plants, insects and animals in nature where you live. Photos are uploaded through the iNaturalist app contributing to a National database of biodiversity data. In 2024, 441 observations were recorded and we are looking to grow participation for 2025.

### Goods Exchange Day May 17, 2025

The Municipality will be promoting a Goods Exchange Day to occur on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Goods Exchange Day is an opportunity to put household items that you wish to give away at your curb for members of the public to pick up and reuse in their own home. This is a great opportunity to keep household items out of the landfill and gives them a new lease on life. Individuals will need to post a “Free” sign on the items that they wish to be picked up.

### Garlic Mustard Challenge

The second annual Garlic Mustard Challenge is a collaborative effort to restore and protect natural ecosystems across our municipality. Garlic Mustard has been identified as an aggressive invader and can be difficult to control once it becomes established. The plant can grow over a meter tall and has small white flowers. The best way to stop the spread of garlic mustard is to hand-pull this weed. Garlic Pulls will take place on Wednesdays from 2-4pm at Geddes Park in Kincardine with dates to be finalized from late April to end of May. Local volunteer Michele Gade and Kincardine Trails Association (KTA) is hosting a public information session on March 27 at 7:00pm at the Davidson Centre. The Municipality will provide volunteers with garbage bags, gloves and disposal of the full bags to landfill along with supporting the promotion of this initiative.

### **Origin:**

The Manager of Recreation has engaged with several community partners to facilitate these initiatives including members of the Kincardine Environmental Action Network, Huron Bruce Nature, Bar Down, Kincardine Trails Association and our local Trail Blazer volunteers. These relationships are foundational to the success of environmental stewardship initiatives taking place across our community and we are looking forward to building on the events that took place in 2024.

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**Attachments:** 2024 City Nature Challenge Results  
2025 City Nature Challenge promotional poster

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