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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 24, 2019

GARY CELEBRATES EARTH DAY GREEN AWARENESS, BLIGHT BUSTER HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAYS THIS WEEKEND

Gary, Indiana-A number of events in celebration of Earth Day will be held in the city on Saturday, April 27, 2019. City departments and volunteers will clean up in the city's downtown in the city's annual spring Blight Buster Day. Saturday is also the city's Household Hazardous Waste Collection & Green Awareness Day. Gary Residents may dispose of items like medications, cleaning agents, paint, chemicals, medical needles, household batteries, carpet cleaner, fluorescent bulbs, shoe polish, pet supplies, chemicals, tires, computers etc. Residents are reminded that chemicals thrown in the trash or poured down drains are hazardous to our water, our land and our health.

The Mayor's Office of Constituent Services (MOCS) is still looking for volunteers for Blight Buster Day. **Anyone interested in volunteering for the community cleanup may do so by calling the MOCS at 219-881-4815 or via email: lbrooks@ci.gary.in.us.** Volunteers are asked to be at the Hudson-Campbell Fitness Center, 455 Massachusetts Street at 7:30 a.m. Volunteers may register via the city's website at www.gary.in.us.

The City's Department of Green Urbanism, the Gary Storm Water Management District, the Parks and Recycling Departments will additionally partner with the Lake Michigan Districts Household Hazardous Waste Program and the Lake County Solid Waste Management District to host Household Hazardous Waste Collection & Green Awareness Day (HHW/Green) in the city of Gary. Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be open from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at 455 Massachusetts Street; the Hudson-Campbell Parking Lots. Environmental Information Booths, Tire Disposal, Recycle Bins, Paper Shredding, Small Engine Gas Can Exchange, Refreshments and more are among the free services offered on HHW/Green Day. **Business, commercial or school**

hazardous waste, explosives, medical waste, narcotic prescription drugs or radioactive materials will not be accepted at the drop off site.

Residents may also celebrate Green Day/Earth Day at the Paul H. Douglas Center. A family-oriented event will include hikes, exhibits, and interactive displays for everyone. The celebration will take place from 10am to 2pm. Additional activities happening throughout the day include: Junior Ranger Program — Environmental Exhibits — Live Animals — Nature Play Zone.

For more information about HHW Day, contact the Gary Department of Green Urbanism at 219-882-3000. Brenda Scott-Henry is Director. For other volunteer opportunities in the city, please email mocs@ci.gary.in.us. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

The Media is invited to the Hudson-Campbell on April 27th at 8:00 a.m. See complete list of Earth Day activities below.

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Green Gary Day

Celebrate Earth Day at the Paul H. Douglas Center. This family-oriented event will include hikes, exhibits, and interactive displays for everyone. The celebration will take place from 10am to 2pm. Additional activities happening throughout the day include: Junior Ranger Program — Environmental Exhibits — Live Animals — Nature Play Zone.

The Douglas Center is located within Indiana Dunes National Park at 100 North Lake Street, about one mile north of U.S. Hwy 12. For more information please contact the Douglas Center Front Desk at (219) 395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu.

Flyer - <http://tinyurl.com/GGDay2019>

Blight Buster Day

Join the City in helping keeping our Downtown District clean during the first Blight Buster event of the season. The event will start with a rally at Hudson Campbell Fitness Center at 7:30am. Volunteers will then disperse to focus on cleaning up Downtown Broadway and 4th Ave. Safety equipment, gloves, and trash bags will be provided. Volunteers are encouraged to bring rakes, brooms, and other landscaping supplies. Students can earn community service hours through participation. This is a perfect team building event for businesses, faith-based organizations, schools, block clubs and more! Register today by calling the Mayor's Office of Constituent Services at (219) 881-4815.

Rally starts 7:30am at Hudson Campbell Fitness Center, 455 Massachusetts St.
Clean Up from 8am - 2pm along Broadway and 4th Ave.

Consider participating in the morning and then take a break to visit the Douglas Center for Green Gary Day, or drop off some household hazardous waste at stations located in the Hudson Campbell parking lot.

Flyer - <http://tinyurl.com/BlightBuster-4-2019>

Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Environmental Stewardship Day

Do you have old cleaners, paints, medications, and waste electronics to dispose of? Bring them to this free waste disposal event on April 27th at the Hudson Campbell Fitness Center parking lots from 9am - 2pm. Help keep our land and water bodies pollution free by disposing of waste at this event. Free services include: Shredding — Gas Can Exchange — Tire Collection — Electronics Recycling — Free Recycling Bins — Environmental Information Booths — Collection of chemicals, oils, aerosols, etc. — Refreshments and more.

For more information or to register as a volunteer please contact the Gary Department of Environmental Affairs & Green Urbanism at (219) 882-3000.

Flyer - <http://tinyurl.com/HHW2019>

Save the Date

Miller Woods Hike, every Sunday from March 17 to May 26, 2019

Join a ranger for a hike through the Indiana Dunes National Park's Miller Woods. Hikes will vary in length depending on the interest and abilities of visitors. The hike starts at the Paul H. Douglas Center and continues through Miller Woods to the shore of Lake Michigan. This amazing hike goes through a globally rare black oak savanna and around towering sand dunes and interdunal wetlands. For more information call the park at 219-395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu.

Woodland Wildflower Hike, April 28, 2019

Join a ranger at Indiana Dunes National Park for a hike to see what early woodland flowers are blooming. The hike will follow the Heron Rookery trail, which runs along the Little Calumet River and is one of the best locations in the region to see woodland wildflowers. Meet at Heron Rookery's east parking lot. For more information call the park at 219-395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu.

Miller Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, May 11, 2019

Over 3,000 native trees, shrubs, and perennials will be available. Garden Gurus will be available to answer questions and help you plan your garden. Takes place from 10am - 3pm at the Aquatorium at Miller Beach, 6918 Oak Ave, Gary, IN. For more information visit www.millergardenclub.org.

Clean Water Festival, June 22, 2019

The 15th annual Clean Water Celebration will take place on June 20-22, culmination in a festival on the beach on June 22nd. Contact Gary Green Urbanism at (219) 882-3000 for more information.

Butterfly Garden Workshop on June 29, 2019

The Field Museum and City of Gary will host a workshop on designing, creating, and maintaining butterfly gardens at the Brunswick Community Center. Participants will receive hands-on training and plants to take home. Contact Gary Green Urbanism at (219) 882-3000 for more information.