

Earth Month at Swaner: Notice Nature as Spring Arrives Early | Swaner EcoCenter

04/01/2026

After a warmer-than-usual winter along the Wasatch Back, signs of spring are arriving early this year. Snow is melting from the sagebrush hillsides, wetlands are beginning to thaw, and the familiar calls of migratory birds are returning to Snyderville Basin. At Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter, the seasonal shift brings renewed life—and a full calendar of events celebrating Earth Month.

Spring is one of the most exciting times to see Swaner Preserve's 1,200 acres. As the wetlands wake up, you can hear the distinctive calls of sandhill cranes and see waterfowl returning to the creek and ponds. North-side trails will soon end their vulnerable freeze-thaw cycle to reveal animal tracks and the first wildflowers of the season.

Earth Month at Swaner is also about action. One of the Preserve's spring traditions is a community trash cleanup, where volunteers gather to remove litter from nearby parking lots, trails, and roadsides before it can wash into wetlands or harm wildlife. It's a simple but meaningful way for residents to care for the places they love.

For those who prefer inspiration through storytelling, Swaner and Park City Film will co-host an environmental film screening and Q&A with experts about the journeys of two mountain lions called "A Heart of a Lion". This annual event features documentaries about wildlife, water, and conservation—followed by conversations that connect big environmental challenges with local solutions.

Back at the EcoCenter, visitors can dive deeper into the science behind the landscape. Young children can experience the [Wetland Supermarket](#) and translate its lessons into observations outside on the back deck. Families can bond through fun [family day activities](#), and all ages can contribute as citizen scientists by tracking local nature observations during the City Nature Challenge.

With spring arriving a little early this year, the Preserve is already beginning to buzz with life. Earth Month offers

the perfect excuse to step outside, explore the trails, and celebrate the environment that makes our home unique.

5 Things to Do at Swaner This Spring

1. **Explore the Trails**
Nearly [10 miles of paths](#) wind through wetlands and sagebrush uplands, offering excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing and peaceful spring walks.
2. **Visit the [Life on the Edge](#) Exhibit**
On display till May 10, 2026, this interactive exhibit inside the EcoCenter explores how living things survive in Earth's most extreme environments—from deep oceans to icy landscapes.
3. **Join the Community Trash Cleanup**
Help protect wetlands and wildlife by volunteering for Swaner's spring cleanup event.
4. **Attend an Environmental Film Screening**
Enjoy a thought-provoking documentary about mountain lions and learn from animal experts.
5. **Bring the Family for Earth Month Activities**
Hands-on programs and a family day invite kids to create nature art, learn about wildlife, and explore science in fun ways.



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Location, Hours & Contact

Physical & Mailing Address

1258 Center Drive
Park City, Utah 84098

EcoCenter Hours

Wednesday – Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

The EcoCenter will be closed on Wednesday, October 7 and Thursday, October 8.

Email

swanerecocenter@usu.edu

Phone

435-649-1767

[Directions, Parking, & Transit](#) [View Staff Directory](#)

- [Swaner EcoCenter Facebook page](#)
- [Swaner EcoCenter Instagram page](#)

Events

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\$Trumba.addSpud({ webName: "extension-swaner-ecocenter", spudType : "upcomingpreview" , spudConfig :
"SpudConfig2" , teaserBase : "https://extension.usu.edu/swaner/calendar" }); </script> [View Full Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter Calendar](#)