

AB Green Stewards & Earth Day

Earth Day was first celebrated 51 years ago on April 22, 1970. On April 22, 1970 the first Earth Day was celebrated. Its purpose was to educate and activate the environmental movement to drive positive action for our planet. That day inspired 20 million Americans — at the time, 10% of the US population—to act in preventing pollution and loss of habitat, and to protect our natural resources.

The Atlantic Beach Environmental Stewardship Committee (ESC), established in July 2017, has a similar mission. We work to protect our maritime forest and open spaces and encourage environmental stewardship throughout the City.

The first Earth Day inspired the creation of the US EPA, OSHA, and the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts among other important environmental organizations and laws to protect humans and other species from extinction.

Since its launch, the ESC has pursued and been awarded LEED for Cities certification; provided guidance on City landscaping, the Parks Master Plan, and the AB Vulnerability Assessment; placed litter cleanup baskets at beach access points; overseen compliance with and review of the Tree Ordinance; created a Heritage Tree designation and maintained our status as an official Tree City in celebration of Arbor Day; planted more than 340 trees and counted; and educated the public and schools on how to care for our tree canopy.

We are proud of the enthusiastic volunteers who serve on the ESC and the progress we've made in just a few years. If you share our commitment to the goals of the Earth Day founders, please consider attending a meeting or signing up to be a part of the committee.

And to celebrate Earth Day 2021, the ESC and Word Revolt Art Gallery are co-sponsoring an Art Competition to call attention to sustainability issues that our community faces. For more information about this event and how you can contribute visit www.coab.us/earthdayart

Linda Chipperfield
Secretary, AB Environmental Stewardship Committee