

These boxes are part of Earth Day in Oak Ridge 2015. There are three boxes planted for the 2015 event plus the event box at the event on Saturday April 25th. Our purpose is to get families outside and using the Oak Ridge Greenways. Maps of the Greenways can be found at: <http://tnlandforms.us/greenways/>

2015 Box #1: An Arbor a Day.

An Arbor a Day keeps carbon dioxide at bay. The Arbor Day Foundation has been around since 1972, the centennial anniversary of the first Arbor Day. This organization is dedicated to planting trees - lots of trees. A walk through this wooded area features a profusion of spring wildflowers and a path that follows the creek. This Greenway is hiking only.

Geocache Coordinates: We could not get adequate satellite coverage on the day we went out.

Letterbox Directions: Find the Wildflower Greenway trailhead. Park across from the trailhead on East Vanderbilt Drive, just east of Villanova Rd. The trail will take you up the hill and then down to the creek area. Check out how the water falls over the flat rocks. When you reach the creek, the trail goes to the right. Hike on for a couple of minutes until you reach a round, flat slab. Just past it you will see another one. Stand between the two and face away from the creek. Do you see the skinny fallen tree? Check out the base under some rocks. Please return the box under the tree and rocks when you are finished. This is not a loop trail so you can turn around or continue on to the other end of the trail and walk back to your vehicle via the sidewalk. In the spring the west end of the trail can be muddy.

2015 Box #2: Captain EO.

Nope. Not the Michael Jackson/Disney 3D short movie. This EO has important significance for Earth Day. The Ecology symbol was created by artist Ron Cobb, and the icon gained in popularity before the founding of Earth Day. Cobb's symbol, first published in 1969, combined the letter "E" (for earth and environment), with the letter "O" (representing wholeness and unity). The simple symbol was used on the very first Earth Day on April 22nd, 1970, when 20 million Americans held rallies across the country, advocating the protection of our land, air, and water.

Geocache Coordinates: We could not get adequate satellite coverage on the day we went out.

Letterbox Directions: Start on the west end of Oak Ridge at the intersection of Wisconsin and Whippoorwill. Head west on the North Boundary greenway trail, past the water tower and stop at the first bench. Have a seat and look across the trail and to the right. See that stump? Look behind it under a rock and some leaves. If you are up for the 9 mile round trip, keep going, as there are several geocaches and letterboxes on this trail. This trail gets heavy use by hikers and dog walkers so please be discreet.

2015 Box #3: Bear-ly there.

Habitat loss is probably the most serious cause of population declines and species extinctions. Species diversity is important for a healthy ecosystem and while some species have very small space requirements and can persist in habitat islands like the Oak Ridge Greenways, other species require a lot of space and while they may be occasionally spotted moving through the area, they are barely there. This trail is hiking only.

Geocache Coordinates: N 36.04548m W 84.23047

Letterbox Directions: Find the Pine Grove Greenway trail in east Oak Ridge. Park at the entrance on California. Do not cross the creek. Follow the trail for a while until you step over what looks like a cement foundation. When you get to a tree with a blue blaze, stay on the right fork. Between the tree with the blue/white blazes and the white blazes notice the tree that looks like it was in a fire. Take the deer trail on the right just past this tree to the clearing. Follow the downed tree with the spines to the root end. Behind the tree the box is wedged in a crack near the roots.

This trail can get slippery after rains and is muddy in places.

2015 Event Box: Global Guy. Find him at the Children's Activity booth on April 25th.