

City of Milwaukie

Earth Day Reading List

Youth Fiction

- **The Hike by Alison Farrell**

In this picture book set in the Pacific Northwest, three friends set out on a day hike to explore their local forest, intending to climb to the top of the hill, where they will plant a flag, read a poem, and release feathers into the wind.

- **Pond by Jim LaMarche**

A group of friends discovers a neglected pond in the woods and decides to fix it up together.

- **We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade**

One young water protector takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource in this lyrical picture book inspired by the many indigenous-led movements across North America.

- **Rainbow Weaver / Tejedora del Arcoiris by Linda Elovitz Marshall, illustrated by Elisa Chavarri**

Ixchel, a young Mayan girl who is not allowed to use her mother's thread to weave, exercises her ingenuity and repurposes plastic bags to create colorful weavings in this bilingual story.

Youth Non-Fiction

- **The Great Big Green Book by Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Ros Asquith**

Learn about what we need for life on Earth and how we have polluted so much our planet, and get action plans for saving water, saving energy, recycling, repairing, growing seasonal food, and more.

- **Mama Miti : Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya by Donna Jo Napoli, illustrated by Kadir Nelson**

This picture book biography tells the story of Wangari Maathai, who in 1977 founded the Green Belt Movement, an African grassroots organization, and in 2004 was the first African woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

- **The Water Walker by Joanne Robertson**

This is the story of a determined Ojibwe Grandmother (Nokomis) Josephine Mandamin and her great love for Nibi (Water). Nokomis walks to raise awareness of our need to protect Nibi for future generations, and for all life on the planet.

- **Greta Thunberg by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara, illustrated by Anke Weckmann**

Discover the inspiring true story of Greta Thunberg, the environmental activist, in this picture book biography.

Young Teen Fiction

- **Forest World by Margarita Engle**

Edver is expecting a long, boring summer in Cuba, not to meet a sister he didn't know he had and work to save the Cuban jungle that they both have grown to love.

- **Operation Redwood by S. Terrell French**

In northern California, Julian Carter-Li and his friends fight to save a grove of redwoods from an investment company that plans to cut them down.

- **Hoot by Carl Hiaasen**

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

- **Marty McGuire Digs Worms! by Kate Messner**

With help from her Grandma Barb, 3rd-grader Marty builds a habitat for worms in her school cafeteria as part of the Save the Earth Project.

Young Teen Non-Fiction

- **Plastic Sea: A Bird's-eye View by Kirsti Blom and Geir Wing Gabrielsen**

Plastic garbage knows no borders, floating on ocean currents and threatening the livelihoods of sea birds and animals who both eat and are trapped by plastic waste. Told from the perspective of a Northern Fulmar, a sea bird, this book offers insight into the growing environmental crisis of plastic waste.

- **Our Environment: Everything You Need to Know by Jacques Pasquet, illustrated by Yves Dumont**

This engaging nonfiction book takes readers back to the basics, offering an accessible overview of what makes up our environment, how those parts work, and why they matter.

- **One Earth: People of Color Protecting our Planet by Anuradha Rao**

Through the individual stories of people of color working as environmental defenders, this book shows that the intersection of environment and ethnicity is an asset to achieving environmental goals.

- **You are the Earth: Know Your World So You Can Make it Better by David Suzuki and Kathy Vanderlinden, illustrated by Wallace Edwards**

Explore our natural connection to the earth and its four elements, air, water, soil, and fire, to understand the importance of biodiversity and respect for the environment.

Teen Fiction

- **Midnight at the Electric by Jodi Lynn Anderson**
Adri's, Catherine's, and Lenore's lives are intertwined but not in the way that one would think, from 1919, to the Kansas Dust Bowl of the 1930s, to a Mars colony program in 2065.
- **The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline**
In a future world ravaged by global warming, people have lost the ability to dream, and the dreamlessness has led to widespread madness. The only people still able to dream are North America's indigenous population - and it is their marrow that holds the cure for the rest of the world.
- **War Girls by Tochi Onyebuchi**
In 2172, when much of the world is unlivable, sisters Onyii and Ify dream of escaping war-torn Nigeria and finding a better future together but are, instead, torn apart.
- **Life as We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer**
Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

Teen Non-Fiction

- **Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines by Paul Fleischman**
Using politics, psychology, and history, this shows how to see the principles driving events and attitudes, from vested interests to denial to big-country syndrome.
- **World Without Fish by Mark Kurlansky, illustrated by Frank Stockton**
The alarming true story of what's happening to the fish, the oceans and our environment.
- **Imaginary Borders by Xiuhtezcatl Martinez**
In this personal, moving essay, environmental activist and hip-hop artist Xiuhtezcatl Martinez uses his art and his activism to show that climate change is a human issue that can't be ignored.
- **Into the Deep: Science, Technology, and the Quest to Protect the Ocean by Christy Peterson**
While the ocean remains drastically unexplored, the scientists and research included in this book shed light on the most pressing issues currently facing oceanographers and point us in the right direction to solving these challenges.

Adult Fiction

- **The Precipice by Ben Bova**
Once, Dan Randolph was one of the richest men on Earth. Now the planet is spiraling into environmental disaster, with floods and earthquakes destroying the lives of millions. Randolph knows the energy and natural resources of space can save Earth's economy, but the price may be the loss of the only thing he has left--the company he founded, Astro Manufacturing.
- **The New Wilderness by Diane Cook**
Bea's five-year-old daughter, Agnes, is slowly wasting away, consumed by the smog and pollution of the overdeveloped metropolis that most of the population now calls home.
- **Migrations by Charlotte McConaghay**
Franny Stone has always been the kind of woman who is able to love but unable to stay. Leaving behind everything but her research gear, she arrives in Greenland with a singular purpose: to follow the last Arctic terns in the world on what might be their final migration to Antarctica.
- **The Water Knife by Paolo Pacigalupi**
Water is scarce in the American Southwest. With natural resources dwindling, Arizona, Nevada, and California are locked in a fierce battle for what little relief the shriveling Colorado River can provide.
- **New York 2140 by Kim Stanley Robinson**
As the sea levels rose, every street became a canal. Every skyscraper an island. For the residents of one apartment building in Madison Square, however, New York in the year 2140 is far from a drowned city.

Adult Non-Fiction

- **The Conservation Revolution: Radical Ideas for Saving Nature Beyond the Anthropocene by Bram Bucher and Robert Fletcher**
The authors seek to demonstrate how to organize and practice revolutionary conservation within the ruins of uneven socio-ecological capitalist development.
- **A People's Ecology: Explorations in Sustainable Living: Health, Environment, Agriculture, and Native Traditions Edited by Gregory Cajete**
This book presents a tapestry of perspectives on food and the interplay of health, cultural ecology, and environment, which are the fabric and foundation of all sustainable living.
- **Coming of Age at the End of Nature: A Generation Faces Living on a Changed Planet Edited by Julie Dunlap and Susan A. Cohen**
What happens to individuals and societies when their most fundamental cultural, historical, and ecological bonds weaken—or snap? In this book, insightful millennials express their anger and love, dreams and fears, and sources of resilience for living and thriving on our shifting planet.
- **What Can I Do: My Path from Climate Despair to Action by Jane Fonda**
Fonda weaves her journey as an activist alongside interviews with leading climate scientists, and discusses issues of water, migration, and human rights, to emphasize what is at stake. Most significantly, she provides concrete solutions, and things the average person can do to combat the climate crisis in their community.
- **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer**
Botanist, professor of plant ecology, and Potawatomi woman Robin Wall Kimmerer merges her experiences within each of these identities and communities to explore nature through scientific, cultural, and philosophical lenses.
- **Unbowed: A Memoir by Wangari Maathai**
Maathai, the winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize and a single mother of three, recounts her life as a political activist, feminist, and environmentalist in Kenya.
- **Trees in Trouble: Wildfires, Infestation, and Climate Change by Daniel Mathews**
Natural historian Mathews vividly relates the complex environmental situation facing America's western pine forests in this fascinating account.
- **Inconspicuous Consumption: The Environmental Impact You Don't Know You Have by Tatiana Schlossberg**
By examining the unseen and unconscious environmental impacts in four areas—the Internet and technology, food, fashion, and fuel - Schlossberg helps readers better understand why climate change is such a complicated issue, and how it connects all of us.
- **The Human Planet: Earth at the Dawn of the Anthropocene by George Steinmetz**
The Human Planet is a sweeping visual chronicle of the Earth today from a photographer who has circled the globe to report on such urgent issues as climate change, sustainable agriculture, and the ever-expanding human footprint.
- **Natures Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard by Douglas W. Tallamy**
Nature's Best Hope shows how homeowners everywhere can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats.
- **The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks by Terry Tempest Williams**
Focusing on twelve carefully chosen parks, Williams illuminates the unique grandeur of each place while examining what it means to shape a landscape with its own evolutionary history into something of our own making.