



## **The Sleeping Giant Park Association Press Release for April, 2009**

### **April 19, 2009, 1:00 PM, Earth Day Celebration and Bioblitz**

On Sunday, April 19, from 1:00 until 6:00 PM, the **Sleeping Giant Park Association** will be celebrating Earth Day by conducting the first-ever Bioblitz— a volunteer group effort to assess biodiversity— in the Sleeping Giant State Park. We are hoping for many volunteers from the public, to help us identify and collect data on the plants, insects, birds, mammals, mushrooms, and any other living organisms that we can find and identify in the Park. We will gather at the bulletin board by the kiosk near the park entrance, **at 1:00 PM**. At that time, we will divide into groups and explain the data-collecting procedures, and then head out at 1:30 PM with our clipboards and ID books. Wear comfortable supportive shoes, and bring snacks and water. If you have nature identification books, you may wish to bring them, as well. The Bioblitz event is free and open to the public. It is not necessary to register in advance.

One of our goals in conducting the Bioblitz is to gain a baseline with which to compare the Park's biodiversity down the road. This way, we will be able to gain a better understanding of the impact of invasive species, as well as possible effects of global environmental factors such as climate change on the flora and fauna in the Sleeping Giant.

The entrance to the Sleeping Giant Park is right off Route 10 in northern Hamden, on Mt. Carmel Avenue, across from Quinnipiac University. Leave your car in the Sleeping Giant lot or on the street where permitted.

For more information check our web site ([www.sgpa.org](http://www.sgpa.org)) or e-mail Irwin and Barbara Beitch, Chairpersons, SGPA Hiking Committee ([beitch1@cox.net](mailto:beitch1@cox.net)). If you lack internet access, you may call them (203-272-7841) between 10 AM and 10 PM.