

Polk County Conservation Summer 2014 Volunteer Events

Carney Marsh Restoration Project

Sundays: June 1st, July 13th, August 3rd

11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Carney Marsh

A DMACC crew of Environmental Science students and staff have committed to volunteering on the first Sunday of every month for the rest of the year at Carney Marsh.

Be a part of this restoration effort by coming along on any or all of the dates above. No experience is necessary, and equipment is provided. You should, however, dress for the weather, bring appropriate shoes or boots, and bring a refillable water bottle.

Please confirm date and time with Pat Spain
(515) 323-5280 or pat.spain@polkcountyiowa.gov

*We will cancel in the event of heavy rains and/or lightening

NEW PROJECT!

Jester Park Cabins Firewood Storage Boxes

If you enjoy woodworking, we have a perfect project for you! We need four firewood storage boxes built ASAP! We will furnish the exterior siding material, hardware and all supplies.

Please contact Gary Halbersma to make arrangements
(515) 323-5343 or gary.halbersma@polkcountyiowa.gov.

Park Stewards Needed!

Stewards are needed at various parks to help with woodland or wetland restoration and/or maintenance projects. Stewards are volunteers who agree to perform certain tasks or projects at a park of their choice. We provide all training and supplies needed.

Please contact Pat Spain to make arrangements
(515) 323-5280 or pat.spain@polkcountyiowa.gov



Thank you to all the volunteers who committed 14,000 hours of service to conservation efforts last year alone!

A huge thank you to these volunteers...

- Volunteer of the Year Michael Dunkin and Volunteer Group of the Year Iowa Outdoors Unlimited who have been active volunteers for the past five years putting in hundreds of hours helping with special events, invasive species workdays, waterway clean-ups, and taking photos.
- Volunteer Team of the Year Penny Thomsen and John Harri are stewards at Yellow Banks Park and have worked diligently to help restore the savannah and woodlands. They have been stewards since the inception of the Corps of Recovery Program in 2001.
- Eagle Scout of the Year Seth Konkol with Troop 295 who helped plan, raise funds, secure materials and supplies, recruit volunteers and install the new Outdoor Classroom at Brown's Woods.
- Trash Bash participants who removed 118,000 lbs of trash, 4 tons of invasive honeysuckle and shoveled 12 tons of river rock.
- Our Trail Ambassadors, Park Stewards, and Bluebird Trail Monitors who continue to care for the Polk County Conservation trail system.
- Volunteers who helped with Plant Some Shade, Yellow Banks Tree Planting and Carney Marsh Restoration Workdays.
- Saydel HS Honors Class who cleaned, wire brushed and painted 59 fire rings 13 grills and picked up litter at Jester Park
- Volunteers who helped with the Easter Lake Watershed Awareness Kick-off event.
- Wells Fargo and Liberty Mutual Insurance volunteers who helped stain the Jester Park Cabins.
- Wells Fargo Volunteers who help plant trees and clean up litter at Ft Des Moines Park
- David Lamison who completed his Woodland Restoration Project at Jester Park.

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Bottles to Birdfeeders Volunteers

Ongoing
Jester Park

We're looking for volunteers to monitor and empty the redeemable can/bottle collection barrels at Jester Park. This would be a weekly or bi-weekly task. Volunteers would also be responsible for sorting and bagging the cans and bottles.

This project provides us with funds to pay for the bird seed at Jester Park's wildlife viewing blind.



All necessary training for park stewards provided by Polk County Conservation.

Looking ahead...

13th Annual River Run Garbage Grab

Friday, August 22nd

8 a.m. start

Des Moines/Raccoon River

Saylorville to Yellow Banks Park

This event allows volunteers the opportunity to remove trash from the river or along its adjacent trails – paddlers, rowers, power boaters, walkers, bicyclers, mountain bikers, birders, etc are all welcome!

Puccoon Prairie Restoration

Saturday, August 23rd

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt

Be a part of local restoration efforts by joining PCC in partnership with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation at the Puccoon Prairie at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt. We will be removing undergrowth and invasive species. No experience is necessary, and equipment is provided. You should, however, dress for the weather, wear appropriate footwear, and bring a refillable water bottle.

Pat Spain

Planning & Outreach Coordinator

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www.leadingyououtdoors.com



PRAIRIE RESCUE & GOOD FOOD

IT'S TRUE

Prairies are hot in the summer. But this season is also one of the best times to see a prairie “in action!” Join INHF and the Polk County Conservation Board as we restore a hidden prairie gem! Complimentary lunch with ice cold drinks to follow.

REGISTRATION PREFERRED

INHF is partnering with Polk County CCB for this event. To register for this event please call or email Pat Spain at **(515) 323-5280**, email pat.spain@polkcountyiowa.gov.

WHAT: Invasive species eradication from a remnant (unplowed) prairie.

WHERE: Meet at Puccoon Prairie, about seven miles northeast of Bondurant.

Directions: Go east off 330/65 onto NE 102nd, and take the first right onto NE 112th St. Travel south ½ mile, and we will meet at the entrance gate south of NE 102nd ½ mile, on NE 112th St (east side of road).

Please contact Pat Spain at **(515) 210.1769** for questions about directions.

WHEN: Saturday, August 23rd

Work day: 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at Puccoon Prairie
Grill out: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lunch will be provided at the Petocka South Shelter House on the south side of Lake Petocka near the playground.

