

Polk County Conservation Winter 2015 Volunteer Events

Jester Park Invasive Species Roundup Saturday, January 24 @ 10:00-12:00 p.m. Jester Park

Your help is needed to restore our woodlands by removing honeysuckle and other invasive species. Meet us at 10:00 a.m. by the pond near Shelter #5. Participants are encouraged to dress appropriate for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, and bring gloves and a reusable water bottle.

Carney Marsh Restoration Project Sundays: February 8th, March 1st @ 11:00-2:00 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 or snow and/or lightening

Volunteer Appreciation Banquet Sunday, March 8th @ 5:00-8:00 p.m. Jester Park Lodge

Come join us at the Jester Park Lodge to celebrate your contributions to conservation efforts in Polk County. The evening will consist of a special program and guest with dinner and a recognition/awards ceremony as we highlight the projects and events of 2014.

Volunteers who have contributed 10 (or more) hours are invited to attend. Please contact Pat Spain at pat.spain@polkcountyiowa.gov to confirm your hours and RSVP.

Trail Ambassador Coordinators

We are now actively seeking to fill positions as Trail Ambassador Coordinators (TACs) throughout our parks. Those placed in this position would fill a leadership role by communicating and coordinating a network of volunteers.

For further information, please contact Pat Spain at (515) 323-5280 or pat.spain@polkcountyiowa.gov



Grandview Students removing sumac from Puccoon Prairie at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt.

A huge thank you to the following volunteers...

- Tacopocalypse Trash Challenge volunteers Brandy Case Haub and Craig Stafford who helped make this inaugural event a successful one.
- IDNR AmeriCorps volunteers and Grandview staff and students who collaborated with PCC on prairie restoration at Puccoon Prairie.
- Kurt Schoenberg for his woodland restoration efforts at Jester Park.
- Easter Lake Invasive Species Round-up participants who lent a helping hand in managing shoreline overgrowth.
- Navy Reserves members who participated in a work day at Fort Des Moines Park.
- Wells Fargo employees that continue to provide assistance in trash cleanup and land restoration in our parks and along the trails.
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation volunteers who have sought out opportunities to extend their reach into our Family of Parks.
- Wellmark employees Beth Steven and Mike Mitchell who have dedicated their time along our trails in 2014.
- Those with DMACC and the public who continue to dedicate one Sunday per month on restoration efforts at Carney Marsh.
- Our Trail Ambassadors, Park Stewards, and Bluebird Trail Monitors who tirelessly continue to care for the Polk County Conservation trail system.

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Our Naturalists Need You!

Come share your love of the outdoors with others this winter! Our naturalists are seeking those experienced in winter recreation activities to assist in various classes and events held throughout the coming months.

*Classes requiring snow will be cancelled without it

Ice Fishing Clinic

Saturday, January 10 @ 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Jester Park, Shelter #5

Sunday, February 8 @ 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Thomas Mitchell Park, meet in pond parking lot

Sunday, February 21 @ 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Easter Lake Park, Shelter #2

Help instill the basics of ice fishing in beginners of all ages. Anyone over the age of 16 will need a valid fishing license. Bait and poles will be provided. Bring something to sit on

Snowshoe Hike

Saturday, January 17 @ 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Thomas Mitchell Park, meet at pond parking lot

Show how easy and fun snowshoeing can be while experiencing the great outdoors. Wear warm boots.

Cross-Country Ski Basics

Saturday, January 31 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Raccoon River Park Nature Lodge, WDM

Help teach the basics of cross-country skiing and practice your skills on the trails. Proper clothing, equipment, and skiing techniques will be discussed before we head outside.

Bald Eagle Watch

Sunday, February 22 @ 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Lend a helping hand as visitors stop by the Saylorville Visitors Center and different areas around the lake to learn about our national symbol, the bald eagle. Hourly programs starting at 1:00 p.m. will give you a close look at this amazing species.

Pat Spain

Planning & Outreach Coordinator

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