

Polk County Conservation Summer 2015 Volunteer Events

Seeds and Sumac

Saturday, July 11th @ 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Puccoon Prairie, Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt

Join PCC and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation as we team up to restore a unique prairie remnant in Polk County. Volunteers and staff will be helping to clear the area of invasive species and collect seed ready for harvest. No experience is necessary, and equipment is provided. Please wear long pants, sturdy shoes and bring a refillable water bottle. Morning refreshments will be provided.

After crossing the South Skunk River coming from hwy 330, take NE 102nd St. east then turn south on NE 112th St. We will meet at the entrance gate south of 102nd about one half mile down the road on 112th St. (east side of road). Look for waysigns along the road.

For more information and to RSVP for this event, please contact Melissa at melissa.schmeling@polkcountyiowa.gov or at (515) 323-5331. *cancel in the event of heavy rain or lightning.



St. Theresa's Youth Home Missions Project

Carney Marsh Restoration Project

Sunday, July 12th @ 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Carney Marsh

A DMACC crew of Environmental Science students and staff have committed to volunteering one 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) prior to attending. *cancel in the event of heavy rain or lightning.



Efforts are on-going to remove invasive species and collect seeds from Puccoon Prairie, a unique sand prairie plot within Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt.

A very special thank you to these volunteers...

- Eagle Scouts: George Hoemann - Jester Park overlook picnic area and Aaron Brault - Jester Park bat house replacement boxes.
- Birdbox builders Habitat for Humanity, Rogers Shell, Walter Willhoft, Dean Ahnen and Kids with a Cause for their help in providing homes for bluebirds, kestrels and wrens in our county parks and along the trails.
- Trash Bash participants who removed thousands upon thousands of pounds of litter, brush, tires and recyclables from public lands and waterways and cleared away invasive species from our urban woodlands.
- St. Theresa's Youth Home Missions, along with Open Opportunities 4H, for finishing the excavation of a 24 foot area for pavers at the Jester Park Playscape which involved moving 20 tons of rock base in preparation for paver installation.
- Taco Ride Trash Challenge participants for trash cleanup and prairie restoration efforts along the Great Western Trail.
- Those volunteers beating the heat of an Iowa summer and continuing to reclaim Puccoon Prairie to its former glory.
- Our dedicated corporate teams of volunteers from John Deere, Wells Fargo, Principal Financial, Terracon and Wellmark.
- Our many stewards and trail ambassadors who are working each year restoring woodlands, wetlands and natural areas and monitoring natural and hard surface trails throughout the Polk County Conservation trail system.

Polk County Conservation Spring/Summer 2015 Volunteer Events

River Run Garbage Grab (R2G2)

Friday, August 21 @ 8 a.m. -12:00 and 4:00 p.m.

Sycamore Access

This event allows volunteers the opportunity to remove trash from the river or along its adjacent trails. Choose from many locations to either clean up land based trails by foot or bike, or clean up the Des Moines and Raccoon River Water Trails by power boat, canoe or kayak. Polk County Conservation will be hosting the Sycamore Access.

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

Volunteer Appreciation Paddle & Picnic

Sunday, September 20th @ 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt

What would we do without our amazing team of volunteers?! The thousands upon thousands of hours put into our parks and trails deserves to be celebrated! Please join us to explore the Skunk River Oxbows by canoe or kayak. Afterwards, gather at the Longhouse for a potluck style picnic. Polk County Conservation will be grilling up brats and burgers - bring a side to share with your fellow volunteers! Refrigeration is available in the longhouse if needed.

PCC will offer 28 boats available on a first come, first serve basis or you are welcome to bring your own. Not a paddler? Chichaqua also offers great hiking and birding opportunities. Potluck starts at 12:00 p.m. followed by float. To RSVP/ reserve a boat, contact Pat Spain pat.spain@polkcountyiowa.gov or 515-323-5280.



Volunteers cleanup the Des Moines River by boat

Looking ahead...

Seeking Trail Ambassador Mobile Patrol Team Members

We are now actively seeking to fill positions within our Trail Ambassador Program throughout our parks. Those placed in these positions will fill a leadership role by communicating and coordinating a network of volunteers. Needs for this program include a fundraising team, trail coordinators, and mobile patrol team members.

Fourmile Creek Sweep

Sunday, October 4th @ 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Mally's Park, Berwick

Strap on your boots and waders and get muddy with the Conservation team! In an effort to improve water quality, we will be sweeping Fourmile Creek for tires and other debris as well as clean up litter in and around Mally's Park. Participants should dress for the weather, bring work gloves and wear appropriate shoes for water or shore-based efforts (old shoes, rubber boots or waders). Be sure to bring along a refillable water bottle. Meet at Mally's Park at 11:30 for lunch provided by the National Environmental Education Foundation. Creek Sweep to follow beginning at 1:00 p.m.

For more information about this event or to submit any dietary restrictions, please contact Pat Spain at (515) 323-5280, or pat.spain@polkcountyiowa.gov.

Pat Spain

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