

# Polk County Conservation Fall 2013 Volunteer Events

## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Des Moines River Run Garbage Grab (R2G2)

Friday, August 23, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.\*

Sycamore Access and Sycamore Bike Trail

This event allows volunteers the opportunity to remove trash from the river or along its adjacent trails – paddlers, walkers, cyclists, and more are all welcome!

Volunteers can choose from many locations to clean up either land-based trails by foot/bike, or the Des Moines and Raccoon River water trails by canoe, kayak, or power boat. [Register here](#) or visit the [R2G2 website](#) for more information.

\*End times vary by location

## Discover Chichaqua

Sunday, September 8, 2013

1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. or

3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt

We love Chichaqua, and we know you will, too! Let us introduce you to this amazing habitat through this interactive afternoon. Wander through a prairie maze, take part in family-focused activities, or tag a monarch butterfly with the help of our staff and volunteers. These activities and more will be provided for you and your family to explore at your own leisure.

Do you already know how great Chichaqua is, but want to help spread the word? Contact Pat Spain at 515-323-5280 or send him an [email](#) to volunteer at this event. Pre-registration is required to volunteer, so get in touch today!



*This full dumpster shows just some of the trash volunteers collected during last year's River Run Garbage Grab.*

## A huge thank you to these volunteers...

- Liberty Mutual Insurance employees helped transplant wetland and woodland plants and groom the new trail at the recently renovated Two Dam Pond.
- Saydel Eagle's Nest volunteers adopted the prairie remnant at the Elk + Bison Exhibit in Jester Park.
- Wells Fargo employees completed work on the canoe launch at Two Dam Pond in Jester Park and held two separate clean-up days at Easter Lake.
- DMACC Environmental Science staff and students continue to work on the restoration of Carney Marsh.
- Cargill Milling employees painted a shelter at Fort Des Moines Park and picked up litter along SE 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and throughout the Park.
- The Hjelmaas family has worked on trails and water sealing the storage building at Two Dam Pond at Jester Park.
- Henry Oswald and Tyler Lesch have worked hard clearing brush and grooming the trail around Two Dam Pond.
- Dean Ahnen purchased all materials for and constructed bluebird and kestrel nestboxes.
- David Johnson built and installed a double bat house and post at the Jester Park Equestrian Center.

# Polk County Conservation

## Fall 2013 Volunteer Events (continued)

### Four Mile Creek Sweep

Saturday, September 21, 2013

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Mally's Weh-Weh-Neh-Kee Park

Get muddy with the Conservation team as we pull tires and other debris from Four Mile Creek and clean up litter in and around Mally's Park.

We'll meet in the parking lot around 8:45 a.m. 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.

### Prairie Seed Harvest

Saturday, September 21, 2013

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt

Come along to help us restore Iowa's native tallgrass prairie. Visit this original prairie remnant and gather its seeds so that we can plant them elsewhere to share the prairie love. This event will introduce you to the history of prairies in Iowa, why so much of it is gone, and what you can do to help restore it.

Participants are encouraged to wear pants, long sleeves, hiking boots and bring gloves. You may bring a sack lunch and stay for the afternoon collecting additional seed, or just exploring the wonders of the prairie.



*Cargill Milling employees volunteering their time this summer to beautify Fort Des Moines Park.*

#### Pat Spain

Planning & Outreach Coordinator

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