

Polk County Conservation Spring/Summer 2015 Volunteer Events

Trash Bash

Friday, April 24th
1:00 p.m.
Easter Lake, Shelter #4

Earth Day kicks off with a Bash downtown at noon including sponsor and volunteer recognition, team introductions and educational booths. The rally builds a sense of community and cohesiveness to the day's activities and is an opportunity to recognize the thousands of hours these volunteers will put in this year.

After the kick-off bash and lunch, team captains will lead the volunteers out to their project locations for an afternoon giving back to the community.

To register your team or for more information please phone: 515-248-6380, or trashbash@dmgov.org.

Residential Tree Program *Plant Some Shade*®

Saturday, May 9
7:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Your help is needed to help to direct customers where they can pick up trees and load bags of mulch. This is a perfect project for your scout or youth group. Please meet at the parking lot directly south of the Hoover State Office building on south side of Court Ave. Refreshments provided.

Please contact Mark Dungan at 515-323-5358.

Puccoon Prairie Restoration

Saturday, May 16th
10:00 - 12:00 p.m.
Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt

Join PCC as we work to restore a unique prairie remnant in Polk County. Volunteers and staff will be helping to clear the area of brush and invasive species. No experience is necessary, and equipment is 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 signage along the road. Bring a refillable water bottle; refreshments will be provided.



The Jester Park Invasive Species Winter Round-up was a huge success! Volunteers and staff cleared piles of honeysuckle and other invasive species from the woodlands at Jester Park.

A special thank you to these volunteers...

- Our dedicated team of volunteers who together contributed an astounding 16,500+ hours of their time during 2014. THANK YOU!
- Volunteer of the Year award winner David Johnson for his extensive volunteer efforts in our parks and trails. He helps prepare for and participate in workday events such as invasive species removal, woodland restoration, fence removal, etc. in addition to bird and bat house building.
- Volunteer Team of the Year winners John Gersib and Rogers Shell for their participation in and contributing to the success of Bluebird Trail monitoring.
- Volunteer Group of the Year winner Open Opportunities 4H Club for their efforts in revamping the Natural Playscape which included planning and fundraising for project supplies.
- Outstanding Scout Project winner Jacob Orr for his dumpster surround project which included volunteer recruitment, fundraising and installation.
- All volunteers who braved the cold and helped to remove invasive species at the Jester Park Roundup.
- John Deere Financial for their tremendous efforts clearing honeysuckle at Jester Park.
- Chainsaw Training attendees for expanding their skills and commitment to invasive species removal in our park system.
- 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.

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Taco Ride Trash Challenge

Tuesday, May 19th
4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Join Polk and Warren County Conservation along with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation in this unique twist on Taco Tuesday Bike Ride. Hop on the Great Western Trail southbound toward Cumming, IA stopping along the way to partake in trail cleanup and land restoration activities. More details to follow.

Carney Marsh Restoration Project

Sundays: June 14th, 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](mailto:pat.spain@polkcountyiowa.gov) (515-323-5280) prior to attending.



Grand View University staff and students work diligently to remove sumac from a rare sand prairie remnant.

Pat Spain

Planning & Outreach Coordinator

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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.

River Run Garbage Grab End of August, details to come Numerous locations

Volunteers can choose from many locations to either clean up land based trails by foot or bike, or choose to 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.

