

Polk County Conservation Winter/Spring 2016 Volunteer Events

Carney Marsh Restoration

**Saturdays: February 6th, March 5th, April 2nd
11:00-2:00 p.m. @ Carney Marsh, Ankeny**

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 Banquet

**Sunday, March 13 @ 5:00-7:00 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 speaker with dinner and a recognition/awards ceremony as we highlight the projects and events of 2014.

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

City of Des Moines Trash Bash

**Friday, April 22nd @ Noon - 4 p.m.
Various Locations - PCC at Easter Lake**

Earth Day kicks off with a Bash at noon downtown with 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. Contact Pat for more information at pat.spain@polkcountyiowa.gov

Arbor Day Century Tree Project

Saturday, April 30th @ 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. @ Easter Lake Park

Celebrate Arbor Day this year with Polk County Conservation. In addition to ongoing woodland restoration efforts within the greater enhancement projects of Easter Lake, PCC volunteers will be planting trees in areas where intensive work has been done to clear invasive species. These trees will be cared for throughout the years and their growth documented for future generations to enjoy.



Four Mile Creek Sweepers clearing this waterway of tires and other debris

A huge thank you to the following volunteers...

- REI, Cummins Central Power and members of the public who helped remove 10+ tons of trash from Four Mile Creek as well as participated in park beatification in and around Mally's Weh-Weh-Neh-Kee Park.
- Erika Schoenberg for her time dedicated to Environmental Education and land restoration efforts.
- Moonlight Seed Collection participants who burned the midnight oil harvesting seed for the next growing season.
- Grandview University students who helped with seed sorting at Chichaqua.
- Monarch tagging participants who helped the scientific community in tracking these pollinators on their annual trip to overwintering grounds in Mexico.
- Wells Fargo employees who cleaned up the lake shore and cleared the area of invasive plant species.
- New Park Stewards Alec Schaufenbuel (throughout our parks), Ashley Seidel (Brown's Woods), and Jon Shelness (Brown's Woods).
- New Adopt a Park sponsors at Mally's Park in Berwick Cummins Central Power.
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation volunteers who have sought out opportunities to extend their reach into our Family of Parks.
- Those with DMACC and the public who continue to dedicate one Sunday per month on restoration efforts at Carney Marsh.

Polk County Conservation Winter/Spring 2016 Volunteer Opportunities

Environmental Education Volunteers

Year-round
Various locations

Our naturalists need you! Come share your love of the outdoors with others. Our naturalists are seeking those experienced in outdoor recreation activities to assist in various classes and events held throughout the coming months. Activities include:

- snowshoeing
- cross country skiing
- kayaking
- ice fishing and archery
- hiking

Contact Patti for further details and information at patrice.petersen-keys@polkcountyiowa.gov

Park Stewards

Are you passionate about the Iowa landscape and want to make a difference? We are looking for you! Stewards are needed at various parks to help with woodland, wetland or prairie restoration and/or maintenance projects at the park of their choice. We provide all training and needed supplies.

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



Pat Spain

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Advisory Committee Membership

We are now accepting membership applications for the Polk County Conservation Advisory Committee. Members are asked to offer their ideas and professional expertise on discussion items, among many other things. Meetings are held quarterly from 6-8 p.m. at a PCC park or alternative indoor location.

If you're interested in serving on the Advisory Committee, please contact **Kami Rankin** at kami.rankin@polkcountyiowa.gov or call 515-323-5363 by Thursday, December 31.

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 pat.spain@polkcountyiowa.gov or call (515) 323-5280.

