

Polk County Conservation Spring 2016 Volunteer Events

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@polkcountyia.gov

Arbor Day Century Tree Project

Saturday, April 30th @ 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Easter Lake Park, Shelter #3

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.

Woodland Restoration Workday

Saturday, May 21 @ 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Yellow Banks Park, meet south of the ball field

We will be assisting longtime park stewards Penny Thomsen and John Harri in their efforts to remove undergrowth and invasive species. No experience is necessary and equipment is provided. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants and bring a refillable water bottle.

To volunteer for this event, please contact Pat Spain at (515) 323-5280 or pat.spain@polkcountyia.gov.

National Trails Day Workday and Camp

Saturday, May 21 @ 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Yellow Banks Park, meet south of the ball field

Join other natural surface trails enthusiasts for a day of trail maintenance, clearing overlook areas, re-surfacing trails and repairing erosion structures. Then kick up your feet and relax for an evening of food, drink and entertainment. Check-in at 9 a.m. on Saturday with free camping provided for volunteers Friday and Saturday night. Saturday evening BBQ provided. Registration is required for camping and Saturday evening events. You can come to the morning, afternoon, or both! .

Registration deadline is May 20. To register, [click here](#).



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

A huge thank you to the following volunteers...

- Volunteer of the Year Award Winners: Jane Clark, Ron Eckoff, John Zeitler, Koby Konkol and Friends of Chichaqua Valley Trail.
- REI, Cummins Central Power, Green Iowa Americorps and the Blank Park Zoo for their Adopt-a-Park work.
- Our dedicated team of park stewards new to the ranks: Alec Schaufenbuel at Carney Marsh, Kelly Leatherman at Easter Lake, Ashley Seidel at Brown's Wood, and Brent Hassebrock and Don Wolvek along trails.
- David Johnson for his continued dedication in our parks and along our trails.
- Participants who have cleared acres upon acres of invasive species at Carney Marsh and Brown's Woods.
- Trestle Point Neighborhood for their work clearing brush and cleaning up the High Trestle Trail near Ankeny.
- 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 Spring 2016 Volunteer Opportunities

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.

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.



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www.leadingyououtdoors.com



Hike. Paddle. Chop. Toss. Navigate. Bike. Explore.

Volunteer with the [Great Outdoors Foundation](#) and [Polk County Conservation](#) in a *FUN*, adventurous, outdoor team event.

The [Backwoods Challenge](#) is a friendly competition through the prairie, forest, wetlands and trails of Jester Park. Teams of two will hike, bike, and navigate their way through the course, completing feats of strength and skill in the great outdoors!

Volunteers are needed to help set up the course, check--in teams, distribute swag, assist staff at each of the course obstacle stations and help break-down the event immediately following.

Volunteer shifts are:
6:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

[Click Here to Sign up to Volunteer.](#)

