

Polk County Conservation Summer 2016 Volunteer Events

Happy Hour Harvest

First Wednesdays of the Month

July 6, Aug 3, Sept 7, Oct 5 @ 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Chichaqua Bottoms Longhouse

Join Polk County Conservation on the first Wednesday of each month on the Chichaqua prairie. We will be collecting seed from plants ready to harvest throughout the summer and fall. We will gather afterwards to cool down and relax with drink, appetizer and dinner specials Founders Irish Pub in Bondurant. Wear long pants, sturdy and closed-toed shoes for traversing uneven terrain and bring a refillable water bottle. No experience necessary and all equipment provided.

To volunteer for this event, please contact Melissa at (515) 323-5331 or melissa.schmeling@polkcountyiowa.gov.

Puccoon Prairie Restoration

Saturday, July 16 @ 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, meet at entrance gate

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. Please wear appropriate footwear, long pants and bring a refillable water bottle. After crossing the South Skunk River coming from highway 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. In partnership with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

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

River Run Garbage Grab

Friday, August 19 @ 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sycamore Access boat ramp, Des Moines

Come join our partners and volunteers for this long-standing annual event to remove trash from the river or along its adjacent trails - paddlers, rowers, power boaters, walkers, bicyclers, mountain bikers, birders, etc all are welcome! Later this summer go to www.riverstewards.org, to sign up for water based or trail and land based clean-up efforts.

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



Another successful Trash Bash in the books!

A huge thank you to the following volunteers...

- National Trails Day participants who spent a full day resurfacing hiking trails at Jester Park.
- Kestrel and Bluebird trail monitors who continue to check nest boxes, record data, and keep sparrows from overtaking boxes.
- The 260+ Trash Bash participants that participated in woodland restoration, trash removal and litter pickup in and around Easter Lake Park.
- Neumann Brothers Construction who donated their time and resources to restore the Jester Park amphitheater and parking area.
- Eagle Scout Taylor Kammerer who raised funds for his project at Jester Park Shelter #4 which included new benches around an ADA fire ring.
- Trail Ambassadors Jean Michaelis, Mike Mitchell and Beth Stevens who continue to monitor multiple natural and hard surfaced trails throughout our family of parks and trails.
- Long-term Park Stewards and Adopt-a-Park Sponsors David Johnson, Ron Eckoff, John Zeitler, Lee Hill, Penny Thomsen and John Harri, Ashley Seidel, REI, Green Iowa AmeriCorps, Cummins Central Power, Blank Park Zoo, Boy Scout Troop 193, Mid-Iowa Retrievers and Chichaqua Free Skinners who continue to work throughout our family of parks and trails.

Polk County Conservation Summer 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

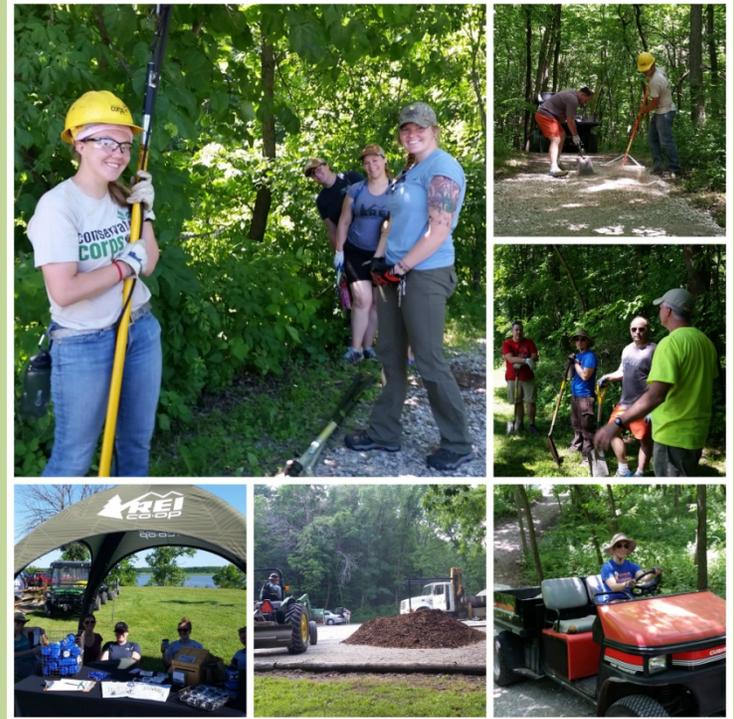
Are you passionate about the Iowa landscape and want to make a difference? We are looking for you! Stewards are needed at various parks to help with woodland, wetland or prairie restoration and/or maintenance projects at the park of their choice. We provide all training and needed supplies.

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



National Trails Day Highlights

June 4th, 2016



PCC hosted its first annual National Trails Day celebration at Jester Park this year. Volunteers spent the day resurfacing natural trails throughout the park then kicked up their heels for a BBQ and live entertainment courtesy of local musician Kent Atha. A **HUGE** thank you to Shae Rossetti of REI of West Des Moines for her support and hard work in making this event a success!

Pat Spain

Planning & Outreach Coordinator

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