

Polk County Conservation Autumn 2016 Volunteer Events

Happy Hour Harvest

First Wednesdays of the Month
Sept 7, Oct 5 @ 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, 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, September 10 @10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.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.

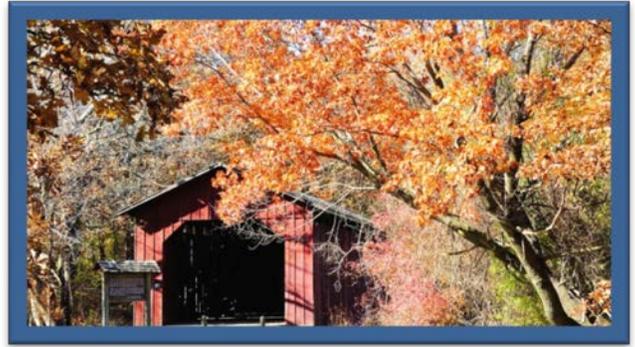
To volunteer for this event, please contact Pat Spain at (515) 323-5280 or pat.spain@polkcountyiowa.gov.

Four Mile Creek Sweep

Saturday, September 17 @ 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Mally's Park, Berwick

Strap on your boots or waders and get muddy with the Conservation team! In an effort to improve water quality, we will be sweeping Four Mile Creek for tires and other debris as well as clean up litter in and around Mally's Park. 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. Meet at Mally's Park at 11:30 a.m. for lunch (RSVP by September 15).

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



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 Skinkers who continue to work throughout our family of parks and trails.

Polk County Conservation Autumn 2016 Volunteer Opportunities

Moonlight Seed Harvest

Saturday, October 15 @ 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Youth Camp Area

Join Polk County Conservation and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for a moonlit evening as we work to restore native prairie by collecting seed ready to harvest. No experience necessary and all equipment provided. Participants should dress for the weather and wear appropriate shoes for working in uneven terrain. Bring a headlamp (preferred) or flashlight. This event will be followed by a bonfire, cider and s'mores.

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

Woodland Restoration Workday

Saturday, November 5 @ 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Yellow Banks Park, meet at pond

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. Please wear long pants, sturdy closed toes shoes and bring a refillable water bottle.

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!



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

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.

Pat Spain

Planning & Outreach Coordinator

Polk County Conservation
11407 NW Jester Park Drive
Granger, Iowa 50109
P: 515.323.5300
F: 515.323.5354
E: pat.spain@polkcountyiowa.gov

www.leadingyououtdoors.com

