

# Polk County Conservation

## Fall 2013 Volunteer Events

### Discover Chichaqua

Sunday, September 8, 2013

1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. or

3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt

We love Chichaqua, and we know you will, too! Let us introduce you to this amazing habitat through this interactive afternoon. Wander through a prairie maze, take part in family-focused activities, or tag a monarch butterfly with the help of our staff and volunteers. These activities and more will be provided for you and your family to explore at your own leisure.

Do you already know how great Chichaqua is, but want to help spread the word? Contact Pat Spain at 515-323-5280 or send him an [email](#) to volunteer at this event. Pre-registration is required to volunteer, so get in touch today!

### Four Mile Creek Sweep

Saturday, September 21, 2013

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Mally's Weh-Weh-Neh-Kee Park

Get muddy with the Conservation team as we pull tires and other debris from Four Mile Creek and clean up litter in and around Mally's Park.

We'll meet in the parking lot around 8:45 a.m. 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.

### Looking for an independent project?

See the next page for a few ideas...



August saw dozens of tires being removed from Polk County's parks, waterways and lakes. Here, Wells Fargo volunteers showcase an ag tire they removed from Easter Lake.

### A huge thank you to these volunteers...

- Everyone who took part in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual River Run Garbage Grab – another huge success!
- Liberty Mutual Insurance employees helped transplant wetland and woodland plants and groom the new trail at the recently renovated Two Dam Pond.
- Saydel Eagle's Nest volunteers adopted the prairie remnant at the Elk + Bison Exhibit in Jester Park.
- Wells Fargo employees completed work on the canoe launch at Two Dam Pond in Jester Park and held two separate clean-up days at Easter Lake.
- DMACC Environmental Science staff and students continue to work on the restoration of Carney Marsh.
- Cargill Milling employees painted a shelter at Fort Des Moines Park and picked up litter along SE 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and throughout the Park.
- The Hjelmaas family has worked on trails and water sealing the storage building at Two Dam Pond at Jester Park.
- Henry Oswald and Tyler Lesch have worked hard clearing brush and grooming the trail around Two Dam Pond.
- Dean Ahnen purchased all materials for and constructed bluebird and kestrel nestboxes.
- David Johnson removed old fence lines, built and installed a double bat house and post at the Jester Park Equestrian Center.

# Polk County Conservation

## Fall 2013 Volunteer Events (continued)

### Prairie Seed Harvest

Saturday, September 21, 2013

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt

Come along to help us restore Iowa's native tallgrass prairie. Visit this original prairie remnant and gather its seeds so that we can plant them elsewhere to share the prairie love. This event will introduce you to the history of prairies in Iowa, why so much of it is gone, and what you can do to help restore it.

Participants are encouraged to wear pants, long sleeves, hiking boots and bring gloves. You may bring a sack lunch and stay for the afternoon collecting additional seed, or just exploring the wonders of the prairie.

### A couple other projects we need help with...

Are you passionate about working with your hands and being outdoors? We'd love to have you or your group's leadership on these projects:

- Construction of a fire pit and a paver block walkway leading up to and surrounding this new proposed fixture for the shiny new cabin site at Two Dam Pond in Jester Park.
- Construction of a tree-surround made from landscape blocks near our new equipment maintenance building at Jester Park.
- Installation of a third tier to the popular Jester Park Amphitheater.

All tools and materials are supplied by Polk County Conservation. Contact Pat Spain at 515-323-5280 or send him an [email](#) to find out more about how you can leave your mark on Polk County's Family of Parks!



Michael Dunkin, volunteer, prepares to unload a huge amount of abandoned refuse into a dumpster during the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual River Run Garbage Grab on August 23, 2013.

#### 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](mailto:pat.spain@polkcountyiowa.gov)

[www.leadingyououtdoors.com](http://www.leadingyououtdoors.com)

