

Johnson County Conservation VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

September 2022

We need your help for the following volunteer positions and events!

Prairie Seed Harvests

Help JCC hand harvest prairie seeds to be used in future restoration projects! Many of these harvest days are easy for all ages of volunteers, and no background experience is necessary. Some require hiking on trail or into thick prairie areas. All locations are subject to change based on seed conditions. Updates will be shared via email with all registered participants. Events dependent on weather and dry seed conditions. Sign up for all seed harvests through our events page:

<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation/events>

Contact: kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Prairie Seed Harvest Dates/Locations:

Wednesday, Sept 14, 10:00 - 11:30 AM
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Wednesday, Sept 21, 10:00 - 11:30 AM
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Wednesday, Sept 28, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Sunset Seed Harvest
Wednesday, Oct 5, 5:00-6:30 PM
William's Prairie State Preserve

Full(ish) Moon Seed Harvest (up to 1.5 mile hike)
Monday, Oct 10, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Adventure Seed Harvest (up to 1 mile hike)
Wednesday, Oct 19, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Ciha Fen Preserve, F.W. Kent Park

Saturday, Nov 5, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
High Point, F.W. Kent Park

Sunset Seed Harvest
Wednesday, Nov 9, 4:30 - 6:00 PM
Knight Prairie Pavilion, F.W. Kent Park

Adventure Seed Harvest (up to 3 mile hike)
Wednesday, Oct 26, 9:00 - 12:30 PM
Cedar River Crossing, North Entrance

Adventure Seed Harvest (up to 3 mile hike)
Friday, Nov 4, 9:00 - 12:30 PM
Cedar River Crossing, South Entrance

Adventure Seed Harvest (up to 2 mile hike)
Wednesday, Nov 16, 1:00-3:00 PM
Valley View, F.W. Kent Park

Fishing Program Aid and/or Pole Repair Help

We serve hundreds of youth through our fishing programs each summer and fall. Program volunteers needed with experience fishing to aid in baiting hooks, untangling line, unhooking fish, etc. Volunteers also needed for aid post-event for fixing/cleaning poles. Volunteers would be contacted and notified in advance of programs or fishing pole repair days and could attend as schedules allow.

Contact: mtrana@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Flip for more volunteer needs on the backside.

<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation>





Monarch Tagging:

Take part in citizen science and monarch butterfly conservation! Volunteers needed to help catch and tag wild monarch butterflies. This effort is an important push to gather as much data as we can about monarch butterfly migration. The small tags label each butterfly with a unique number. Tagged butterflies will journey 2,000 miles to their winter home in Mexico. This activity is great for all ages. We will supply nets. Events dependent on weather conditions. Updates will be shared via email with all registered participants. To sign up, go to:

<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation/events>

Contact: fowen@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Monarch Tagging Dates/Locations:

Wednesday, Sept 7th, 9:00-11:00 AM
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Wednesday, Sept 14th, 7:30-11:00 AM
Cedar River Crossing, South Access

Wednesday, Sept 14th, 2:00-4:00 PM
Cedar River Crossing, North Access

Wednesday, Sept 21st, 2:00-4:00 PM
Two Horse Farm

Wednesday, Sept 28th, 2:00-4:00 PM
Cedar River Crossing, North Access

Iowa River Clean Up

Saturday, Oct 8, 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Hills Campground & Access, Hills, IA

Help beautify the Iowa River! Over eight years of this annual event, volunteers have removed 65 tons of trash and over 1000 tires from a 10-mile stretch of river! Volunteers are needed both in canoes and on land to remove junk. An after party will be held at Big Grove Brewery with free drink tokens provided for all volunteers, donated by Big Grove. This event may be canceled if the river is too low/high.

To sign up, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/iowarivercleanup>.

Contact: kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Bird Banding at Kent Park

Johnson County Conservation partners with federally permitted banders to capture and band small birds at Kent Park. Data contributes to an international database that makes it possible to track bird populations across North America and beyond. If you love birds and you'd like to contribute in a meaningful way to their conservation this is the work for you! We band twice weekly in fall and periodically throughout the winter as weather allows. This work is heavily dependent on dedicated volunteers.

Contact: mtrana@johnsoncountyiowa.gov



This newsletter will come out on an as-needed basis. To subscribe to the email-list for this newsletter, click on or scan the QR code to the right.

Banner photo: Two Horse Farm, credit: Erin Melloy

<https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation>

