

Johnson County Conservation VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

September 2024

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

Prairie Seed Harvests

Helping to harvest prairie seeds allows volunteers to take up an active role in the restoration of our native ecosystems. Harvests often involve hiking up to one mile one direction, and involve trekking into the prairie vegetation to harvest. The Senior Seed Harvests are open to all people, but are designed to be more accessible. These will be close to parking areas and target species can be harvested from paved surfaces. All locations are subject to change based on seed conditions. Updates will be shared via email with all registered participants. Events are dependent on weather and dry seed conditions.

Seed Harvest Dates:

Wednesday, October 9, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Pechman Creek Delta – seed harvest by kayak!

Wednesday, October 2, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Wednesday, October 16, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Knight Prairie Pavilion, F.W. Kent Park

Wednesday, October 23, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Cedar River Crossing, North Entrance

Wednesday, October 30, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
William's Prairie State Preserve

Sunday, November 3, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
High Point Overlook, F.W. Kent Park

Wednesday, November 6, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Knight Prairie Pavilion, F.W. Kent Park

Wednesday, November 13, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Williams Prairie State Preserve

Senior Seed Harvests:

Wednesday, October 16, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Dam Parking Area, F.W. Kent Park

Wednesday, October 23, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Red
Haw Shelter, F.W. Kent Park

Wednesday, October 30, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

To sign up, head to the events link here:

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

Wings & Wild Things Festival Helpers

The Wings and Wild Things Festival is scheduled from 9 am to 1 pm on Sunday, October 6. This festival features 18 partner groups and hands-on, experiential activities including guided bird walks, dip netting for macroinvertebrates, fishing, foraging, reptile and raptor meet and greets, a native plant sale, and more. Volunteers are needed for event set-up, greeting at our information table, traffic control, activity facilitation, and more. Shift times vary.

Contact: Michelle Wiegand

MWiegand@JohnsonCountyIowa.gov

Flip for more volunteer needs on the backside.

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





Stuffed Bird Sewing Project

We are seeking a volunteer with sewing skills to help revitalize our stuffed birds. We have around a dozen stuffed songbirds with a battery-operated sound device inside that plays the song of the bird. We use these often in birding classes with elementary schools. The batteries need replacing, and to do that the stuffed animals need to be cut open and either sewed back up or have a velcro opening installed in place. This project could be done over a series of months in the winter.

Contact: Kristen Morrow

kmorrow@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Book Catalog Helper

We are looking for individuals to help up catalog our large library of books! Volunteers will have a brief training for our database system before starting. This is an indoor volunteer and requires the volunteer to work on one of our computers. Come solo or bring a partner!

Contact: Frances Owen

fowen@johnsoncountyiowa.gov



How to sign up: To attend any of the prairie harvest events, sign up through the JCC Education Events page. Scan or click the QR code to the left for that link.

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>

