

Johnson County Conservation VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

September 2025

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 ~1 mile round trip, sometimes more, and involves trekking into the prairie vegetation to harvest. 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:

Sept 10, 10 AM @ Ciha Fen Preserve

Sept 17, 10 AM @ CEC, Kent Park

Sept 24, 10 AM @ CEC, Kent Park

Oct 1, 10 AM @ CEC, Kent Park

Oct 15, 10 AM @ Cedar River Crossing

Oct 22, 5 PM @ Cedar River Crossing

*Oct 29, 10 AM @ Dam Parking Area, Kent Park

*Nov 5, 10 AM @ Knight Prairie, Kent Park

*Denotes a "senior seed harvest". These are open to anyone, but designed especially for anyone needing an event with no hiking required, and harvest sites close to parking.

To sign up, head to the events link here:

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



Wings & Wild Things Festival

Sunday, October 5

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Wings & Wild Things Festival scheduled from 10 am to 2 pm on Sunday, October 5. This festival features over 17 partner groups and hands-on, experiential activities including guided bird walks, fishing, eco arts activities, 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

Volunteer Monarch Tagging

We need volunteers to help us catch wild monarch butterflies for tagging! Tagged butterflies will journey 2,000 miles to their winter home in Mexico. Events are dependent on weather conditions. Updates will be shared via email with all registered participants.

Saturday, Sept 6, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Wednesday, Sept 17, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Cedar River Crossing, North Entrance

To sign up, head to the events link here:

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



Flip for more volunteer needs on the backside.

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





Iowa River Clean-up

Saturday, October 11, times vary

Volunteers are needed to help haul tires and trash out of the Iowa River. Volunteers can choose to paddle 9 miles of the river in canoes (all day option) to remove trash, or sign up for the land crew in the afternoon to help unload junk-laden canoes at the take-out. The focus area is from Sturgis Ferry Park in Iowa City to Hills Campground in Hills, Iowa. Canoes, paddles, and life jackets are provided for volunteers until spaces fill. Volunteers can choose to bring their own canoes with life jackets as well (metal or aluminum canoes, not Kevlar). A sack lunch provided for registered volunteers.

This event is dependent on weather and safe/appropriate water levels in the Iowa River.

Registration is required. To learn more and to register, visit <https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/iowa-river-clean>.

Clothing Swap

Help us host another successful Clothing Swap! Last year, the event diverted over 1,200 lbs of clothes from the landfill and got them into new homes (specifically new closets). The clothes that remained were donated to Shelter House in Iowa City and the North Liberty Food Pantry. We need help sorting clothes leading up to the event and on the event day.

Clothes sorting: Wed, Dec. 3, 10 am- 1 pm

Clothes sorting: Thurs, Dec. 4, 10 am- noon

Clothes sorting & Event Set-up: Fri, Dec. 5, 9 am – noon or 1-4 pm

Clothing Swap Event Facilitation: Sat, Dec. 6, 12:30-3:00

Clothing Swap Clean-up: Saturday, Dec. 6, 3- 4 pm

Contact: Michelle Wiegand

MWiegand@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>

