Johnson County Conservation
VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

April/May 2026

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

Nest Box Monitoring Volunteers

Times TBD

We are looking for volunteers to help us conduct regular surveys of nest boxes for Purple Martins and Tree Swallows in F.W. Kent Park. Volunteers would commit to checking on the boxes once a week, on a day of their choosing. Participants can choose to survey either the Purple Martin boxes, Tree Swallow boxes, or both, depending on how much time the volunteer would like to spend outdoors! A naturalist will provide all training necessary to conduct the surveys.

Tasks for this volunteer would include checking each box, recording the status of the nest inside, and sharing their findings with the coordinating naturalist. Volunteers will be able to witness the entire life cycle of their chosen species – from eggs to fully fledged birds!

Contact: Chelsea Cozad
ccozad@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Pop Up Opportunities:

The days are warming up, and the landscape is beginning to awaken from its winter slumber. Yes, it's that time of year again…. Time for Spring Cleaning! We are hosting several pop-up events to prepare for an active season of exploring the skies and wetlands at Kent Park. We are seeking volunteers to join in the following events:

- April 21, 9:00 AM – noon: Net Sewing Repair
  - Wetland nets are an essential component for students to discover who lives in the waters at Kent Park. In this pop-up event, volunteers will repair the nets used by field trip groups for wetland exploration.
  - Volunteers can also opt to **bring nets home** to repair at their convenience. For this option, please reach out to ccozad@johnsoncountyiowa.gov to arrange a time to pick up nets.
- May 5, 2:00 – 4:00 PM: Bird Blind and Feeders Clean-up
  - Join us as we give the bird feeders a thorough cleaning to kick off the spring migration season. We will also conduct a deep-clean of the bird blind. Volunteers can celebrate a successful clean-up session with snacks and an optional bird hike at 4 PM to wrap up the afternoon.

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Window Art Updates:

Times TBD

The window drawings at the CEC are in need of an update! We're looking for a volunteer who can use their artistic flair to add some spring-themed drawings using window chalk markers. Anyone interested can reach out to the naturalist listed below to arrange a time slot.

Contact: Chelsea Cozad
ccozad@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Volunteer Hiking Social:

April 30, 9:00 AM
Cangleska Wakan

Whether you are a veteran volunteer or someone who is interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with Johnson County Conservation, we welcome you to join us on a Spring Ephemeral Hike! Hikers will navigate one steep hill during this woodland walk. This 1.5 mile loop will be unpaved and will at times have uneven, possibly muddy, terrain. Hikers can see a variety of wildflowers, fungi, and migratory birds throughout this gorgeous oak and hickory woodland.

To RSVP for this hike, please contact: Chelsea Cozad
ccozad@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

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

Banner Photo: Two Horse Farm, credit: Erin Melloy

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