

Johnson County Conservation VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

September 2026

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

Iowa River Clean Up

Saturday, Sept. 19, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00/4:00 p.m.

(Times variable by conditions and volunteer task)

Iowa River, Iowa City to Hills Access (9.5 miles)

The Iowa River Clean Up is an annual event where volunteers haul out trash large and small by canoe. This year is the 10th clean-up, and since the first event, volunteers have removed over 64 tons of trash!

Canoes and life jackets provided on a first served basis. Additional volunteers are needed to help unload trash from canoes. To register, visit: <https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/education/iowa-river-clean>

Wings & Wild Things Festival

Sunday, October 4 - F.W. Kent Park

We are looking for volunteers to help with our 3rd annual Wings & Wild Things Festival scheduled from 10 am to 2 pm on Sunday, October 4. This festival features over 15 partner groups and a variety of hands-on, experiential activities.

Volunteers are needed for event set-up, greeting at our information table, traffic control, activity facilitation, and more. Shift times vary. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering, please contact Michelle Wiegand at MWiegand@JohnsonCountyIowa.gov

CEC Host

Second Saturdays of each month, 12:00-3:00 p.m.,
Conservation Education Center

Volunteers help us to keep the building open for public visitor hours through the year. From September – May, we have the Conservation Education Center (CEC) in Kent Park open on the second Saturdays from 12:00 – 3:00 for visitor hours. We put together themed activities for each month in the classroom for visitors to enjoy along with exploring the Discovery Room displays and saying “hi” to the education animals. Folks who enjoy chatting with others would be a good fit for this indoor sit-down task. Volunteers can choose to do one day or several each year. A 30-minute training would be provided before a host’s first session.

To sign up for a date, head to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A054EA4AD2BABFA7-62011178-cechost#/>

<https://johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation>



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

September Seed Harvest Dates:

Wednesday, Sept 16, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: CEC in Kent Park

Wednesday, Sept 23, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Williams Prairie

Wednesday, Sept 30, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Two Horse Farm

For full list of prairie seed harvests or to register, please visit: <https://www.johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation/events>

Leaf-making Party!

Thursday, Oct 29, 9:00 a.m. – noon

Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

Help us leaf out our new oak tree display at the CEC in Kent Park! Volunteers will be led in the process to make leaves out of crepe paper that we'll attach to the tree. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A054EA4AD2BABFA7-61812487-mural>

Picnic Table Murals

Dates/Times TBD

Conservation Education Center, F.W. Kent Park

We're sprucing up some of our picnic table murals that volunteers helped us to create last summer. We'll have various work sessions where volunteers sign up to help paint in the designs on the tables (this time will not be paint by number, but mixing acrylic paint by hand to match the designs – assistance can be provided for this!). Volunteers do not need to be artists themselves - If you have a steady hand and interest in painting, join us! This is a sit-down outdoor task, usually in the company of a few other volunteers to chat and paint with.

Sign up for the "Interest List" here to be notified of work sessions as we are able to fit them in: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A054EA4AD2BABFA7-65450716-picnic>

<https://johnsoncountyiowa.gov/conservation>



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

Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program

Wednesday, September 2 and 16, 7:30 a.m.
Cedar River Crossing South

We're looking for passionate volunteers to join our Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program team at Cedar River Crossing! Whether you're a seasoned naturalist or just love being outdoors, this is a fantastic opportunity to make a real impact. By spending just a few hours in the field, you'll help collect critical data that supports monarch conservation on a local and national scale. Plus, it's a great way to connect with nature, learn more about pollinators, and be part of a community working toward positive change. Come be a part of something meaningful and join us in safeguarding the future of monarchs!

For more details and to register, click [here](#).

Clothing Swap

Help us host another successful Clothing Swap! This will be our third swap and each time we have diverted more than 1,000 pounds of clothes from the landfill and gotten 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: Wednesday, January 20, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Clothes sorting: Thursday, January 21, 10 a.m. - noon, or 1 - 3 p.m.

Clothes sorting & Event Set-up: Friday, January 22, 9 a.m. - noon or 1 - 4 p.m.

Clothing Swap Event Facilitation: Saturday, January 23, 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Clothing Swap Clean-up: Saturday, January 23, 3 - 4 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering for one or more Clothing Swap shifts, please contact Michelle Wiegand at MWiegand@JohnsonCountyIowa.gov

<https://johnsoncountyIowa.gov/conservation>

