

Volunteer Opportunities 2014 March-August

Volunteers are always needed by natural resource organizations and agencies.
Please contact one near you and inquire how you can help.

Mark your calendars for national volunteer events:

National Volunteer Week - April 6 – 13, 2014

www.pointsoflight.org/signature-events/national-volunteer-week

National Public Lands Day -September 27, 2014- www.publiclandsday.org/

Volunteers are needed at the following sites:

Elkhart Environmental Center, Elkhart, Indiana – Volunteers are needed for environmental and community outreach events throughout the year, including the following special events:

Apr. 26 – Arbor Day & Spring Plant Exchange; July 11 – EnviroFest

The Elkhart Environmental Center (EEC) has a large variety of year-round volunteer opportunities. Volunteers are needed throughout the year for invasive species removal; trail maintenance; and habitat improvement projects on the center's 66 acres of forest, prairie, wetland and riparian habitats. We also need volunteer gardeners from spring through fall to plant, weed, and care for the center's gardens. Engage and educate the community - Volunteers are needed for the center's annual Arbor Day and EnviroFest events and to help at workshops and other community events throughout the year. Greet visitors and keep the center open as a Saturday Host. Lead a public program or assist with field trips and interpretive hikes for school and scout groups.

Looking for IT and design opportunities? Volunteers are needed for database management, preserving historic records, graphic design, newsletters, brochure design and more!

To learn more about the EEC's volunteer opportunities, visit our website at

<http://www.elkhartindiana.org/eec>, visit our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/ElkhartEnvironmentalCenter>, or contact Ericka Popovich, Volunteer Coordinator, at Ericka.popovich@coei.org

Elkhart Environmental Center Volunteers in action



Allen County Parks and Recreation (Fox Island and Metea County Parks, Fort Wayne, IN)

Volunteers needed for the following upcoming events:

February 27-March 2, Home and Garden Show booth attendant (includes free entry into show if we have enough volunteer passes)

Trail Guide / IMN (Indiana Master Naturalist) Alumni advanced training series – registration or snack/drink donations: 2/23, 4/27, 6/29, 8/17, 10/12, and 12/14 at Fox Island, and/or 3/23, 5/18, 7/20, 9/21 and 11/23 at Metea. All trainings are held on Sundays, 1:00-3:00pm, except for the 10/12 training that lasts until 4:00pm.

Donation of two man cross-cut saw for February class on tree measurements.

Volunteers to aide parks staff with their annual scholarship fundraiser event, Sol Fest, May 3rd and 4th, Noon-7pm. Need help with parking, monitoring children's area, & offering children's area demonstrations.

Advertisement of park programs.

Assist the park naturalist with numerous activities such as feeding/caring of exhibit animals, bird feeders, updating bulletin boards, talking with schools about programs, etc...

Contact: Park Naturalists, Ron Zartman at rzartman@allencountyparks.org; Bob Dispenza at bdispenza@allencountyparks.org; or Natalie Haley at nhaley@allencountyparks.org.

Little River Wetlands Project, Fort Wayne, IN

LRWP Wetland Guide Training – Parts 1 and 2, Saturdays, March 8 and 15, from 9:00am to 12:00pm

Meet at the LRWP office, 7209 Engle Road, Ste 200, Fort Wayne on March 8 and at the Eagle Marsh barn on March 15. If you love nature and would like to share your knowledge with others, consider training to become a wetland guide with LRWP and help serve over 10,000 participants at our education programs. (Must complete Parts 1 and 2). For more information and to register, contact Liz Hincks at or l.hincks@lrwp.org or 260-478-2515.

Stewardship Wednesdays, Every Wednesday starting April 1st, starting at 6:00pm

Become a Preserve Steward and help our stewardship crew with various activities that help our native plants thrive. Contact Betsy for more information. Contact Betsy at b.yankowiak@lrwp.org or 260-478-2515 for more information.

Volunteer Kick-Off Campfire, Wednesday, April 9 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Some volunteers suggested a special LRWP volunteer gathering to meet, share some hot dogs and s'mores around the campfire, and learn of the upcoming opportunities for 2014. If raining, we will serve hotdogs with cookies. Please RSVP by April 1 by emailing me or give me a call. Hope to see you at this fun, casual event. Contact Betsy at b.yankowiak@lrwp.org or 260-478-2515 for more information.

Eagle Marsh Spring Clean-up, Saturday, April 12th from 1:30pm to 3:00pm, meet at Towpath Trailhead

Meet at the Towpath Trailhead Parking area on Engle Road, Fort Wayne. Help us protect our preserve's habitats and the wildlife that depend on them at this annual event to remove winter's trash. Bring garden rakes, trash bags, and work gloves if you can and be ready to get wet and muddy. Contact Betsy at b.yankowiak@lrwp.org or 260-478-2515 for more information.

Earth Day Fort Wayne, Sunday, April 27 from 9:00am to 7:00pm (event is from 1pm to 5pm)

Help LRWP during this large event to celebrate our efforts to “green” our community. This event will be very similar to last year’s event with education stations, a market place, a tent featuring environmental non-profits, a native planting, and the eagle nest viewing station. We will need help during set up parking, education stations, passing out maps, clean up, etc... Our shifts will be 9:15am to 12:15pm, noon to 3:00pm, 2:45pm to 5:45pm, and 4:45pm to 7pm. Contact Betsy at b.yankowiak@lrwp.org or 260-478-2515 for more information.

Invasive Species Training – Part 1, Wednesday, May 7 at 6:30pm at LRWP Office

In this indoor training, you will learn to identify invasive species known to be on our properties and where the infestations are. Please RSVP with Betsy to ensure materials for everyone. Contact Betsy at b.yankowiak@lrwp.org or 260-478-2515 for more information.

Invasive Species Training – Part 2, Saturday, May 10 from 9am to noon at the Eagle Marsh barn

This field training will build on what was learned in Part 1 by examining first-hand the invasive species we encounter at Eagle Marsh. This training will sharpen our abilities to identify species in the field and differentiate them from possible look-a-likes. Contact Betsy at b.yankowiak@lrwp.org or 260-478-2515 for more information.

Eagle Marsh BioBlitz Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, June 1

Join us for this special event as the Indiana Academy of Science conducts a BioBlitz from May 30 to June 1. This IAS is looking for community volunteers to help scientist catalog species and along with volunteers that know Eagle Marsh to help scientists around the preserve. Please let me know if you can help in this special way and what taxa you are interested in helping with (ie birds, herps, plants, mammals, fish, etc...). I will pass your name along to the IAS coordinator. Do you want to help, but not with cataloging? We will need help with logistics such as assisting with meal time, orientation, registration, and during the open house times where the community is able to come see the scientists at work. Please let me know if you can help with this special, one-time event. Contact Betsy at b.yankowiak@lrwp.org or 260-478-2515 for more information.

Monarch Monitor Training, Saturday, June 21 from 9:00am to 11:00am (tentative)

Join a team of monitors that check weekly for monarch adults, caterpillars, and eggs at Eagle Marsh. This is part of the citizen science Monarch Larva Monitoring Program through the University in Minnesota. This training will go over how to identify different monarch life stages, how to monitor, and pick the trail you would like to monitor. Weekly monitoring occurs between July 1st and mid-September and substitute monitors are available to help during vacations, etc. Contact Betsy at b.yankowiak@lrwp.org or 260-478-2515 for more information.

Monarch Festival, Saturday, September 13 from 11:00am to 3:00pm

This has become such an important educational event as we watch the monarch butterfly population plummet. This event will focus on educational activities that explore the monarch life cycle, migration, and threats to their survival. There will also be a milkweed planting and the opportunity for participants (and volunteers) to take milkweed home. We need help with the education stations, selling t-shirts and such, parking, etc... Our shifts will be from 8am to 11am (set-up), 9:45am to 12:45pm, 12:30pm to 3:30pm, and 3:15pm to 5:15pm (clean-up). Last year’s event had over 1200 visitors and we may experience a similar turn-out if it is a nice day. Contact Betsy at b.yankowiak@lrwp.org or 260-478-2515 for more information.

Holliday Park & Nature Center in Indianapolis

We are always in need of volunteers who would like to be naturalist assistants and work with children, work in the park gardens, be receptionists at the front desk of the nature center, and/or help with special events.

Following are the upcoming events where volunteers are needed:

Volunteer Naturalist Trainings – Volunteer naturalists lead hikes of school-age children who visit the park with their teachers for environmental education field trips. A volunteer naturalist must love nature and enjoy working with children, as well as be available on week days during the day. Trainings are on Wednesdays, once-a-month, and cover a relevant natural history topic. New volunteers get experience by “shadowing” veteran volunteer naturalists until comfortable with the material and logistics before leading hikes on their own.

March 12, 9:30-11 am Bird ID – Spring Migrants

April 9, 9:30-11 am Wildflowers

Labor and Learn Garden Workshops – Join other volunteers and Master Gardeners to work with horticulturist Chris Turner in the rock garden and beyond. Dates are every other **Friday, 9 – 11 am**, and once a month, Chris speaks to a popular garden topic. Sponsored by Friends of Holliday Park.

March 28 – Dig and discuss.

April 11 – Spring Flowering Shrubs

April 25 – Dig and discuss

May 9 – Container Gardening

May 23 – Dig and discuss

June 6 – Color, Color, Color

June 20 – Dig and discuss

July 11 – Pruning

July 18 – Dig and discuss

August 1 – Weeds

August 15 – Dig and discuss

August 29 – Dig and discuss

Volunteer Work Day – Join park staff to work on park improvement projects such as, trail maintenance, invasive plant control, playground clean up, etc. Please call to let us know you’re coming, 317-327-7180.

Saturday, April 19, 9:30-Noon. Tools and water provided, groups welcome.

Garden Work Days – Volunteers are the stewards of the beautiful gardens of Holliday Park. Join staff and other volunteers on certain Wednesdays and Saturdays throughout the season from 9:30 – 11:30 am.

Wednesdays: March 26; April 9, 23; May 14, 28; June 11; July 2, 16, 30; August 13, 27

Saturdays – April 5, 19; May 10, 24; June 21; July 12, 26; August 9, 23

Holliday Park is located in Indianapolis at 6363 Spring Mill Road, 317-327-7170 and more information can be found at www.hollidaypark.org or by contacting me, Katie Neill, Office/Volunteer Coordinator, 317-327-7180, katie.neill@indy.gov



Holliday Park Volunteers in action

Jameson Camp, Indianapolis, IN- needs volunteers from mid-April through May to help out with the delivery of our Environmental Education program for elementary students. Volunteers will help lead classes and activities such as forestry, water ecology, birding and many more! If you are a motivated individual who loves to work with children in the outdoors this is the place for you!

We also need volunteers to help with trail maintenance, invasive plant removal and general upkeep of our outdoor classrooms.

If interested please contact Brent Cummins, Outdoor Education Director, by phone: (317)241-2661 or by email: brent@jamesoncamp.org. Feel free to visit our website for more information www.jamesoncamp.org



History of Jameson Camp

Beginning as a “fresh air” camp in 1928, Jameson Camp has a rich history of serving children. From our first decades when “frail” boys and girls learned about good nutrition to our present focus on children’s social, behavioral and emotional challenges, our commitment has been unchanging – making a difference in the lives of boys and girls, equipping them for productive, responsible lives.

Responding to a nation-wide concern for children’s health and the fear of TB in the 1920’s, Indianapolis leaders and health care workers envisioned a “fresh air” camp. In 1928 the Tuberculosis Association Fresh Air Camp served its first 50 children. Julia Jameson was the main proponent of the camp and because of her endless passion for the camp, upon her death in 1935, the camp was renamed Julia Jameson Nutrition Camp for Frail Children. In 1985 the camp officially changed its name to Jameson Camp, Inc. and redirected its mission to serving at-risk youth.

The last twenty years has seen Jameson Camp evolve to meet the needs of kids and families in the Indianapolis area. True to its origins, Jameson continues to serve children with financial, emotional, and health needs. Our mission is to enrich the lives of Indiana youth by inspiring them to discover their strengths.

What we offer

Located on the far west side of Indianapolis, Jameson Camp offers:

- Summer camp for youth ages 7-17
- A year-round youth leadership program
- Challenge Course education programs
- Unique facilities available for rental for special events and meetings
- Environmental Education Program

Our Environmental Education Program offers children a chance to learn about nature and wildlife from a hands-on perspective. We break out of the normal classroom routine in a fun and interactive way. We have a variety of lessons we offer such as: water ecology, outdoor living skills, birding, animal adaptations, math in nature, night hikes, forestry and more.

Our goal is to have participants form a greater appreciation of and connection to the natural world around them. Jameson Camp is committed to building environmental awareness and stewardship to better protect and preserve our resources for generations to come. We strive to achieve this through the numerous programs we have to offer.

HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION, Carmel, IN

Are you itching to get outdoors? Be with others who love nature? Get satisfaction from knowing you're making a difference in your community? If you answered 'yes' to these questions, this project is for you! Come pull invasive Garlic Mustard plants. You'll help prevent them from spreading and crowding out wildflowers in your park and contribute to restoring the ecological health of the park.

Date*	Time(s)	Location
3/15/14	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Cool Creek Park
3/23/14	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Potter's Bridge Park
3/29/14	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Cool Creek Park
4/3/14	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Potter's Bridge Park
4/9/14	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Cool Creek Park
4/19/14	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Potter's Bridge Park
4/26/14	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Cool Creek Park
4/27/14	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Strawtown Koteewi Park
5/4/14	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Cool Creek Park
5/10/14	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Potter's Bridge Park
5/17/14	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Cool Creek Park
5/18/14	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Strawtown Koteewi Park
5/31/14	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Cool Creek Park

* If your group would like to schedule a different date, please call the number below.

Dress: Please wear seasonally-appropriate attire.

Ages: All. Children under 18 need signed parental permission; under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

What to bring: Gloves. *Supplies, water and basic training will be provided by HCPR.*

Pre-registration: Required; visit

<http://www2.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/ParksOnline/Default.aspx?PossePresentation=SearchForVolunteerOpportunities>

Questions: Please call 317-774-2509. www.myhamiltoncountyparks.com

<http://www.facebook.com/myhamiltoncountyparks>

Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve, Evansville IN

Maple Sugarbush Festival & Pancake Breakfast

at Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve in Evansville IN

Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2

6:45 AM – 10:00 AM and / or 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM each day

We could also use volunteers for:

Canoe Evansville Season, Date: Every weekend April – October, Location: area waterways

For more info or to volunteer, please contact Gena Garrett at 812 479-0771 x102 or

ggarrett@wesselmannaturesociety.org <http://www.wesselmannaturesociety.org/events/maple.php>



Please consider volunteering at your local State Park or Reservoir Property. Volunteer opportunities are offered all year.

Mounds State Park (Anderson, IN)

Volunteer hands would be appreciated for the following upcoming events:

March 8– Bluebird Box Workshop; March 22 – Geocaching event; April 12 – Poetry Reading and Photo Contest Showing; April 25-27 – Bird the Mounds; June 8 – Free Fishing Day for Hoosiers; June 21- Summer Solstice Celebration; August 8 – National S’mores Day.

This spring, we’ll have opportunities to help with school groups. Volunteers willing to help the naturalist with light, but important, tasks such as filling bird feeders, gardening, or light office work are greatly appreciated too. All volunteers will be trained. Contact Interpretive Naturalist Jessica Rosier at (765) 649-8128 or email jrosier1@dnr.in.gov to get more information.

Paynetown State Recreation Area (at Monroe Lake in Bloomington, Indiana). Volunteers are needed for several upcoming events:

June 8 (Sunday): People with fishing experience are needed to assist at a “**Family Learn to Fish Workshop.**” Volunteers will help teach attendees how to assemble and use basic fishing equipment, and assist with dock fishing. Volunteers are needed from approx. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Contact Jill Vance at jvance@dnr.IN.gov or 812-837-9967 for details.

June 21 (Saturday): Volunteers are needed to help with a new special event, **The Fairie Gathering**, which is targeted at children ages 3 to 12. Volunteers will assist with crafts and other activities. Volunteer shifts are expected to be available between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m.; volunteers can assist with just one or two activities, or the entire event. Contact Jill Vance at jvance@dnr.IN.gov or 812-837-9967 for details.

June 28 (Saturday): One volunteer is needed to help staff an activity station at Bug Fest, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hilltop Gardens in Bloomington. Contact Jill Vance at jvance@dnr.IN.gov or 812-837-9967 for details.

July 11-13 (Friday-Sunday): Volunteers who demonstrate historic crafts and activities, from the late 1700s through the 1800s, are invited to participate in **Heritage Days**. Volunteer reenactors set up camps and stations to create a Heritage Village for visitors to explore. Volunteers may participate in the entire weekend, or just a portion. Contact Rex Watters at rwatters@dnr.IN.gov or 812-837-9546 for details.

August 9 (Saturday): Several volunteers are needed to monitor s’mores stations during our 3rd annual **S’mores Celebration**. Time commitment will be a couple of hours in the evening (probably 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.). Contact Jill Vance at jvance@dnr.IN.gov or 812-837-9967 for details.

Salamonie and Mississinewa Reservoirs and Ouabache State Park for the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services

Volunteers are needed for several upcoming events:

February 15 and 16– Eagle Watch Evening Field Trip ; February 22 – Cowboy Gathering; May 3- Welcome Back Weekend Hikes; June 7 -Outdoor Adventure Showcase and Fishing Derbies; June 21 - Bison Bonanza Bash; July 5, 12 & 19 - Smokey Bear Birthday Parties; August 2 - Ouabache Olympiad;

September 6 to 8 – Salamonie September Fest; September 13 – Mighty Mississinewa Triathlon; September 19-20 – Salamonie Rider's Rendezvous; October 3 & 4 and 10 & 11 Autumn Camping Weekends; October 17 & 18 and 24 & 25 Autumn Festivals at Ouabache State Park.

Spring School Group season will be starting before we know it. If you are available during the day, we would love help guiding youth experiences with nature. Love to fish? Help with our fishing derbies. All training and materials provided. Salamonie Interpretive Center is looking for administrative volunteers to help take care of our facility. We are interested in greeters, people who would like to do behind the scenes work like making copies and working on the computer, or light to medium cleaning.

View program information at www.dnr.in.gov/uwis or contact Teresa Rody at 260-468-2127 or email trody@dnr.in.gov to get more information.

Versailles State Park

Invasive plant species removal is a great way to be involved year round. All individuals interested are welcome to set up a time with the event coordinator. Trail maintenance volunteers are needed to help with erosion control, sign painting and/or inventory, construction of new rerouted trails, removal of old bridges. This is a physically demanding job but a rewarding one as well. To work on trails contact Brad Walker 812-689-6424 or wwalker1@dnr.in.gov

Turkey Run State Park

Volunteers are needed for several special events in 2014: Earth Day Fest April 18 or 19, Pioneer Heritage Fest July 19, Smokey Bear's Birthday August 2, Archaeology Day August 9, National Public Lands Day Sep't. 27, and Halloween Camping Weekend October 24-25, as well as our Eagles in Flight Weekend January 30-31, 2015. Volunteers are needed in the days preceding the events for prep work, and the day of events for set-up and tear-down, helping with programs and activity stations, and working at visitor information stations. We are also looking for volunteers throughout the year to help out in the nature center, caring for live captive animals, cleaning exhibits and mounts, and answering questions at the information desk. We also need volunteers to adopt a trail or two, keeping it picked up once each month and reporting any problems or broken structures to us. No experience is necessary for any of the above. Contact Barbara Tibbets at 765-597-2654 or btibbets@dnr.IN.gov.

Shades State Park

Volunteers are needed for two special events in 2014: The annual Chautauqua on Saturday, June 28th, and Archaeology Day on Saturday, Sep't. 6th. Volunteers are needed for prep work, set-up and tear-down, helping with programs and activity stations, and working at visitor information stations. We also need volunteers to adopt a trail or two, keeping it picked up once each month and reporting any problems or broken structures to us. Contact Barbara Tibbets at 765-597-2654 or btibbets@dnr.IN.gov.

State Park and Reservoir Campground hosts' opportunities available. Hosts work a minimum of 20 hours per week in exchange for free camping for a specified period of time. The time period varies at sites, based on the number of applicants and on the amount and type of work required. For detailed information about hosting duties and site availability, contact the property where you'd like to serve as a host. List for available sites can be found at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2404.htm>

State Park and Reservoir Friends Groups need you! Friends Groups provide a unique support system for our properties. Members are people who love our parks and reservoirs and want to help keep them healthy for future generations. Our friends groups volunteer to help with events,

work on trails, fundraiser for specific projects and offer other financial support for the purchase of equipment, supplies or other materials as needed. In the process, the people who belong to these groups meet new people, have opportunities to learn and grow and gain the satisfaction of helping support our sites. List of Friends groups and links can be found at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2442.htm>

More State Park and Reservoir volunteer opportunities can be found at the DNR volunteer website <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2443.htm>

**This was just a short list of volunteer opportunities.
Continue to help these and other agencies in their quest to protect, manage
and teach about Indiana's natural resources!**