



Sept 28, 2024 - Statewide Volunteer Day!

Calling all volunteers! You can help make a difference in Iowa's state parks and forests this fall. Join us to care for Iowa's natural areas, give back, meet others and get outside. No experience necessary.

Find a volunteer event near you – participating parks and forests are listed alphabetically and volunteer events vary based on each park's needs. See the list of parks and forests below for more information, including how to RSVP. We'd love to have you join us!

For general questions about Statewide Volunteer Day or other volunteer opportunities, contact Mary Runkel (Statewide Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator) at mary.runkel@dnr.iowa.gov / 515-443-2533.

Parks and Forests hosting volunteer events:

(scroll through document or click on park name for details on each event)

- [Bellevue State Park \(Bellevue, IA\)](#)
- [Geode State Park \(Danville, IA\)](#)
- [Lacey-Keosauqua State Park \(Keosauqua, IA\)](#)
- [Lake Anita State Park \(Anita, IA\)](#)
- [Lake Darling State Park \(Brighton, IA\)](#)
- [Lake Macbride State Park \(Solon, IA\)](#)
- [Lake Manawa State Park \(Council Bluffs, IA\)](#)
- [Lake Wapello State Park \(Drakesville, IA\)](#)
- [Mines of Spain State Park \(Dubuque, IA\)](#)
- [Pikes Peak State Park \(McGregor, IA\)](#)
- [Pilot Knob State Park \(Forest City, IA\)](#)
- [Springbrook State Park \(Guthrie Center, IA\)](#)
- [Union Grove State Park \(Gladbrook, IA\)](#)
- [Wapsipinicon State Park \(Anamosa, IA\)](#)
- [Waubonsie State Park \(Hamburg, IA\)](#)
- [Yellow River State Forest \(Harpers Ferry, IA\)](#)

Bellevue State Park (Bellevue, IA)

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Meeting Location: South Bluff Nature Center Parking Lot

Park Address: 24668 Highway 52, Bellevue IA 52031

Description: [Bellevue State Park](#) staff and friends need help preparing the park for the fall and winter. For this event, we're seeking volunteers to help *pick up trash, stain tables, winterize the butterfly garden, split firewood, and remove invasive species/woody shrubs.*

What to Bring: A water bottle, gloves (thick ones if doing invasive species removal or splitting firewood), sunscreen, bug spray, and snacks. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained.

Other Details: There will be a place to refill water.

Volunteers Needed: Up to 30

RSVP: Please RSVP with Elli Lineburg, details below. Include your name, number of participants, and activity you would be interested in.

Contact: Elli Lineburg (Park Manager) at bellevue@dnr.iowa.gov / 563-872-4019.

Geode State Park (Danville, IA)

9:00 AM - Noon

Meeting Location: Park office

Park Address: 3249 Racine Ave, Danville IA 52623

Description: [Geode State Park](#) staff and friends need help *installing two digging toy apparatuses in the playground near the campground.* Training and tools provided!

What to Bring: A water bottle, thick gloves, sunscreen, safety glasses (recommended), bug spray, and snacks. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained.

Other Details: There will be a place to refill water.

Volunteers Needed: 5-10 (max of 10 volunteers as the project is small in scope)

RSVP: Please RSVP with Ulf Konig, details below.

Contact: Ulf Konig (Park Manager) at ulf.konig@dnr.iowa.gov / 319-392-4601.

Lacey-Keosauqua State Park (Keosauqua, IA)

9:00 AM - Noon

Meeting Location: Park office

Park Address: 22895 Lacey Trl, Keosauqua IA 52565

Description: [Lacey-Keosauqua State Park](#) Staff and friends need volunteer help *constructing new trail head barricades and planting trees in the campground.* Training and tools provided!

What to Bring: A water bottle, gloves, sunscreen, safety glasses (recommended), bug spray, and snacks. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained.

Other Details: There will be a place to refill water.

Volunteers Needed: 10-15 (max of 15 volunteers as the project is small in scope)

RSVP: No RSVP needed.

Contact: Justin Pedretti (Park Manager) at justin.pedretti@dnr.iowa.gov / 319-293-3502.

Lake Anita State Park (Anita, IA)

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Meeting Location: Park office

Park Address: 55111 750th St, Anita IA 50020

Description: [Lake Anita State Park](#) staff and friends need help with a *prairie seed harvest for future plantings in state parks!* This involves walking into the prairie collecting various seeds by hand with direction from staff. Training and tools provided.

What to Bring: A water bottle, thick gloves, sunscreen, bug spray, and snacks. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty.

Other Details: There will be a place to refill water.

Volunteers Needed: As many as can attend!

RSVP: No RSVP needed.

Contact: Anne Riordan (Training Specialist) at anne.riordan@dnr.iowa.gov / 641-295-6028.

Lake Darling State Park (Brighton, IA)

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Meeting Location: Cottonwood Shelter (next to the first boat ramp)

Park Address: 111 Lake Darling Rd, Brighton IA 52540

Description: [Lake Darling State Park](#) staff and friends need help *staining picnic tables at the Cottonwood shelter.* Training and tools provided!

What to Bring: A water bottle, nitrile gloves (some will be available), sunscreen, bug spray, and snacks. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained.

Other Details: There will be a place to refill water at the Cottonwood Shelter.

Volunteers Needed: 5-10 (max of ten volunteers as the project is small in scope)

RSVP: No RSVP needed.

Contact: Nick Young (Park Manager) at nick.young@dnr.iowa.gov / 319-201-9235.

Lake Macbride State Park (Solon, IA)

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Meeting Location: Main lodge

Park Address: 3525 Highway 382 NE, Solon IA 52333

Description: [Lake Macbride State Park](#) staff need help with *invasive species management and removal as well as shoreline clearing below the main lodge.* Invasive species are one of the biggest threats to our parks as they can take over natural areas and outcompete native species.

What to Bring: A water bottle, gloves (thick ones for thorny brush), sunscreen, safety glasses (recommended), bug spray, and snacks. Limited loppers and pruners will be available - please bring some if possible. Plan to wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained.

Other Details: All ages are welcome, but please be aware the nature of the project requires participants to use loppers and pruning shears to cut up to 1.5" diameter woody plant stems and drag cut shrubs that may have small thorns. We will work to accommodate all ages and abilities. There will be a place to refill water.

Volunteers Needed: 10-15 (max of 15 volunteers as the project is small in scope)

RSVP: No RSVP needed.

Contact: Ron Puettmann (Park Manager) at ron.puettmann@dnr.iowa.gov / 319-330-5227.

Lake Manawa State Park (Council Bluffs, IA)

10:00 AM

Meeting Location: Dream playground in the park

Park Address: 1100 S Shore Dr, Council Bluffs IA 51501

Description: [Lake Manawa State Park](#) staff need help with *a fall clean-up day*. Activities will vary - please check in with the park office to learn more.

What to Bring: A water bottle, gloves, sunscreen, safety glasses (recommended), bug spray, and snacks. Plan to wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained.

Other Details: We will work to accommodate all ages and abilities. There will be a place to refill water.

Volunteers Needed: As many as can attend!

RSVP: No RSVP needed.

Contact: Grant Carstens (Park Manager) at grant.carstens@dnr.iowa.gov / 712-366-0220.

Lake Wapello State Park (Drakesville, IA)

9:00 AM - Noon

Meeting Location: Campground registration kiosk

Park Address: 15248 Campground Rd, Drakesville IA 52552

Description: [Lake Wapello State Park](#) staff and friends could need help *caring for our sapling (small) trees*. This includes *removing tree cages from trees that no longer need them, fixing or adding cages to help protect trees from wildlife, and mulching*. Depending on numbers, other duties might include general park maintenance and beautification. Tools and training provided!

What to Bring: Wire cutters if possible, a water bottle, gloves, sunscreen, bug spray, and snacks. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained.

Other Details: There will be a place to refill water.

Volunteers Needed: 10-15, but more are always welcome

RSVP: Please use the [Lake Wapello RSVP form](#) or contact Tyler Walters, below.

Contact: Tyler Walters (Park Manager) at tyler.walters@dnr.iowa.gov / 641-777-9266.

Mines of Spain State Park (Dubuque, IA)

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Meeting Location: Julien Dubuque Monument

Park Address: 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque IA 52003

Description: [Mines of Spain State Park](#) staff and friends need help with *woody vegetation/invasive species removal*. Invasive species are one of the biggest threats to our parks as they can take over natural areas and outcompete native species - so any time you can dedicate to helping us is very appreciated! Training and tools provided.

What to Bring: A water bottle, thick gloves (for thorny brush), sunscreen, bug spray, and snacks. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained.

Other Details: There will not be a good place to fill water, so please bring enough to get you through the two hour event. All ages are welcome, but please be aware the nature of the project requires participants to use loppers and pruning shears to cut up to 1.5" diameter woody plant stems and drag cut shrubs that may have small thorns. We will work to accommodate all ages and abilities.

Volunteers Needed: Up to 30

RSVP: Please RSVP with Elli Lineburg, details below.

Contact: Elli Lineburg (Park Manager) at minesofspain@gmail.com / 563-556-0620.

Pikes Peak State Park (McGregor, IA)

10:00 AM - Noon

Meeting Location: Main overlook parking lot

Park Address: 32264 Pikes Peak Rd, McGregor IA 52157

Description: [Pikes Peak State Park](#) staff and friends need help with *invasive species management and removal*, especially near Hickory Ridge and Myotis Trail. Invasive species are one of the biggest threats to our parks as they can take over natural areas and outcompete native species - so any time you can dedicate to helping us is very appreciated! Training and tools provided.

What to Bring: A water bottle, thick gloves (for thorny brush), sunscreen, safety glasses (recommended), bug spray, and snacks. If possible, please also bring loppers or a handsaw. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained.

Other Details: All ages are welcome, but please be aware the nature of the project requires participants to use loppers and pruning shears to cut up to 1.5" diameter woody plant stems and drag cut shrubs that may have small thorns. We will work to accommodate all ages and abilities. There will be a place to refill water.

Volunteers Needed: 10-20

RSVP: Please RSVP to Andy Roach, details below.

Contact: Andy Roach (Park Manager) at andrew.roach@dnr.iowa.gov / 563-880-4579.

Pilot Knob State Park (Forest City, IA)

10:00 AM - Noon

Meeting Location: Campsite 42 (check in begins at 9:45 AM)

Park Address: 2148 340th St, Forest City IA 50436

Description: [Pilot Knob State Park](#) staff and friends need help with several park maintenance projects including *painting registration kiosk, cleaning up the campground for winter (picking up sticks, picking up litter, fire ring cleaning), splitting and bundling firewood, invasive species removal, and cleaning out the goat shed* (the goats help staff manage invasive species that tend to take over our natural areas). Training and tools provided.

What to Bring: A water bottle, thick gloves (for thorny brush), sunscreen, safety glasses (recommended), bug spray, and snacks. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained. Limited loppers and pruners will be provided - please bring some if possible.

Other Details: Lunch provided by the [Pilot Knob Friends Group](#) after the event so please use the [Pilot Knob RSVP form](#) (or contact park manager, below). All ages are welcome, but please be aware the nature of some of these projects requires participants to use loppers and pruning shears and drag cut shrubs that may have small thorns. We will work to accommodate all ages and abilities. There will be a place to refill water.

Volunteers Needed: As many as can attend!

RSVP: Please use the [Pilot Knob RSVP form](#) or contact Katie Hemann, below.

Contact: Katie Hemann (Park Manager) at katherine.hemann@dnr.iowa.gov / 641-581-4835 or 641-440-0540.

Springbrook State Park (Guthrie Center, IA)

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Meeting Location: Beach shelter

Park Address: 2437 160th Rd, Guthrie Center IA 50115

Description: [Springbrook State Park](#) staff and friends need help *improving pollinator plots by removing woody vegetation - and possibly planting more plants*. Training and tools provided.

What to Bring: A water bottle, thick gloves (for thorny brush), sunscreen, bug spray, and snacks. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained.

Other Details: There will be a place to refill water.

Volunteers Needed: 5-20

RSVP: Please RSVP with Reaghan Oakleaf, details below.

Contact: Reaghan Oakleaf (Park Technician) at reaghan.oakleaf@dnr.iowa.gov / 641-474-3591.

Union Grove State Park (Gladbrook, IA)

10:00 AM - Noon

Meeting Location: Park office

Park Address: 1215 220th St, Gladbrook IA 50635

Description: [Union Grove State Park](#) staff and friends could use your assistance with park maintenance and beautification to keep this beautiful park thriving. For this event, we'll need assistance *staining new sign posts at the park office*. Training and tools provided! Join us to meet others, spend some time outside, gain skills, and learn more about your local state park!

What to Bring: A water bottle, gloves, sunscreen, bug spray, and snacks. Please consider wearing closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained.

Other Details: There will be a place to refill water.

Volunteers Needed: 5-10

RSVP: No RSVP needed

Contact: Jordan Munson (Park Manager) at jordan.munson@dnr.iowa.gov / 641-473-2556.

Wapsipinicon State Park (Anamosa, IA)

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Meeting Location: Park Office

Park Address: 21301 County Road E34 Anamosa, IA 52205

Description: [Wapsipinicon State Park](#) staff and friends need help with several park maintenance projects, including: *staining picnic tables at the playground shelter, picking up trash/branches, and cleaning out fire rings at the campground*. Training and tools provided!

What to Bring: A water bottle, gloves, sunscreen, safety glasses (recommended), bug spray, and snacks. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained.

Other Details: There will be a place to refill water.

Volunteers Needed: 5-10 (max of ten volunteers as the project is small in scope)

RSVP: Please use the [Wapsipinicon State Park RSVP form](#), or contact Alex Knockel, below.

Contact: Alex Knockel (Park Manager) at alex.knockel@dnr.iowa.gov / 319-480-9044.

Waubonsie State Park (Hamburg, IA)

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Meeting Location: Playground area adjacent to the modern campground

Park Address: 2585 Waubonsie Park Rd. Hamburg, IA 51640

Description: [Waubonsie State Park](#) staff and friends need help with several park maintenance projects, including: *staining signposts and picnic tables, spreading mulch, and trimming vegetation*.

What to Bring: A water bottle, gloves, sunscreen, safety glasses (recommended), bug spray, and snacks. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained.

Other Details: There will be a place to refill water.

Volunteers Needed: 10-20

RSVP: Please RSVP with Matt Moles, details below.

Contact: Matt Moles (Park Manager) at matt.moles@dnr.iowa.gov / 712-350-0873.

Yellow River State Forest (Harpers Ferry, IA)

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: Sawmill office

Park Address: 729 State Forest Rd. Harpers Ferry, IA 52146

Description: [Yellow River State Forest](#) staff and friends need help with *roadside trash pick-up and painting of campsite marker posts*. Training and tools provided!

What to Bring: A water bottle, gloves, sunscreen, bug spray, and snacks. Please wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, and clothes/shoes that can get dirty or stained.

Other Details: There will be a place to refill water.

Volunteers Needed: 20-30

RSVP: Please RSVP with Joe Vastine, details below.

Contact: Joe Vastine (Natural Resources Technician) at joe.vastine@dnr.iowa.gov / 563-586-2254.