

Chicago Wilderness

A regional alliance dedicated to
protecting nature and enriching life

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Take Action Through the Chicago Wilderness Day of Service

Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council sponsors volunteer day on September 29.

Nature offers us many benefits: places to explore and enjoy with our families; opportunities for learning and discovery. Healthy ecosystems also provide us with clean air and water, protect against flooding, filter pollutants, and provide habitat for wildlife.

The Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council coordinates an annual Day of Service to offer residents a chance to help protect and restore the region's natural areas. Each year volunteers cut brush, collect seeds, mulch, build trails, remove invasive plants, and clean up sites around the region. This year's Day of Service is September 29, which is also known as National Public Lands Day.

Since the program launched in 2009, more than 640 volunteers have participated at 47 sites.

"The Day of Service is a terrific opportunity for people to take action—to get involved in helping make the region's natural areas healthier," said Melinda Pruett-Jones, Executive Director of Chicago Wilderness. "By organizing this annual event, our Corporate Council members lead by example, promoting individual action that improves community vitality and quality of life."

The 2012 Day of Service is September 29. Families, friends, youth and community groups are welcome to participate. Most events are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Registration deadline is September 19.

"The Chicago Wilderness Day of Service is an educational day of nature therapy for me," said Meredith Cywinski, an account manager with SET Environmental, Inc., and a frequent Day of Service volunteer. "The positive experience of contributing to the restoration of Chicago's precious wilderness continues well beyond this one day of service."

There are 19 volunteer opportunities as part of this year's Day of Service. The events are all around the Chicago region, including Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will counties in Illinois, and just over the border in Indiana and Wisconsin.

"The Day of Service brings together a diverse group of people who network about life experiences and share a passion for fulfilling their desire to be in nature," said Cywinski. "Participating in the protection and restoration of the region's natural areas gives me a personal high that drives me to ask 'what else can I do.'"

For more information on the Chicago Wilderness Corporate Council Day of Service, visit www.chicagowilderness.org and enter Day of Service into the search bar.

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Chicago Wilderness is a regional alliance that connects people and nature. We are more than 260 organizations that work together to restore local nature and improve the quality of life for all who live here, by protecting the lands and waters on which we all depend.

www.chicagowilderness.org

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