Interested in volunteering? Contact Volunteer Coordinator Denice Beck at (815) 338-6223 x1229 or DBeck@MCCDistrict.org.

**VOLUNTEER with S.W.E.E.P.**
*Safety Watch Education & Environmental Program*

Volunteers help keep our sites safe! SWEEP is a volunteer program sponsored by the District’s Police Department that combines recreational activities with passive crime deterrence and public safety education. Safety watch volunteers tour District trails and alert law enforcement officials to suspicious activities and unsafe conditions they observe at conservation areas. They also provide information and first aid assistance to site users.

**What does it take to become a safety watcher?** Volunteers must be over age 21, register with the District, and undergo a criminal background check. The time commitment is a minimum of 10 hours per year, plus attendance at monthly training meetings.

**HABITAT RESTORATION WORKDAYS**
*Drop in for a few hours to help Site Stewards restore native habitat at conservation areas! Dress for outdoor work and weather conditions. Work is off trail, so wear sturdy footwear or boots. Equipment provided, but bring work gloves and safety glasses if you own them. Individuals, students, small groups and families with children over age six are welcome. Contact a Site Steward from the list below to learn how you can preserve our native plants and wildlife.*

**LOCATION** | **MONTHLY SCHEDULE** | **SITE STEWARD — CALL BEFORE YOU GO!**
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**SATURDAYS**
Boger Bog, Bull Valley | Fourth Saturday, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. | Ders Anderson (815) 455-1537
Dufield (McConnell Rd. Entrance), Woodstock | Contact Site Steward for dates. | Jeff Schumacher (815) 337-9315 or schumacher.jeff1@gmail.com
Exner Marsh, LITH | Third Saturday, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. | Len Bannon (847) 669-1381 or lennysandy@gmail.com
**SUNDAYS**
Alden Sedge Meadow South, Alden | Third Sunday, 1–3:30 p.m. | Judy and Jack Speer (815) 648-1372 or smallwaters@wonderwave.net
Cotton Creek Marsh, Island Lake | First and third Sunday, 1–3 p.m. | Mike Bouska (815) 759-0731
The Hollows, Cary | Contact Site Steward for dates. | Margie Szymanskyj (815) 479-0988
**VARIABLE**
Coral Woods, Marengo | Contact Site Steward for dates. | Bonnie Leahy (815) 923-2208, bh.leahy@att.net, Wanda Naylor (815) 923-4436, naylorsletters@msn.com
Lake in the Hills Fen, LITH | Contact Site Steward for dates. | John Scott (847) 658-6241
Marengo Ridge, Marengo | Contact Site Steward for dates. | Karen Lundell, (815) 245-9360, woodsy2010@yahoo.com
Pleasant Valley, Woodstock | Contact Site Steward for dates. | Greg Rajsy (815) 814-5055 or quirkaceae@yahoo.com
Pioneer Fen, Johnsburg | Contact Site Steward for dates. | Pat Sullivan-Schroyer (815) 347-9005 or psullivanschroyer@gmail.com

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS**
Contact the Volunteer Coordinator to obtain a list of approved projects.
Five volunteers were invited to represent the District’s volunteer programs at the First Conservation Congress held February 6, 2016 at McHenry County College. The purpose of the Congress was to provide a formal process for constituents and the conservation community to propose and advocate for actions that can be taken by the District to protect and conserve natural resources and provide compatible education and recreational opportunities on public lands in McHenry County. The District’s volunteer delegates represented Land Stewardship, Education Services, the Powers-Walker Historical Site, S.W.E.E.P. (Safety Watch Education and Environmental Program) and the Glacial Park Ski Patrol.

Mike Salkas, Education Services Volunteer Delegate admitted, “I was not quite sure what to expect at the Congress, and in retrospect that was a good thing, as I did not go in with any preconceived notions. The passion and enthusiasm of the guest speakers, all leaders in various areas of conservation, energized and inspired me.”

Susan Fishburn, Glacial Park Ski Patrol Volunteer Delegate, said, “This well-organized event provided a wonderful opportunity to share ideas about the future of our open spaces here in McHenry County.”

Following each guest speaker’s presentation to the entire delegation, delegates broke into small groups for in-depth conversations related to the presentation. All of our volunteer delegates remarked on the wide range of interests, perspectives and open-mindedness that all delegates brought to the Congress. Mike Salkas said, “Our team was a diverse mix of individuals with wide ranging interests in outdoor recreation and conservation. In spite of sometimes conflicting ideas and priorities, we had honest, lively and constructive conversations about issues facing the District now and in the future. I left these discussions with a lot more empathy and understanding for other viewpoints.”

Susan Kreibich, S.W.E.E.P. Volunteer Delegate added, “I was impressed by the expertise and knowledge of all of the delegates in my group. What surprised me most was learning that the farm program and hunters were such an important part of conservation!”

Bonnie Leahy, Land Stewardship Volunteer Delegate, found that her life experiences came “full circle” at the Congress as her past involvement on the Board of SEDOM (Special Education District of McHenry County) converged with her present involvement with conservation.

“The Executive Director of SEDOM was a member of my discussion group and she advocated passionately for the children she serves, as well as for land preservation. The perception that asphalt trails and concrete improvements to provide access for those who are physically challenged can often seem at odds with land preservation in its natural state. Through this group conversation, valuable insights were offered to the District that may help its efforts to enhance participation for all citizens.”

Fred Durrenberg agreed, “I came away with the feeling that many of the ideas and conversations will continue and bear fruit long into the future.”