McHenry County Conservation Foundation’s Annual FRIENDraiser Raises $10K

This summer, more than 120 people came out to Glacial Park for McHenry County Conservation Foundation’s 17th annual Pedal, Paddle, Saddle across the Prairie. Together, event sponsors, donors, and attendees helped raise nearly $10,000 to support Conservation District efforts to maintain, protect, and preserve our county’s many conservation areas.

While the weeks leading up to the event were extremely wet—there was nothing but clear skies and perfect weather for everyone who participated in and volunteered for Pedal, Paddle, Saddle.

McHenry County Conservation Foundation has spent more than a decade championing the conservation efforts of the McHenry County Conservation District and its partners. Originally just Pedal the Prairie, this event started as a way to raise community awareness of the District and to highlight just one of the many opportunities available to both residents and visitors of McHenry County at District sites. Now in its 17th year, the event has grown to include the popular paddling and saddling portions and attracts a number of returning participants as well as new visitors to Glacial Park, one of the crown jewels of both the District and McHenry County.

Every person involved helps ensure the vitality and longevity of District sites and programs simply by coming out and spending a day on the prairie. We look forward to seeing you at next year’s event!

MCCF thanks the 2019 Sponsors for their commitment to conservation:

**SHOOTING STAR**

- Napoli Pizza
- Northwest Herald
- 70 Years
- Tiptop Mfg.
- MPS Law

**PRAIRIE DROPSEED**

- Alter Metal Recycling
- American Community Bank
- Ancel Glink
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- First National Bank
- Laner Muchin
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**BLUEBIRD**

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- Inland Bank
- McConnell Environmental
- Natural Therapy Wellness Center
- Prairie Moon Nursery
- Ray Eisbrener
- Upland Construction & Maintenance LLC
- Woodstock Powersports
We need YOU to take the...

**Glacial Park Oak Stewardship Challenge**

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation recently awarded a Community Stewardship Challenge Grant to McHenry County Conservation Foundation. This grant offers an opportunity for members of our community to get involved and raise funds to help protect Glacial Park’s critical oak habitats.

**Part 1: Matching Donations 3:1**

Raise and meet the $7,000 fundraising goal that will be matched 3:1. These private contributions, plus the $21,000 matching grant will equal $28,000 in land management support. This includes the District’s purchase of native trees, shrubs and hand tools, as well as overall site upkeep and stewardship.

A $25 gift becomes a $100 gift… A $100 gift becomes a $400 gift. Every dollar makes a direct, on-the-ground impact right here in McHenry County!

Make a Gift:

- **Check:** Payable & Addressed to — McHenry County Conservation Foundation
  - Lost Valley Visitor Center
  - 7210 Keystone Rd, Richmond, IL, 60071

**The clock starts now...**

The Foundation has until October 31, 2020 to raise $7,000 and record 400 hours of volunteer work. Help us reach this goal by making a gift or signing up to volunteer today!

**Part 2: 400 Volunteer Hours**

Encourage McHenry County residents to get outside and sink their hands into the soil by stepping up and stepping out into the field as a volunteer who plants trees, collects seeds, or assists in other numerous ways. Your time will be converted into cash! An additional bonus payment of $4,000 will be awarded if volunteers log a combined 400 hours or more toward the stewardship project at Glacial Park.

Sign Up to be Alerted about Glacial Park Volunteer Opportunities:

Contact: Volunteer Coordinator, Jackie Bero, Jbero@MCCDistrict.org,
(815) 338-6223 ext. 1201

Upcoming Events:

- **Public Planting Party, October 12:** plant and cage oak trees;
- **Fall Seed Collection —TBA;**
- **Spring Public Planting Party —TBA;**
- **Bee Blitz—June 2020**

Help us count you in... Volunteer at the Public Planting Party

- **Saturday, October 12**
  - **Drop-in 1-4 p.m.**
  - **Glacial Park — Wiedrich Barn Parking Lot, 6313 Harts Rd, Ringwood**

Interested in becoming a McHenry County Conservation Foundation Member?

Contact Executive Director Shawna Flavell at 815.678.4532 ext. 8204 or by email at sflavell@mchenryconservation.org.