

Newsletter

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Annual Bike Ride Success!

On July 8th ParkLands hosted our 6th Annual Bike Ride. Even with stormy weather we had 220 cyclists participate. Our rest areas were stocked with the best snacks and our volunteers had smiles on their faces and enjoyed telling the riders about the wonders of ParkLands. Thank you to everyone that participated including our riders, volunteers and sponsors. We hope to see you next year if not sooner!



Thank you to our Bike Ride sponsors

Zimmerman and Armstrong, Bloomington Cycle & Fitness, Commerce Bank and Commerce Trust Company, Dan G Deneen Law Office, Deer's Mill Farm, Prairie Oak Veterinary Center, Vitesse Cycle Shop, Gentle Family Dentistry, Heartland Bank and Trust, Keg Grove Brewing Company, The Vein Specialists, and Kemp's Upper Tap.

Upcoming Events

September

10

Annual Meeting of Members

Join us at Lexington Farm to celebrate this year's successes and meet new board members. For more information and to sign up visit our events page or click the QR code.

parklandsfoundation.org/events



October

14

Hike with a Naturalist

Join Andy Smoot and Chuck Croxton for a hike at Kenyon-Baller Preserve.

For more information and to sign up visit our events page or click the QR code.

parklandsfoundation.org/events



Join us for our 2023 Annual Meeting of Members!

Dear ParkLands Foundation Members,

We would like to invite you and your friends to join us at the ParkLands Foundation Annual Meeting Sunday, September 10, 2023 at the Franklin Cabin near Lexington, IL. Sign Up online with the QR code or by mailing in a paper registration!

Paper registrations can be sent to PO Box 12, Normal, IL 61761 with a lunch selection by September 1st, 2023. Please circle your selection below or register online.



Boxed lunch includes Sandwich/Wrap, Chips, Apple, and chef's choice Cookie *or* Brownie

Sicilian Wrap
ham, salami, pepperoni, lettuce,
tomato, pepperoncini, mozzarella,
house mayo

Grilled Veggie Wrap
grilled seasonal vegetables, lettuce, tomato,
colby jack cheese, house mayo

Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap
grilled chicken, bacon, ranch, lettuce,
tomato, colby jack cheese

gluten free options available – add \$1.00

Salad lunch includes Salad, Dressing, Apple, chef's choice Cookie *or* Brownie, and fork

Chef Salad - turkey, ham, boiled egg, lettuce, tomato,
red onion, colby jack cheese

Dressings:

French, Ranch, Italian,
Balsamic, Caesar

served on the side

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address / phone number: _____

Join us for our 2023 Annual Meeting of Members!

We will begin the morning with an optional guided hike to learn about the Lexington preserve and its unique flora, fauna, topography, stewardship, and history.

Agenda:

10:30am Optional Guided Hike

12:00pm Lunch (boxed or bring your own)

12:30pm Formal Membership Meeting, Year in Review, and Volunteer and Board Member Recognition

Directions:

Head west on PJ Keller Rd from the I-55 Lexington Exit. Travel west for approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile and look for the event signs on your left.

In conformance with Article V, Section 11 and Article VII, Section 2 of the Bylaws, the following slate of nominations for Directors and Officers is hereby presented:

To fill four vacated seats as Director, the following individuals are hereby presented for nomination for a three-year term (23-26):

Vasudha Gadhiraju

Tracy Shepard

The following current Directors are hereby presented for nomination to continue for a three-year term (2023-26):

Jim Franks

Deanna Frautschi

Corrie Scott

These nominations will be voted on for election by the membership present at the annual membership meeting to be held Sunday, September 10, 2023.

The following slate of nominations for Officers is hereby presented for one-year terms (2023-24):

Francis Sanders President

Shannon Fulton Vice President

Michael McKinley Treasurer

Jim Franks Secretary

These nominations will be voted on Sunday, 10, 2023 by the board members present at the annual meeting of members.

Reflecting on my year with ParkLands

By Addison Burns

Upon graduating from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's in communication, I knew that I wanted to attend law school, but did not have the financial means to do so. Rather than immediately diving into graduate school, I took a two-year sabbatical following graduation to explore my passions. Wanting to explore my passion for nonprofits and potential interest in environmental law, I jumped at the opportunity to serve as a Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator for ParkLands Foundation. As Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, my time was divided between working on preserves, organizing volunteer and outreach events, developing social media content, and writing quarterly newsletters.



This experience has enabled me to experiment with my creativity in writing, challenged my abilities in website development, helped me form great connections within the professional and legal community, and further expanded my interest in legally advocating for the environment and public services. This last year serving ParkLands Foundation and giving back to my community has provided me with a fulfillment that a typical 40-hour paycheck does not. I look forward to turning this passion into a career as I embark on an education centered around legal advocacy at the University of Kentucky this upcoming fall. While my time with ParkLands is done for now, I will not forget the wonderful people I met and I hope to continue giving back to ParkLands as I advance in my career.

ParkLands wishes Addie “Happy Trails” and hopefully not goodbye!

By Erin Herbez

ParkLands Board Members, Volunteer Stewards and staff wished Addie happy trails on July 31st with a lunch get together to thank her for her service this past year. We discussed her future plans, starting law school and moving to Kentucky with her dog in tow. Having Addie as an Americorps fellow this year has been a great experience for myself and the organization as a whole. ParkLands has benefited immensely from Addie's great attitude and hard work and we wish her the best in law school and beyond!



Summer Internships at ParkLands Foundation

By Katie Jo Jackson

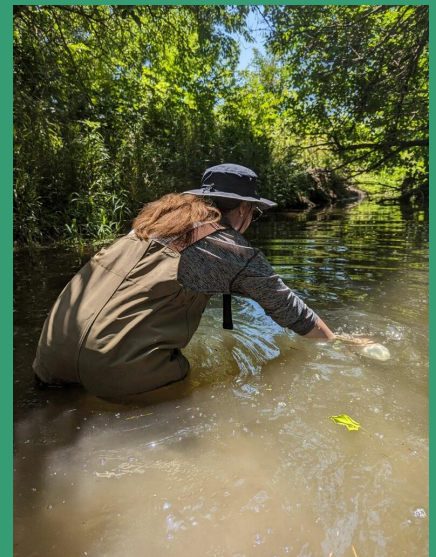
As my internship with ParkLands Foundation comes to an end, I am so grateful I was able to take this opportunity. I learned more than I could have ever imagined about the Mackinaw River Watershed. Specifically, knowledge about the invasive and native plants in Illinois, the significance of biodiversity, and the responsibilities required to maintain a preserve. I can confidently say it required a lot of hard work, but it was so rewarding to contribute towards a greater cause. One of the best things about this internship was all the wonderful people I got to meet! I have been inspired by the passion that all the ParkLands volunteers possess when it comes to protecting our natural lands. It has given me the confidence to believe that I am on the right path in life. I can't thank you all enough for making this experience so enjoyable and showing me the ropes.



Summer Internships at ParkLands Foundation

by Kenner Gravel

My name is Kenner Gravel and I am a Senior at the University of Toronto where I am pursuing a double major in Political Science and Environmental Science, a minor in Geology, and certifications in Sustainable Pathways and International Affairs. For my summer internship with the ParkLands Foundation, I traveled to different preserves to remove invasive species, maintain trails, and assist with ParkLands events. From this, I gained valuable hands-on experience in sustainability and ecology alongside some incredibly driven environmentalists. I worked with retirees who woke up at 5:00 AM twice a week to remove invasive species from preserves, workforce members who used vacation time to come to preserve work days, members who graciously donated funds to help keep our efforts running, and many other compassionate groups. Our ParkLands community of volunteers, members, and land stewards is comprised of people with diverse and interesting backgrounds, and after hearing stories and thoughts from those with whom I worked, my views on sustainability and environmentalism have significantly evolved and diversified. The greatest takeaway from my summer internship was a stronger appreciation for the significant impact that we as individuals can have on our planet. Because of the passion and drive our community members have, Central Illinois contains some of the most vital and beautiful ecosystems I have seen. Growing up in Normal, I visited the ParkLands preserves frequently and it was an honor to return to this community as an intern.





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