

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD, WINTER 2023-24



Hurstville Exhibit Makeover

The Center is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2024. To celebrate that milestone, JCC and Friends of JCC are working to bring a new exhibit to the Center. This new exhibit will feature a woodland diorama, a walk-through cave, and a hill prairie. Along with our existing wetland and prairie dioramas, this new exhibit will help complete the story of Iowa's ecosystems. We have contracted with Edwards Creative, an exhibit company from Milan, II, to design and construct the displays. The custom-built, interactive exhibit will enhance the learning and engagement of the countless visitors to the Center, including students from every school district in the county.

A fundraising campaign was launched in early October with a goal of \$200,000. By the end of October we had raised \$80,000 and by mid-December a little over \$120,000. We are so grateful for the support of our community for this project. Please consider making a donation to help us reach our goal! Friends of JCC is a 501c3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Mail donations to Friends of JCC, 18670 63rd Street, Maquoketa, Iowa 52060 Donate online at <u>https://givebutter.com/HurstvilleExhibits</u>

More details about this project are online at <u>www.JacksonCCB.com</u>—click on News. If you have any questions, please reach out to our office or email Jess at <u>jwagner@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov</u>.



Farewell to Naturalist Jennifer Stroyan

Jen has been a part of our team here at Jackson County Conservation for the past 12 years. She has been a phenomenal Naturalist and has connected with thousands of children and adults through her time at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. She will be moving to Wisconsin and her last day was December 20. We will miss her! Good luck Jen on your next adventure! ~JCC Staff

A few words from Jennifer Stroyan:

Checking into a school and hearing the kids exclaim "It's Annburns!" (yes, her name is said as one word with the same sense of acknowledgment as Cher) for the first time was a bit awe inspiring. A visit from the naturalist was a known highlight to school children all over the county. (I didn't know this; I didn't move to the area until high school). Walking into a school with a tub of furs and a child exclaiming "Annburns is here!" and

then doing a double take when they realize that I am not Ann but deciding I must be ok because I have the tub. It was then I began to pick up that being a naturalist had to be one of the coolest things in the world because of the reputation of the department I was lucky enough to be hired into. Talk about a challenge to walk in those shoes! Boy am I glad I got the chance.

Becoming a naturalist was like being welcomed back to a home I didn't know I was missing. Being outside and getting paid!? All my favorite things are now a daily thing! All my weird interests and passions were now industry standard skills and it felt amazing. Honestly, there are still days I have to take a pause to say aloud just how privileged I am that this is my 9-5.

" If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in." ~Rachel Carson. This quote has been above my desk for the last several years and is a constant reminder that my work as a naturalist is crucial for a child's development as a human. I also have to appreciate that the children keep the wonder in my life. Every exclamation of discovery and joy is fuel for the soul. What a gift to be called over to every tadpole scooped out with a net.

Jackson County Conservation and all its employees are some of the most fantastic people you'd ever want to spend your time with. Conservation work is not just a job but truly a calling and it is done with passion in this county. All of the perspective, skills and motivation I've received from these folks is truly a gift. With all of the varied experiences and tasks given to a naturalist, writing my resume and keeping it shorter than a novel is a real trick. I do feel prepared to go out and be amazing in my next chapter in life.

Serving the community as a naturalist for the last 12 years has been a fantastic experience. Thank you to all the little children that have grown up with me in this position. Thank you to the senior citizens who taught me more than I could ever give to them. To the schools and community that value environmental education. My fellow naturalists whom I love so much. My friends! From all the nooks and crannies of dolomite to the play of sunshine on leaves, I will miss being a Jackson County Naturalist.

Welcome our Green Iowa AmeriCorps Member

My name is Molly Hicks. I am doing the Green Iowa AmeriCorps program and serving my hours with Jackson County Conservation. My hometown is Ashton, Iowa, which is in the northwest corner of the state. I am a homeschool graduate and have gained my experience working in county conservation by volunteering and working for O'Brien and Sioux County Conservation Boards.

Moving across the state by myself has been a big challenge, but the community here has been very welcoming and supportive. The Jackson County Conservation staff is

amazing and they have helped me do a lot of new things. I have been happy learning to do educational programs, burn and manage prairies, and I even went on the Mississippi to help with a fish survey! I love taking care of the animals at the Hurstville Interpretive Center and showing them to visitors.

When I'm not at work, I enjoy trail running, traveling, camping and caring for my own pets. I have 2 cats, a bearded dragon, a veiled chameleon, an albino corn snake and 2 beta fish. I hope to meet many more people in the community during my time here!



Winter Calendar of Events

<u>Registration is REQUIRED</u> at least 48 hours in advance for <u>ALL programs</u>.

Register by calling (563) 652-3783 or email <u>conservation@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov</u>

Programs are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Donations are accepted. Programs are open to all ages and are family friendly unless otherwise noted.

For up to date information on our programs, check our website, <u>www.JacksonCCB.com</u> or visit the Hurstville Interpretive Center's Facebook page.

Snowshoe Hike Saturday, <u>January 6</u> at 10:00 AM

Prairie Creek Recreation Area—Meet at Pavilion Strap on some snowshoes, hit the trails, and enjoy a guided snowshoe hike at the park and explore the winter wonderland! We will provide snowshoes. If no snow, plan for a hike.

Trivia Night

Friday, <u>January 19</u> at 7:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Get your friends together for a fun night of trivia! Teams of 2-8 can join the fun. All proceeds from this event will go towards the new exhibit project at the Center. Cost is \$10 per person. BYOB and snacks. Some light refreshments will be provided.

Ice Fishing Clinic Saturday, <u>January 20</u> at 10:00 AM

Selzer's Pond, 10047 168th Ave, Maquoketa Learn how to ice fish, what equipment is needed, and ask questions to get you going with this great winter activity. Equipment will be provided. All ages and skill levels are welcome to join us! Those 16 & older need a fishing license to fish.

Full Moon Snowshoe Hike Thursday, <u>January 25</u> at 5:00 PM

Luminary Walk

Prairie Creek Recreation Area—Meet at Pavilion The initial full moon of a calendar year has been nicknamed the Wolf Moon. Let's hope for clear skies and let the Wolf Moon guide us along the trails. Snowshoes are provided. If no snow, wear good boots for hiking.



Wednesday, <u>February 14</u> from 6:00-7:30 PM

Bellevue State Park—location TBD Let luminaries light your way along the trails as you enjoy a walk after dark at the park.

Coffee & Conservation Wednesday, <u>January 10</u> at 9:00 AM Tuesday, <u>February 6</u> at 9:00 AM Thursday, <u>March 7</u> at 9:00 AM *Hurstville Interpretive Center*



Enjoy coffee, tea, treats, and conversation about conservation. Each month features a different topic. Following the presentation we'll have an opportunity for discussion and social time. January 10, Bruce Fisher with the Jackson County Energy District will discuss renewable energy and electric cars. February and March topics TBD.

A Taste of the Seasons Saturday, <u>February 10</u> from 5:30-8:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Wine, food, and phenology—a fun night out for couples and friends! A mix of wine and food pairing, learn about phenology through the seasons, and enjoy an evening at the Center after hours. Doors open at 5:30. Presentation begins at 6:30. Cost is \$25 per adult and includes food, wine, and program. Childcare available upstairs at the Center during this adult event. Add on childcare for \$10/child ages 3-10 (food and activities provided). All proceeds from this event will go towards the Hurstville Exhibit Makeover!

Terrariums

Sunday, February 25 at 2:00 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

A terrarium is an indoor gardening container that holds plants. We'll provide all the materials needed for you to create your own glass terrarium to take home. Cost is \$15.

Recycling Drives



Drop off at the Hurstville Interpretive Center Holiday Lights—now through January 12 Styrofoam—drop off January 2-12 ONLY (must be clean & white)

Winter Calendar of Events Continued

Wednesday Early Out Programs

These programs are geared for elementary aged youth and are held on Wednesday afternoons when area schools have an early dismissal. Youth ages 8+ can be dropped off; 7 & under must be accompanied by an adult. Advance registration required.

Programs are Wednesdays at 2:30 PM and will last 1-1.5 hours. *At the Hurstville Interpretive Center unless otherwise noted.*

January 10—Live Animal Feeding

Help feed the resident snakes and turtles.

- January 17—Snowshoeing (or Winter Hike) 4"+ of snow to snowshoe, or guided hike
- January 24—Animal Tracks Track ID, make tracks, explore how animals move.
- January 31—Ice Skating

Try ice skating on the small frog pond at the Center. **February 7—Sledding at Prairie Creek**

Sled down the hills at Prairie Creek Recreation Area. **February 14—Animal Homes**

Learn about animal homes and shelter.

February 21—Snowshoeing (or Winter Hike) 4"+ of snow to snowshoe, or guided hike

February 28—Build a Birdhouse

Materials will be provided to build a bluebird or house wren birdhouse. Cost is \$10/birdhouse.

Will continue in March & April... Dates/Topics TBD

Homeschool Programs

KinderNature

Friday, <u>January 19</u>—Winter Coat Friday, <u>February 16</u>—Animal Homes Friday, <u>March 15</u>—Reptiles of Iowa Friday, <u>April 19</u>—Life in a Pond

At 10:00 AM; *Hurstville Interpretive Center* Homeschool families with elementary aged children are welcome to join us in learning more about nature. Youth will have fun learning about the month's topic through various activities.

Homeschool Science Series 1st & 3rd Mondays January-May at 10:00 AM Hurstville Interpretive Center

Middle and high school homeschool students are invited to learn more about various science topics with Dave & Sue Gossman. *No program January 1.*

Women in the Woods with Wine Friday, <u>March 1</u> at 6:30 PM

Hurstville Interpretive Center

Discover more about nature while relaxing with a glass of wine or non-alcoholic beverage. Become more comfortable and knowledgeable about the natural world, as you unwind and have fun. Event is for women 21+. Cost \$15.

Luminary Walk Friday, <u>March 8</u> from 6:00-7:30 PM

Prairie Creek Recreation Area

Let luminaries light your way along the trails as you enjoy a walk after dark at the park. Dress for the weather and wear good walking shoes.

Skunk Cabbage Hike—*OWLS program* Friday, <u>March 22</u> at Noon

Swiss Valley Nature Center

Join the OWLS group for an early spring hike in search of the extremely early blooming skunk cabbage. Skunk cabbage emerges in early spring in Eastern Iowa and grows in wet areas, including the hanging bog at Swiss Valley. Skunk cabbage has the unique ability to produce heat which allows it to emerge and bloom even if there is still snow on the ground. As you may have guessed, this plant gets its name from the unpleasant smell it emits. Dress for the weather as we hike the trails in search of skunk cabbage! *OWLS programs are open to all adults and a collaboration between Dubuque, Jackson, and Jones County Conservation Departments.*

<u>Registration is REQUIRED</u> at least 48 hours in advance for <u>ALL programs</u>. Register by calling (563) 652-3783 or email <u>conservation@jacksoncounty.iowa.gov</u>

Snowshoeing & Ice Skating!

We are offering FREE use of our ice skates and snowshoes, a great way to get outside and enjoy the great outdoors this winter. Stop out any time the Hurstville Interpretive Center is open and use the snowshoes and ice skates at no cost. Weekend rentals are \$5/pair (pick up Friday and return Monday). *Friends members receive a free rental*! Minimum 4" of snow/ice needed.





Friends of Jackson County Conservation

Support Your Local Parks— Become a Friend or renew your membership today!

A big thank you to those who continue to renew their membership with Friends of JCC!! The dollars brought in through membership dues help sustain our organization and <u>we appreciate your support!</u>

Membership is for a calendar year. That means, January 1st is renewal time! Clip the portion below and mail in. Make sure we have an up-to-date email address. Most of our correspondence throughout the year is via email.

Save us time, postage, and paper by mailing in your membership before mid-February when we send out a mailing to Friends members.

Friends of Jackson County Conservation **Membership Form**

Name:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Phone number:
Email Address:
Type of Membership
Student \$5Regular \$10Senior Citizen \$5
Family \$20 Sustaining \$50 Individual Life \$500
I'd like to make an additional donation to support my local parks in the amount of
Total Amount Enclosed:
Please send form and money to: Friends of Jackson County Conservation 18670 63 rd Street, Maquoketa, Iowa 52060

The Friends of Jackson County Conservation brings people together through educational and recreational opportunities in partnership with the Jackson County Conservation Board and inspires people to understand and care for our environment.

Join us for the Next Friends Meeting Tuesday, <u>January 9</u>

6:00 PM at the Hurstville Interpretive Center

Potluck at 5:30 PM, bring your own beverage, tableware, and a dish to share!



Agenda and minutes from last meeting will be sent via email a few days before the meeting. Didn't get the email? Make sure we have up-to-date contact info for you!

Mark your calendars for 2024 Friends Meeting Dates: January 9, April 9, June 11, October 8

Projects coming this Winter/Spring...

2024 Native Plant Sale

We will hold our 15th annual Native Plant Sale in the spring! One of the biggest obstacles to gardening with natives is acquiring the plants. We try to make it easy and affordable for folks to integrate native wildflowers and grasses in their gardens and home landscaping. Watch our website or Facebook page in February for a pre-order form. We encourage people to fill out the order form in February or March to ensure they get the plants they want before we run out. Any plants not sold by pre-order will be for sale at the Center on a designated weekend in May.

Backyard Compost Bins

In an effort to reduce the amount of food waste that ends up in landfills, we will be promoting home composting and provide education opportunities to learn more about how to compost. And we will be sourcing compost bins at wholesale prices to distribute in the spring. Stay tuned for more details!

Recycling Drives

By Jessica Wagner, Environmental Education Coordinator & Ann Burns, Friends Sustainability Committee Member

For the past few years, JCC has partnered with the Friends of Jackson County Conservation Sustainability Committee and the Jackson County Energy District (JCED) on recycling drives. The JCED collects old, broken holiday lights and the Sustainability Committee has been doing a Styrofoam collection.

This year, we connected with an organization in Cedar Rapids for a clothing & textile recycling drive. Like the other drives, the main goal is to keep these items out of the landfill and use the materials we already have to make a new product. The clothing drive was a success—so much so we had to end it early! We were overwhelmed with items people had that were not suitable to donate but had a hard time throwing away.

All this material made us think a lot about "fast fashion" and the affects of clothing on the environment. The business model for the consumer fashion industry is to produce low-cost clothing with rapidly changing styles to encourage consumers to purchase more clothing while discarding clothing that has been worn but a few times.

It is estimated that 66-85% of U.S. clothing purchases end up discarded in landfills within a year of purchase. Put another way, in the US we generate 82 pounds of textile waste per year per person.

Beyond what ends up in the landfill, "fast fashion" has other environmental effects. Huge amounts of water are required to manufacture clothing - from growing and processing the raw materials to the dye process. The dye process also results in polluted water given that most of the fast fashion manufacturing happens in countries with low to no environmental regulation of industries. Manufacturing clothing requires energy. Cheap clothing is produced by cheap labor which often means child or forced labor. Much of the cheap clothing is produced using polyesters and other fabrics which shed micro-plastics as they are worn and laundered.

So this leaves us with, what can we do as individuals? . There are things we all can do to lessen our impacts of clothing waste.

- 1. Stop the Fast Fashion madness. Purchase clothing that can last for many years instead of only a few months.
- 2. Look for clothing that is made from more sustainable materials, such as wool, linen, organic cotton, lyocell, hemp.
- 3. Reduce the amount of polyester and other petroleumbased synthetic clothing in your closet.
- 4. Shop at consignment and thrift stores. Save money and resources.
- 5. Swap clothing and shoes with family and friends. Get a "new" to you outfit. Keep up with the hand me downs for our kids who grow out of things so quickly.
- 6. Ask yourself: do I really need that new item? Save money and resources by buying less and wearing what you have longer.

Sowing the Seeds

By Tony Vorwald, Naturalist

As the tractor chugs along and rocks over ruts and bumps I have an image of what this field will be. I am relatively new to habitat restoration work and jumped at the chance to help seed down a new prairie planting at Papke Wildlife Area. After briefly acquainting myself with JCCB's tractor, I was out in the field sowing prairie seed. Papke Wildlife Area is one of JCCB's largest and newest areas. The property is composed mostly of upland grassland, JCCB is working on converting that grassland, previously largely composed of smooth brome, into native tallgrass prairie. Rolling along the Papke hills I keep looking back to see prairie plant seeds getting tossed out of the seeder hooked up to the tractor. The seeds fall on the slightly muddy ground of the prepped field and I try my best to drive parallel to my previous tracks so the seed is evenly spread. After the tractor seeding is done, I hand broadcast seed of prairie flowers I collected off other prairies this past summer and fall in hopes of adding diversity and a higher forb count to this new planting. Looking at this newly planted field there isn't much of anything in the way of wildlife habitat...yet. Looking at this muddy field I look forward and imagine what this field might look like in 5, 10, or 15 years.

Planting prairie isn't as simple, or as quick, as planting the seeds this fall and the prairie will be there next spring. Planting a prairie requires some prep, some work, and a lot of patience. In the case of the new Papke Prairie, we had to kill off the existing non-native smooth brome, a grass that was introduced for cattle forage and is a barrier to successful prairie planting. Once the brome was good and dead, we broadcast the prairie seed in the fall. Throughout the winter, rain, snow, and frost will work the prairie seed into the soil and help stratify the seed. During the first year of growth following the planting, you aren't going to see many prairie plants. You may see some native annuals like black-eyed Susan, but you will mostly see a lot of weedy pioneer species like ragweed. Many prairie species spend their first few years of growth on root development and you will not see much in the way of flowering growth for a few years. So during the first year of growth, we will try to keep the planting mowed at about 6-8 inches to limit the amount of weedy species seeding out and also to provide more light to the prairie plant seedlings at the soil level. The second year of growth will probably look a lot like the first year of growth but with a few more quick-growing native species. We will continue the mowing for the second year. By the third year, the planting is starting to look like a prairie and we will probably let it go without much mowing. By the 4th year, the prairie is ready to be introduced to a prescribed burning regime.

I'm excited to look ahead and think about what this muddy field will look like in 5 years. I wonder how the prairie will change and look 5 years after that. I'm happy to have been a part of the planting of this new prairie and I hope that I have the patience to accept that I will not be able to see the prairie in full regalia for a long time yet... But someday I will.



Jackson County Conservation would like to **thank and acknowledge** the following individuals, organizations and businesses for their continued support and donations. With your help, we have been able to do so much more!!!

Volunteers—Marty Hurdlik, Karen Manning, Pam Bahr, Ann Burns, Mary Hayward, Deb Holm, Bruce Fisher, Pam True, Wendy Hainstock, Bill Hainstock, Sarah Hobbs, Jo Ellen Langerman, Barb McCray, Imagine the Possibilities Dayhab, Dean Nelson, Jim England, Victoria Taylor, Jori Heinrich, David Manning, Steve Hermiston, Kathryn Reuter, Connie Breno, Karen Krueger, Mike Griffin, Kenny Derganz, Larry McDevitt, Lori Roling, Jennie Willcox, Shelby Yearwood, Maurie Anderson, Dan Holm

Codfish Concert Volunteers & Food Donors—Jo Ellen Langerman, Bill & Wendy Hainstock, Sarah Hobbs, David Manning, Roberta Rosheim, Mary Hayward, Sheila & Dale Root, Tony Vorwald, Emily Highnam, Ann Burns, Diane & Steve Hermiston, Jessica Wagner, Mary Herrig

Donations—Diane Stockham, Roger & Twila Hingtgen, Angela Petit Lichter, McGraw Hill Employee Match, Anonymous Donor, Pedal Pushers Bike Group

Hurstville Exhibit Makeover Donations—Pam & Sam True, Mary Hayward, Daniel & Deb Holm, Pam Bahr & Jim England, Carol Breuch, Mary Stephany, Jackson County Retired Personnel, Dawn & Marty Wagner, Roger & Sandra Dusil, David Manning & Sarah Hobbs, David & Gloria Cahalan, Karen Ganzer, Burken Underground LLC, Young Dental, Jake & Judy Bickford, Bob & Ruth Sheets, Gerald & Barbara Nelson, Steve & Chris Tubbs, Jean Kelly, David Kunzweiler, Eugene & Faith Bruhn, Bruce & Sherry Ruchotzke, Cindy Hepker, Bill & Bonnie Schwenker, Carol Hammill, Bruce Fisher, Barbara & Thomas Pestka, Jeanne Hoesley, Patricia Dierks, Michael Griffin, Craig & Kathleen Johnston, Clayton Pederson, Susan & Jeff Siems, Michele O'Connor, Kevin & Jane Kutsch, Mary Ann McLaughlin, Jo Fifield, Tom & Kathy Quinlan, Paul & Karen Portz, Lorraine Volkers, Richard & Jane Worm, Sierra Group White Pine, Daryl & Kerry Schepers, Herb & Kathy Miller, Jan Stevens, Carolyn Keck, Laverne & Eunese Roberg, Diane Highnam, Carla Behrend, Steve & Diane Hermiston, Tom & Karen Schwenker, Ann & Bob Osterhaus, Jessica Riedl, David & Darlene Hayes, Bill & Wendy Hainstock, Kevin & Ann Burns, Karen Krueger, Steven & Carol Gisel, Eunice Schladetzky, Bud & Jeannette Schroeder, Don & Janice Carr, John & Nita Carson, Dale & Nancy Kilburg, The Engel Agency, Dave & Sue Gossman, McDonald's of Maquoketa, Bellevue Sand & Gravel Co., Darren Johnson Logging LLC, Carson Celebration of Life Center, Garman & Meade CPA, Becker Construction & Remodeling LLC, Sheets General Construction, WADY Industries Inc, Alan & Rhonda Pape, Denise & Colleen & Christy Miller, Jeff Tampir, Maquoketa Livestock Exchange LLC, Bill & Wendy Hainstock



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Mike Griffin	
Jim England	
Lori Roling	
Mary Hayward	

Maquoketa Springbrook Maquoketa Bellevue Maquoketa

319/541-6357 563/357-1736 563/652-3213 563/872-3299 563/357-0814

The Jackson County Conservation Board meets the third Tuesday of every month at 5:00 pm. Public welcome.

Conservation Staff

Nathan Jones, Executive Director Sheila Root, Office Manager Jessica Wagner, Environmental Education Coordinator Tony Vorwald, Naturalist Jeannie Collins-Heer, Park Ranger/Roadside Manager Jerry Widel, Operation Technician Katelyn Yauslin, Park Ranger Adam McPherson, Park Ranger Molly Hicks, AmeriCorps Naturalist

Address & Contact Information

18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, IA 52060

Phone: (563) 652-3783

Website:

JacksonCCB.com

<u>Www.MyCountyParks.com</u>

www.facebook.com/HurstvilleInterpretiveCenter

Office Hours / Hurstville Center

18670 63rd Street Maquoketa, IA 52060 Weekdays: Monday–Friday 9:00 am–4:00 pm Weekends: Saturday & Sunday Apr–Oct 12:00–5:00 pm; Nov 12:00–4:00 pm; Dec-Mar CLOSED

Holidays:

CLOSED Dec 25 & Jan 1 OPEN Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day

Donations made in memory of:

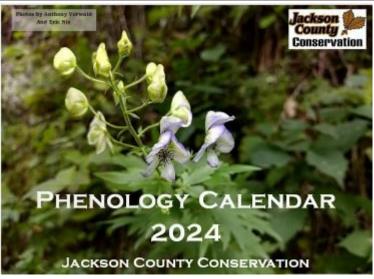
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Phenology Calendars

Phenology is nature's calendar—when apple trees bloom, when a robin builds its nest, and when leaves turn color in the fall. Naturalist Tony Vorwald has put together a Phenology Calendar specific to Eastern Iowa. Pick up at the Hurstville Center Gift Shop for \$10. We can also mail you a calendar for \$12 each. All proceeds from calendar sales will go towards the new exhibit!

Summer Conservation Jobs

Enjoy camping? Want to camp all summer along the Mississippi River and get paid? Apply for our Campground Host position at Spruce Creek Park and/or South Sabula Lake Park.

Want to work for county parks? Be part of the conservation team? We will be hiring **Summer Conservation Workers** for Summer 2023! Great job for college students hoping to get into the conservation and natural resource field and to build their resume!

Check our website in late January for job postings:

www.JacksonCCB.com www.My.CountyParks.com/County/Jackson,aspx Click on Employment