

Hello to President Preckwinkle and Members of the Board. I'm Marianne Kozlowski, a Site Steward at Eggers Grove, an FPD restoration site within the city of Chicago. Eggers' eastern border is the Illinois/Indiana state line; its southern border is the northern shore of Wolf Lake.

Eggers has developed a core group of volunteers who are out there every month, working to restore the diversity, and we see change for the better. We started with a list of 65 plant species known to be onsite; we're now up to 200 plant species and counting.

In 2022 I've logged nearly 600 hours as a restoration volunteer. I do the work because the post-industrial Calumet region deserves all the attention we can give it, and because of the great support system provided by the FPD staff for volunteers.

One of the important jobs done by your FPD staff is bringing in other organizations for the restoration work—FPD staff leverage the knowledge, skills and hands-on effort from many sources. Here's a description of nearly 30 such partners, working at Eggers over the past 5 years:

1. The Field Museum/Chicago Public Schools – 1,000+ student visits
  - a. CIMBY (Calumet Is My Back Yard) for High School Students
  - b. Mighty Acorns for Grade School Students
  - c. Chicago Green Ambassadors – Youth Conservation Action initiative (Video with Eggers is now on TikTok)
2. Great Lakes Audubon– East Marsh Major Drainage Project
3. The Nature Conservancy– East Marsh Major Drainage Project
4. US Fish and Wildlife Service– East Marsh Major Drainage Project
5. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation– East Marsh Major Drainage Project
6. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service– East Marsh Major Drainage Project
7. Illinois Department of Natural Resources Coastal Program– East Marsh Major Drainage Project
8. Shedd Aquarium – Salamander monitoring
9. Chicago Botanic Garden
  - a. Plants of Concern monitoring
  - b. Growing plugs of native plants for East Marsh restoration
10. Lincoln Park Zoo – Wildlife Cameras at Eggers
11. Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative
  - a. Nature Hikes and Bike Tours at Eggers
  - b. Annual Watershed Advisory Committee Conference – presentations on marsh improvements
  - c. Calumet Revisited (Monthly Lectures, incl. Eggers slide presentations)
12. University of Illinois Extension Services—Master Naturalists—chainsaw volunteer work
13. Friends of the Forest Preserves
  - a. Work by Chainsaw Fellers I and II
  - b. General Restoration Work Crews
  - c. Outreach for nature hikes, seed collecting, and bird walks in Spanish
14. Filament Theatre – Productions on Nature for Toddlers & Parents, in Eggers' oak grove
15. US Dept of Agriculture – Raccoon and Skunk Monitoring
16. Morton Arboretum – Witness Tree Project
17. Exelon/CommEd – Prairie Restoration under the power lines bisecting Eggers
18. Friends of the Chicago River – River Day (every May) Restoration workday
19. Illinois Mycological Association – Fungi Survey
20. Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum -- Dragonfly Monitoring

21. East Side Chamber of Commerce – Sponsor for Annual Eggers Block Party  
Volunteer partners on workdays:
22. Student Conservation Association
23. University of Chicago Dept of Mathematics
24. Ozinga Materials and Logistics
25. Mt. Carmel High School
26. Boy Scouts – Hinsdale
27. Boy Scouts – Highland, Indiana
28. Conservation Corps –Supported by FPDCC and various nonprofits
29. Cook County Court System – court-ordered community service

These are the partnerships of which I'm aware; checking further could reveal more.

There are stories behind every item listed. Here are a few:

The Indiana volunteers remind me that they live closer to Eggers than I do!

Special mention goes to Daniel the bird-house builder, who cannot participate in workdays because of medications. Daniel builds and gives birdhouses and bat-houses to volunteers.

The Field Museum conservation interns from local high schools created a video on the importance of removing invasive species, and stopping folks who litter. The interns recalled that it took 35 "takes" before getting a good video to upload to Tiktok.

The Student Conservation Association honored a member who died in a car crash with a special workday. At workdays' end, they held a short remembrance service for her.

Government often gets a bad rap, as bureaucratic and unresponsive. The Cook County FPD is the absolute opposite of that stereotype. Its restoration and volunteer programs are one of the best examples anywhere of co-operation between government and its citizens. I'm happy to give nature walks at Eggers to all of you, to show you the amazing results of that co-operation.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views!

Marianne Kozlowski  
Volunteer Site Steward  
Eggers Grove FPD CC

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