



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2012 NATIVE SEED COLLECTING!

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division, Stewardship Unit is in need of volunteers to harvest native prairie seed at several state parks and recreation areas in southern Michigan. Seed will be collected for later planting by the Stewardship Unit to restore native tallgrass prairie, lakeplain prairie, and oak savanna ecosystems. Seed from a number of wildflowers and some prairie grass species will be collected.

Prior to European settlement, southern Michigan supported vast expanses of prairie and oak savanna. Today prairies and savannas persist only in tiny remnant patches, many in state parks. Seed collection is a key step in restoring these lost landscapes, but it is one that requires many hands. This is a unique opportunity to learn about these rare landscapes while doing something positive to help restore and preserve them for future generations. Its fun, easy, and a wonderful experience for the entire family and people of all ages!

WORKDAY DETAILS:

Specific meeting times and locations for each workday are available online at www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers then click "Calendar of Volunteer Stewardship Workdays". Please register by mailing or faxing the registration form available on the webpage above or by emailing Laurel or Heidi the same information.

We ask that volunteers bring a clean, dry, empty gallon milk jug and wear sturdy shoes. Prairie remnants are often very sunny places so a hat, sunscreen, and drinking water are recommended. If you are allergic to bees, please bring your sting relief kit. Hiking distance will vary. An adult must accompany children age 5 to 16 and a parent or guardian must sign a liability waiver for anyone under 18.

If you belong to a group or organization that cannot attend these workdays and would like to set up a private group workday, special arrangements may be made for some weekdays, Saturday afternoons or Sunday mornings.

- For **southeast** parks contact Laurel Malvitz-Draper at malvitzl@michigan.gov or 248-359-9057 for more information.
- For **southwest** parks (Fort Custer and Grand Mere) contact Heidi Frei at 269-685-6851 x147 or freih@michigan.gov or for more information.

PUBLIC WORKDAYS:

Algonac SP

September 30th

October 21st

Meet at the main entrance in the day use area parking lot.

Fort Custer RA

October 6th & 21st

Meet at the Equestrian Trailhead Parking.

October 13th & 27th

November 3rd

Meet at the park headquarters.

Grand Mere SP

September 30th

October 20th

Meet at the main entrance parking area (off Thornton Rd.).

Highland RA

October 6th, 14th &

November 4th

Meet at the Silo Field Trail Area parking lot on Livingston Road.

Island Lake RA

October 21st & 27th

Meet at the Dodge picnic area.

Take the main park road approx. 15 minutes from entrance

Sterling SP

September 29th

October 13th & 20th

Meet at the park headquarters.

Waterloo RA

October 7th

Meet on Waterloo Rd just west of M-52. Roadside parking.