Save the Date – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Thank you for being a volunteer at the Elkhart Environmental Center! From checking and clearing trails to planning EnviroFest, together you do it all! We appreciate everything you do, every day. We truly couldn’t be where we are today without your dedication and passion for the environment, sustainability, and our community. Each year we set aside an evening to celebrate our EEC volunteers and we hope you can join us for this year’s event! You can vote on which day works best for you by following this link to our online Doodle poll: https://beta.doodle.com/poll/bhgzis7bcqym85uy#table. The theme and additional details will be announced soon! There is always lots of food and fun and we hope to see you there – friends and family welcome! If it’s been a while since you last volunteered, don’t worry about it! Once an EEC volunteer, always an EEC volunteer to us. Come and join us for an evening of fun!

Meditation Yoga
Monday, Aug. 14th
5:30 - 6:30 PM

EnviroFest
Friday, July 14
5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
Second week of August
TBA

For more information
(574) 293-5070
www.elkhartindiana.org/eec

EnviroFest 2017 – Bigger and Greener!

Our annual event, EnviroFest, is coming up on Friday, July 14 at the Wellfield Botanic Gardens! The EEC is once again partnering with 88.1 WVPE Public Radio to put on a great family-friendly event full of music, delicious food, an interactive Kid’s Area, a variety of vendors and exhibitors, and a Beer & Wine Garden with eco-friendly wines, locally distilled spirits and beer—including a special beer brewed just for EnviroFest! This year is going to be bigger than ever with over 70 vendors and exhibitors!

The music stage will feature Goshen-based music sensation and national dulcimer hammer champion, Ted Yoder, 91 Strings. There will also be a live animal show from Indiana Wild in the Kid’s Area at 7:00 PM. We are looking forward to the games, crafts, and activities that will be taking place in the Kid’s Area, as well as the variety of local exhibitors and vendors that will be showcasing products, services, projects, and art related to sustainability and the environment. Learn more by going to the EnviroFest event on our Facebook page.

This year we are excited about several improvements—including new vertical banners to increase visibility of key areas (like the Raffle and Silent Auction booth and Kid’s Activity Area). There will also be new banners along the top of the tents that are easier to see from a distance!
**Volunteer for EnviroFest 2017**

Help make EnviroFest another success by volunteering! You can sign up online at our volunteer registration at SignUp.com - [http://signup.com/go/KPkMox](http://signup.com/go/KPkMox). You don’t need to create an account, but when you sign up please provide an email address or connect with your Facebook account. You can sign up for as many spots as you want and you can register for more than one person if you are bringing friends or family with you! Contact the EEC if you need assistance or send an email to Trina Bailey at sassyclassy@gmail.com. **Times and descriptions for the volunteer shifts are below.**

**Volunteer Orientation at the Wellfield Botanic Gardens**

*Required for all volunteers helping during the 4:00-9:00 PM event shift and recommended for all new volunteers, regardless of shift.*

Orientation 1st option: Saturday, July 8th from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
Orientation 2nd option: Tuesday, July 11th from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
*Please check in at the visitor cottage near the front parking lot.

---

**Volunteer Schedule for EnviroFest on July 14th**

**Morning Setup** 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
**Vendor/Event Setup** 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM
**Event Staff** 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM
**Vendor/Event Tear Down** 9:00 PM – End

**Volunteer Activities for EnviroFest:**

**Morning Setup** - Assist in unloading and setting up tables, tents, and other items for the event
**Vendor/Event Setup** - Set up chairs, tables, banners; direct and assist vendors; assist vendors with unloading
**Event Staff** - Staff booths (EEC booth, Info booth, etc.); assist in kid’s area; assist guests; check IDs for wristbands; empty trash and recycling containers
**Vendor/Event Tear Down** - Direct and guide vendors out of the Gardens at the end of the event; take down and put away tents, tables, chairs; remove trash and recycling boxes

For more event information go to [www.elkhartindiana.org/EnviroFest](http://www.elkhartindiana.org/EnviroFest) and follow the event on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ElkhartEnvironmentalCenter](http://www.facebook.com/ElkhartEnvironmentalCenter).

---

**EEC Master Plan Update**

The Elkhart Environmental Center's Master Plan now has a physical report! It has been approved by the City’s Board of Public Works and is now tabled and awaiting approval by the City’s Common Council. It is still moving forward and we will keep working hard to make sure we meet the needs and interests of our community as expressed through this plan.

Once the Master Plan has been approved, it will be posted on our website for you to view and download ([www.elkhartindiana.org/eec](http://www.elkhartindiana.org/eec)). We will keep you updated on the progress of the plan and we hope you will support it as we move forward. Your support is incredibly important in helping us successfully connect with community resources that can bring this plan to life!
CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The EEC seeks volunteers for a variety of projects and tasks. Contact us at EECmail@coei.org or call 574-293-5070 to find out how you can help with one or more of the following opportunities.

Community Events
EnviroFest - Friday, July 14
Help us make our annual EnviroFest another success! Sign up to help with set up, clean up, or during the event with activities. Register online at http://signup.com/go/KPkMoxj or contact the EEC for more information.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - TBD (Second week of August)
One of our favorite events of the year! As a thank you to all of our volunteers, we invite you to join us to celebrate YOU and all you do for the EEC. Please join us for food activities, prizes, and more! Help pick the date by voting here - https://beta.doodle.com/poll/bhgzi57bqym85uy#table.

Group Projects
Reflection Grove - Year-round
This outdoor education area needs some work. We need to clean and stain the viewing deck, pull weeds, and spread woodchips. Perfect for groups!

Learning Garden - Year-round
This is a raised bed garden that needs some care including removing weeds, spreading compost and woodchips, harvesting vegetables, and planting seeds. It is also available for groups through the Adopt-a-Spot program.

Invasive Shrub Removals - Year-round
Invasive honeysuckle shrubs are growing along the river and wetlands at the EEC and they need to be removed. This is perfect for even large groups.

Nature lovers
Trail Maintenance - Year-round
Trails around the center need some care. From spreading woodchips to fixing and relocating benches, volunteers can help make the trails even better and more welcoming to the public!

Adopt-a-Trail - Year-round
Help care for trails at Boot Lake Nature Preserve and the EEC. Volunteers keep trails clear of trash and debris.

Adopt-a-Spot - Year-round
Similar to the Adopt-A-Trail program, Adopt-A-Spot is for groups. This entails keeping the area clean, weeding and special tasks for your spot like planting seeds.

Featured Summer Project
Learning Garden
The Learning Garden is our on-site edible education garden. In the past, it has been an excellent tool in teaching about sustainable food practices and where food comes from, but it is currently being overtaken by weeds! Our garden beds could use some TLC in the form of weeding, spreading of woodchips on the paths between the beds, and picking the delicious vegetables that are growing. This is a good project for individuals who enjoy gardening, or even small groups. It is also available to be adopted through the Adopt-a-Spot program (see page 3).
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Intro to Beekeeping: A 3-Part, Hands-on Series with Beekeeper Stephen Pearson
6:00 – 8:00 PM July 11th, 18th, 25th at the Wellfield Botanic Gardens. 1101 N. Main St., Elkhart, IN
Are you interested in honeybees or have you considered beekeeping as a hobby? Here’s your chance! Wellfield Botanic Gardens’ Volunteer Beekeeper, Steve Pearson, provides a practical approach to learning, with hands-on demonstrations combined with in-class presentations, handouts, and other resources to get you started. In this 3-part series you’ll learn about honeybees, how to setup your hives, and hive maintenance. Participants receive a copy of “First Lessons In Beekeeping” by Dr. Keith Delaplane. Cost for all three classes: $65 public; $50 members.

Woodworking 101
5:00 – 7:00 PM July 22nd & 25th at Make South Bend, 2228 Mishawaka Ave, South Bend, IN
If you want to start working with the wood shop at MAKE SOUTH BEND, this class will introduce to the basic use of most of their wood shop tools and let you make a small project. After all, hands on practice is the best kind. After taking one of their 101 or Safety classes, you’ll be able to work on your own projects in the wood shop at your leisure. July 22nd featured project: birdhouse; July 25th featured project: tray. This class is recommended for those 13 years and older. Great for adults and teens who want to start woodworking. Cost: $45

EEC Updates
You may have noticed some lag in our communication lately. From mid-May through early June the computers and phone lines were down and again from mid to late June. We are back up and running now and the city recently approved a contract with Comcast that will, among other things, result in a new fiber optic line being installed here, which is expected to dramatically improve our connection and allow us to work more efficiently. We can’t wait!

PHOTO FUN
2016 Olympic Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Find Us
You can learn about the Elkhart Environmental Center and the programs and volunteer opportunities by visiting our Website: www.elkhartindiana.org/eec, liking us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ElkhartEnvironmentalCenter, inquiring by email: eecmail@coei.org, or by calling: 574-293-5070.

For other formats contact the Elkhart Environmental Center
Voice: (574) 293-5070                     Email: eecmail@coei.org