

Environment Top 10 Service Projects for 2025

1. **GFWC/Iowa Maquoketa Woman's Club (30 members)** volunteered at an Iowa State Park in their community, Maquoketa Caves State Park. Their volunteering hours were spent in the gift/welcomer center. They also helped with Park clean-up, hosting events and assisted with the children's educational programs. Volunteer Hours – 145
2. **GFWC/Iowa Maquoketa Woman's Club (30 members)** volunteer at their Jackson County Conservation Department's Hurstville Interpretive Center. They have developed a close relationship with the center so they are contacted when they need volunteer assistance. They assist with educational programs, the composting brigade efforts at the farmers market and recycling programs including efforts with holiday lights, Styrofoam, and plastic bottle caps. They donated the plastic bottle caps to a local Girl Scouts troop who have been able to install two benches with the recycled plastic. They assisted with conducting surveys on eagles' nests, toads and frogs, and helped conduct the mobile acoustic bat survey. They also assisted with the Monarch Butterfly tagging program. This year they also helped coordinate a new effort, a clothing swap. They kept 1,350 pounds of clothing out of the landfill. They sent 880 pounds of clothing home with Maquoketa families and the rest to local agencies. Volunteer Hours – 354
3. **GFWC/Iowa Akron Friendship and Service Club (41 members)** purchased trees from the Arbor Day Foundation for the Local 4th graders at the Akron-Westfield Community School as an Earth Day Project. The trees came bundled and tied together. The club separated the trees and repackaged them for distribution. The trees were given to the students at an assembly on Earth Day 2025. The students were encouraged to plant and care for the trees, in turn caring for the environment. Volunteer Hours 5, Dollars \$110
4. **GFWC/Iowa Aurelia Woman's Club (24 members)** contacted the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District to request a donation of trees for their third graders at the Aurelia Elementary School in celebration of Earth Day as they do each year. This year the County donated 21 American Cranberry Bushes for students. The club members presented the bushes along with instructions for planting and caring for them. They also presented a program on the history of Arbor Day. Volunteer Hours 12
5. **GFWC/Iowa Peterson Tuesday Club (19 members)**. Was approached by the City Clerk requesting monetary support and purchase of flowers for planting in their Main Street planters. The city is aware that the club also maintains the community flower garden. The club decided to fund this project and wrote them a check for \$613. Volunteer Hours 1, In-Kind Donation \$613

6. **GFWC/Iowa Akron Friendship and Service Club of Akron (41 members)**
collaborated with two local organizations to assist the Johnson Juniors 4-H members to design several flower beds in two parks in Akron. The 4-H club members also designed planters, choosing grass and flowers that would enhance the beauty of the parks. They purchased both perennial and annual plants and assisted the 4-H members.
Volunteer Hours 8, In-Kind Donations \$250.
7. **GFWC/Iowa Granger Women's Club (25 members)** planted a new garden with several perennials and blooming annuals across the front of local Public Library and Community Center in Granger. The garden beautifies the building and gives color and a new fresh look from Spring to Fall with a variety of blooming plants each month. The club added a sign with their name in the garden to make the public aware of their club and maintenance of the garden. Club members watered, weeded, and dead headed the plants throughout the season. The building and garden are visited daily by library and community center patrons. Volunteer Hours 20, Dollars Donated \$37
8. **GFWC/Iowa Solon Women's Club (25 members)** Recycle monofilament fishing line by emptying recycle bins on the federal land adjacent to the Coralville Reservoir. The club continues to clean and maintain 5 bins they originally made and donated to the U.S. Corps of Engineers in 2012. This year they worked with the Corps of Engineers to clean these bins out 10 different times. They emptied the bins, separated the trash, hooks and bobbers, etc. from the line. They then packaged and mailed a large bale of line to Berkley Recycling in Spirit Lake, Iowa. They started cleaning the bins in April and then finished this year in November before winter weather. Other recyclable items placed in the bins are now also recycled. They replaced screw-on PVC pipe end caps from the bins this year after they disappeared. This project helps keep fishing line from strangling wildlife and swimmers and helps to keep line from damaging boat propellers.
Volunteer Hours 40, Cost mailing \$11.50 and end caps \$16
9. **GFWC/Iowa Solon Women's Club (25 members)** No More Butts Project. Cigarette butts were collected in their monofilament recycle bins and on the federal land along the river edge where fishermen stand to fish. The club also continues to partner with the Solon American Legion to empty their cigarette receptacles outside the Legion front door where patrons sit to smoke. They emptied the receptacles once a week when possible. They now pick up butts along the entire block on this Main Street in Solon, in the gutters, along the sidewalks and in the alleyway. It helps keep these cigarettes and the plastic particles in the filters from entering the water supply through the city sewers. They sent two shipments to TerraCycle for recycling of the cigarette materials. One shipment was sent at the end of the summer and one at the end of December. Volunteer Hours 50

10. **GFWC/Iowa Akron Friendship Service (41 members)** reported that 11 members worked on an Earth Day community clean up project at the Akron Area Historical Museum. Members brought rakes, clippers and scrub brushes to clean and clear the flowerbeds, a patio area and green space at the museum. They cleared the winter debris and plant foliage to allow and encourage new growth of the plants. A member's spouse assisted in hauling the debris to be disposed of properly. They left the area ready to be enjoyed by Museum visitors. Volunteer Hours 23, In-Kind Donations \$10

Karen Martinek
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