



## **OFFICE OF THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois 61802-4581

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**Darlene A. Kloeppe, County Executive**

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### MEDIA RELEASE

Date: July 12, 2022  
Re: Champaign County's AmeriCorps NCCC Team  
Contact: County Executive Darlene Kloeppe 217-819-3425

Three government agencies in Champaign County are receiving some much-needed help from AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) for service projects that will improve our local natural environment.

The Champaign County Department of Planning and Zoning, the City of Urbana Public Works Department and the Champaign County Forest Preserve District are working jointly to host a team of seven AmeriCorps NCCC members to complete three service projects in Champaign County from mid-July through mid-August. Members come from all over the United States, and all have unique experiences and interests.

Service Project #1, headed by the Champaign County Department of Planning and Zoning, will organize a series of neighborhood clean-up events in neighborhoods and along roadways in Urbana Township.

Service Project #2, overseen by the City of Urbana Public Works Department, will promote tree health and environmental education through tree planting along right-of-way areas in the city, with a focus in lower-income neighborhoods.

Service Project #3, coordinated by the Champaign County Forest Preserve District, will concentrate on improving natural areas, removing invasive species, and promoting ecologic restoration in the county.

AmeriCorps NCCC is a federal agency that matches teams of young adult volunteers with local organizations through a regional application process for short-term projects focusing on the improvement of communities in natural areas and neighborhoods, creating greener, waste-free living and environmentally educated residents. Volunteers commit for one year and receive a stipend, living expenses at their work sites and assistance with college tuition.

Champaign County benefitted from a previous positive experience with an AmeriCorps NCCC team several years ago, when the Forest Preserve partnered with the Regional Planning Commission's Weatherization Program to host a team. County Executive Darlene Kloeppe says, "Having the AmeriCorps team here is mutually beneficial – the county receives help for some special initiatives that might not have gotten done, and the team members have interesting experiences around America and add useful skills and a good reference to their career resumes. I'm thrilled we were able to be matched with a team this summer."

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