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REI SPONSORS BADGER AMMO PLANT WORKDAY

By Heidi Royal

The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance announces a continued partnership with Madison based REI to offer service learning opportunities to community volunteers at the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant through the Alliance's Volunteer Restoration Program.

Two volunteer workdays will be co-hosted by the Alliance and REI at Badger. Volunteers will work side by side Saturday July 9 from 9am to 12noon, removing invasive species from remnant prairie and savanna sites inside the Badger fence. Focus will be on the Hillside Prairie remnant off Hwy 78, just south of Devil's Lake State Park. Activities may include cutting invasive shrubs, pulling Dame's rocket, honeysuckle, or burdock, or collecting native seed.

Volunteers should wear long pants, weather-appropriate clothing, closed-toe shoes, and bring drinking water. Work gloves are strongly recommended, however extras may be provided. Volunteers will receive an REI "Get Dirty" volunteer tshirt. The next opportunity to get involved will be Saturday August 13. Please visit <http://www.rei.com/stores/48> for more information on how to register.

Contributing over 750 volunteer hours annually toward land management efforts at Badger, the Volunteer Restoration Program is a vital component of the Alliance's mission of promoting conservation of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant lands and the greater Sauk Prairie landscape through ecological restoration, education, research and recreation. By providing opportunities for individuals and partner organizations to pursue these activities guided by the values and goals of the Badger Reuse Plan, the Alliance hopes to create a community of active citizen stewardship at Badger.

REI is a national outdoor retail co-op dedicated to inspiring, educating and outfitting its members and local communities for a lifetime of outdoor adventure and stewardship, forging meaningful connections between people, places, and non-profit partners! REI began a partnership with the Alliance in 2010.

To learn more about Volunteer Restoration opportunities, please contact Heidi Royal, Alliance Coordinator, at heidi@saukprairievision.org. For a complete list of upcoming restoration workdays, visit the Alliance's online calendar at www.saukprairievision.org/newsroom.