



VOLUNTEER MEETING

Volunteer meetings are a great way to meet new people, hear about upcoming volunteer opportunities and learn something interesting from an exciting lineup of guest speakers. Meetings take place at 7 p.m. in the Winton Centre Auditorium, unless otherwise noted. Coffee and tea are provided. Bring in your favorite baked goods to share. No need to RSVP, just come and enjoy!

Jan 15, 2019—The Civic Garden Center was founded in 1942 and is the second oldest, non-profit civic garden center in Ohio. Their mission is building community through gardening, education and environmental stewardship. Come join Kylie Johnson as she “walks” us through all the wonderful work the Civic Garden Center does throughout the Cincinnati community.

Mar 19, 2019—Jack Sutton, Great Parks Chief Executive Officer, will take a look back at 2018 and also provide some insight on what lies ahead in 2019. Stay informed with what’s going on in the park district. Jack’s annual state-of-the-park address is something you won’t want to miss.

May 21- Stay tuned!

Jul 16 – Stay tuned!

When recording your hours in VIC for volunteer meetings, log them under [Volunteer Meeting \[Training/Volunteer Services\]](#). Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Kris Roselle, Volunteer Services Manager

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?” - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

For many of us, January is a time of reflection. We think about the previous year - perhaps things we wished we would have done differently, and we also celebrate our successes. Many of us also use January to look to the future. We’re setting goals for ourselves and promising to do things better the next time around.

I’m no exception! I’ve lamented over some missed opportunities last year and have begun setting my goals for 2019. One thing I have definitely decided to do this year is to volunteer more. Meeting individuals that are different than me and serving others is a passion of mine. It’s a great way to learn and grow as a human being and I can’t think of a better way to do that than give back to the community. In fact, I plan to get started this month on Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Monday, January 21.

The MLK Day of Service is a part of United We Serve, the President’s national call to service initiative. Legislation was signed in 1983 creating a federal holiday marking the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This holiday was first observed in 1986. Then, in 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, designating the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a national day of service. Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service – a “day on, not a day off.”

Participation in the MLK Day of Service has grown steadily over the past decade, with hundreds of thousands of Americans making an impact in their neighbors, cities, states and across the globe. Although Great Parks does not have a designated volunteer event on this day, because, well, baby its cold outside in Cincinnati this time of year, there are many other ways to get involved locally. You can read to a child, help with pet adoptions, feed the hungry, volunteer for hospice, and the opportunities just keep going on and on. If you’re interested in volunteering on MLK Day, here is a great website to get you started - <https://www.nationalservice.gov/mlkday>. Just click on “find a volunteer opportunity,” enter your zip code and away you go!




Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. lived his life serving others. I hope to make a difference, even if just a small one, by following his example and getting started on MLK Day. Remember, it’s a “day on, not a day off.”



THIS MONTH'S BLOG

A Loose Dog and A Lost Mink
<http://blog.greatparks.org/2018/11/a-loose-dog-and-a-lost-mink/>

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Volunteer Spotlight



ALL OF YOU!

What is your favorite volunteer activity? Gardening & landscaping, invasive plant removal, gathering and propagating native seed, aquaculture, MYPOP, tree planting, bluebird box monitoring, SRP – Wow! There's just too many to list!

How many years have you volunteered with Great Parks?

From 1 day to 40 years (psssst Randy Bales, Jim Meiser, Dot Topper & Steve Wagner)!

What is your favorite Great Park and why? Armleder, Campbell Lakes, Embshoff Woods, Farbach Werner, Fernbank, Francis RecreAcres, Glenwood Gardens – well...you love all of the Great Parks because they are ALL wonderful in their own way!

Why do you volunteer? For your health, to build a resume, create a sense of purpose, learn cool skills, make new friends, earn park benefits, receive school credit, help wildlife & the environment, and to make a difference in the community!

How many hours did you volunteer in 2018? 1 hour all the way up to over, 1,000 - wowser! **If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?** That's easy – A Great Park! Right?

Thank you for a wonderful 2018!

Try Something New!

Please review the list of programs below. If you are able to assist with the activity, phone or email the event supervisor to volunteer. **Click on any bolded assignment category and you will be hyperlinked to the VIC login portal.**

AVOCA

Thu 1/17, noon to 2 p.m.:

Landscape Maintenance at Avoca Trailhead

It's time to warm up those green thumbs! Our Conservation and Parks team needs your help getting the Avoca Trailhead ready for the 2019 season! We'll be cleaning up landscape beds, cutting ornamental grasses and pruning shrubs. Be sure to dress for the weather and bring plenty of water! Meet at the Avoca Trailhead. To volunteer, contact Chris Glassmeyer at cglassmeyer@greatparks.org. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Gardening & Landscaping \[Avoca\] C&P East](#)].

SHAWNEE LOOKOUT

Sat 1/12, 9-noon:

Old Fashioned Japanese Honeysuckle Pull

This vine not only looks unsightly, it negatively affects our native plants. Help us remove this invasive plant while learning how you can use it to make baskets and wreaths. Trained herbicide applicators are a plus! Meet at Waterhole Shelter. To volunteer, contact Adam McCosham at amccosham@greatparks.org or phone 513-978-7198. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew \[Shawnee Lookout\] C&P West](#)].

WINTON WOODS

January, February & March, week days:

1803 Farm Sampler

Second grade students and their teachers will take a leap into Ohio's early statehood while they compare life today to the life of yesteryear.

Volunteers are needed to help with farm chores and fun activities. To volunteer, contact Eric King at eking@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-3276 ext. 107. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs \[Parky's Farm\] Education & Events](#)].

WOODLAND MOUND

Tue 1/8, noon–3 p.m.:

Non-Native Plant Control

Help cut and remove non-native plants from forest edges. Volunteers will cut and treat oriental bitter-sweet vines, bush honeysuckle, autumn olive and several other non-native and invasive plants. Removing them will promote native growth and open up wooded areas where park visitors will be able to enjoy the depth of our forests. Meet at Juneberry Shelter. To volunteer, contact Dan Hart at dhart@greatparks.org or phone 513-250-0925. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Stew Crew \[Woodland Mound\] C&P East](#)].



Phyllis Flick removing invasive honeysuckle during the National Public Lands Day Pollinator Trail project at Glenwood Gardens.

Get Certified in First Aid CPR

Sign up for National Safety Council First Aid CPR classes. First Aid CPR is an optional training, free and open to all Great Parks volunteers and employees. Certification cards will be mailed to you approximately 6 weeks after completion of training. All programs will be held in the Employee Training Center at Sharon Woods. Upcoming training dates are:

Tue 1/15, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Wed 1/23, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Thu 2/7, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Tue 2/19, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Wed 3/6, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Thu 3/14, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Tue 4/9, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



Register on line at: <https://volunteers-greatparks.bridge-app.com/login>.

If you register for this training and can no longer attend, please cancel or reschedule by logging into your Bridge account using the link above.

Not able to log into Bridge? Contact the Volunteer Services Department at volunteer@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275 and ask for Kris or Niki.

Please record these training hours under **First Aid CPR [Training\Risk Management]**. Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.

Annual Winter Hike Series

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately ..." – Henry David Thoreau, Walden

Lots and lots of volunteers are needed for one of Great Parks most popular events! Enjoy an opportunity to meet up with many happy hikers! Whether you are interested in leading a group of hikers, supporting a group as a follow-up hiker or lending a hand serving up warm soup and cookies, we would love your help. Before volunteering, please be aware this is an entirely outdoor event and some days it can be very cold. Brrrr! Also, hikes range between 4-5.5 miles and take place over uneven and hilly terrain. Some hikes are a little more challenging than others. You must be present for a 9:30 a.m. meeting prior to each hike you sign up for. To volunteer, contact Suzanne Roth at sroth@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-0075. For volunteers ages 18 and up.



Sat 1/5, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Winton Woods - [Winter Hike \[Winton Woods\Edu & Events\]](#)

Sat 1/12, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Sharon Woods - [Winter Hike \[Sharon Woods\Edu & Events\]](#)

Sat 1/19, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Woodland Mound - [Winter Hike \[Woodland Mound\Edu & Events\]](#)

Sat 1/26, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Shawnee Lookout - [Winter Hike \[Shawnee Lookout\Edu & Events\]](#)

Sat 2/2, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Miami Whitewater Forest - [Winter Hike \[Miami Whitewater\Edu & Events\]](#)

Thanks to our Winter Hike Series presenting sponsor, L.L.Bean, and interpretive sponsor, The Christ Hospital Health Network, for their generosity.

Thank you again for a wonderful 2018. We're looking forward to an equally awesome, better than ever, super-fantastic 2019. Happy Holidays!

