It’s Celebration Time at the Cincinnati History Museum
Kris Roselle, Volunteer Resources Manager

We’ll be celebrating 40 years of outstanding volunteer service on October 10! We have a wonderful evening planned for you at the newly renovated Cincinnati Museum Center, and we hope you can make it.

The event includes free admission, parking, and entrance to the Natural History Museum and Audubon Exhibit, along with dinner and years-of-service awards. You should have received your invitation by now but if not, phone or email the Volunteer Department and we’ll get one to you as quick as we can. Don’t miss out on the fun - RSVPs are due no later than September 27!

We can’t do what we do without you! A great big “thank you” goes out to all of you for your outstanding service to Great Parks, and congratulations to these wonderful volunteers who will receive special recognition during this year’s Volunteer Recognition Event.

40 years of service:
Randy Bales
Jim Meiser
Dot Topper
Steve Wagner

25 years of service:
Ruthie Coyle
Wayne Wauligman

20 years of service:
Christy Connelly
Mary Kay Luckey
Paul Luckey
Don Nagel
Mary Roth

15 years of service:
Jerry Boeckman
Betsy Frame
Dave Haney
Amy Gajus
Carol Gerold
Gayle Kowzan
Nick Ludwig
Mary Lou Osterfeld
Andrew Pardi
Penny Prass
Betsy Schulte
Bill Uffman
Lisa Van Sant
Angie Woods
Barb Zepf

10 years of service:
Brad Box
John Cheng
Peter Frame
Ann Frederick
Bob Hungler
Bob Karle
Jane Knecht
Joe Lechler
Mike Logue
John Martens
Beth Neumann
Mary Pater
Gene Sherwood
Ed Steinebrey
Greg Voorhies

How will you make a difference on Make a Difference Day? Check out Great Parks’ Make a Difference Day event on page 3 and sign up today!
Volunteer Spotlight

Leaves for Little Folks
Oct–Nov, dates and times vary
We’ll be celebrating trees and leaves! Preschool and kindergarten groups, along with their chaperones, will learn why foliage changes color and why leaves drift to the ground during this season. Volunteers are needed to assist with activities for preschool and kindergarten groups. Meet at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve Ellenwood Barn. To volunteer, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 18 and up. Interpreter Programs [Farbach Werner\Education & Events].

Pumpkin Patch for School Groups
Mon–Fri 10/1–11/1, 9:30 a.m.–noon & noon–2:30 p.m.
School groups will hop on a hayride to pick out the perfect pumpkin, visit farm animals, check out the fall crops and play in the Play Barn. Volunteers can help with animal tours, watch the Play Barn, provide wagon rides, drive golf carts and move pumpkins. Meet at the Hayloft Barn in Parky’s Farm. 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].

Stars, Sparks & Stories
Fri 10/4, 7–8 p.m.
Help us with family night where we provide the sparks and stories, and the families are the stars. The program begins with an interactive campfire full of songs, games and tales. Then, an odd group of judges will preside over the most popular nature trivia game show in all Great Parks. Volunteers will assist with fire tending (sparks) and programming (stories). Meet at Farbach Werner Nature Preserve Amphitheater. To volunteer, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpreter Programs [Farbach Werner\Education & Events].

Honeysuckle Removal at Shawnee Lookout
Sun 10/6, 1–4 p.m.
Now is a great time to tackle the seemingly ever-present bush honeysuckle. Help us remove this invasive plant to make room for natives! Trained herbicide applicators a plus.

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.

Peter and Betsy Frame
What is your favorite volunteer activity? (Betsy) I enjoy helping groups at Highfield Discovery Garden. I also have fond memories of watching monarch butterflies emerge and releasing them.

What is your favorite outdoor activity? (Pete) I like walking in a park, any park, and gardening. (Betsy) I enjoy planting flowers at home.

What is your favorite Great Parks memory? (Pete) Showing the garden trains at Highfield Discovery Garden to my grandchildren who were visiting from Amman, Jordan.

If you could be transported anywhere in the world, where would you like to go? (Betsy) Kigali, Rwanda to be with my two grandchildren. Most people would be surprised to learn I was born in Salt Lake City, Utah.

What is the most interesting thing you’ve recently learned? (Pete) Our Homo sapiens ancestors may have been in Europe 150,000 years earlier than previously thought!

What is your favorite hobby? (Betsy) Besides painting for Glenwood Gardens, I like to do genealogy.
Meet at Miami Fort Trail parking lot. 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].

Special Riders Program at Winton Woods
Mon, Wed, & Sat, 10/7-11/16
Mon 6:15–7:15 p.m.,
Wed 6:15–7:15 p.m.,
Sat 10:15–11:15 a.m.
Volunteers are needed to lead or walk beside horses ridden by Special Rider students during this therapeutic riding class. Lots of help is needed to alleviate the long waiting list of potential riders. Volunteer today for this very rewarding program. No experience necessary. Training is provided. To volunteer, contact Margie Rennie at mrennie1@icloud.com or phone 513-931-3057. For volunteers ages 14 and up. SRP [Riding Center\Guest Exp Central].

Seed Collection
Tue 10/8, 9 a.m.–noon
Meet at Baughman Wetland parking area to help Conservation & Parks and Natural Resources collect seeds from native flowers. Seeds are collected for the Shaker Trace Nursery to help ensure the abundance of native species in natural areas both inside and outside the parks. To volunteer, contact Alex Hearing at ahearing@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew [Miami Whitewater\C&P West].

Sharon Woods Stream Corridor Cleanup
Wed 10/9, 8–11 a.m.
Help clean up one of the many stream corridors found at Sharon Woods. We will be removing litter, invasive species, and blockages to the stream. Learn what creatures and plants call the streams home! Long pants and closed toe shoes are required. You may also want to bring a pair of knee boots. Meet at Lakeside Lodge parking lot located off Kemper Rd. To volunteer, contact Jeremy Barkley at jparkley@greatparks.org or phone 724-814-1008. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew [Sharon Woods\C&P East].

Chipmunk Shelter Invasive Removal
Thu 10/10, 9 a.m.–noon
Join us in the ongoing fight against invasive plants like honeysuckle, multiflora rose, Asian bittersweet and more. We need your help removing these unwanted plants to give our native trees new life and open a view into the forest. Meet at Woodland Mound Chipmunk Shelter. To volunteer, contact Dan Hart at dhart@greatparks.org or phone 513-250-0925. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew [Woodland Mound Park\C&P East].

Small Equipment Training
Sat 10/19 9 a.m.–noon
If you need to learn how to operate weed-eaters, power pruners or even basic hand tools for volunteer tasks, here is your opportunity to get some training. Perfect for first-timers or those who have already received training but need a refresher. Meet at the Shawnee Lookout Maintenance Building. To sign up, contact Adam McCosham at amccosham@greatparks.org or phone 513-978-7198. For volunteers ages 18 and up. Stew Crew [Training\C&P West].

Black Walnut Weekend
Sat 10/19 & Sun 10/20,
noon–4 p.m.
Families will celebrate nature’s nuttiest harvest in the Midwest – BLACK WALNUTS! This event has something for the whole family, including games, crafts, tastings and live music. Volunteers will greet guests and interact at stations including hikes, crafts, food sampling, walnut cracking and more. Meet at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve Ellenwood Barn. To volunteer, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpreter Programs [Farbach Werner\Education & Events].

Francis RecreAcres Invasive Removal
Wed 10/23, 8–11 a.m.
Come out to Francis RecreAcres to help control invasive species found

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. Trainings are held at the Sharon Woods Employee Training Center, adjacent to the Sharon Centre. Certification cards will be mailed to you approximately 6 weeks after completion of training. Upcoming training dates are:

- Wed 10/16, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Tue 10/8, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Registration closes one-week prior to training so don’t delay. Sign up on-line at: https://volunteers-greatparks.bridgeapp.com/login. (your user name is your 6 digit volunteer ID number found on your photo ID card. Example: 000987 or 009876)

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.
Great Parks Earns Auditor of State Award
Kimberly Whitton, Public Engagement Coordinator

Great Parks of Hamilton County has earned an Auditor of State Award for excellent record keeping based on a 2018 financial review by the Auditor of State’s office.

This award is presented to local governments and school districts upon the completion of a full financial review. Entities that receive this award meet the criteria of a “clean” audit, including timely reports and reports not containing any financial concerns.

The Auditor of State’s office, one of five independently elected statewide offices in Ohio, is responsible for auditing more than 6,000 state and local government agencies. Under the direction of Auditor Keith Faber, the office also provides financial services to local governments, investigates and prevents fraud in public agencies and promotes transparency in government.

Trail Touch Up
Thu 10/24, 9 a.m.–noon
Learn about trail features such as nicks, gradients, check-dams and water bars while working on some of the most picturesque trails in the park district. Your efforts will create a more sustainable trail system and a safer hike for trail users. Meet at Timberlakes parking lot. To volunteer, contact Alex Hearing at ahearing@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew [Frances RecreAcres\C&P East].

Preserving Nature at Withrow
Sat 10/26, 9 a.m.–noon
Join us in the ongoing fight against invasive vines like Asian bittersweet, porcelain vine and English ivy. We need your help removing these unwanted plants that are smothering native species. Your help in removing the vines will give the trees new life and provide a safer walk for our guests. Meet us in the Withrow Nature Preserve parking lot. To volunteer, contact Dan Hart at dhart@greatparks.org or phone 513-250-0925. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew [Withrow Nature Preserve\C&P East].

Make a Difference Day
Sat 10/26, 9 a.m.–noon
Join us for the Great Miami River Sweep at Shawnee Lookout. We’re one of 22 sites along the Great Miami River, from Indian Lake to Shawnee Lookout, helping to keep the river clean. Come alone or bring your group to get the litter out of this important waterway. Free t-shirts while supplies last. Wear old clothing, gloves and boots. Meet at the Shawnee Lookout Canoe-Kayak Launch. To volunteer for this community event, register on-line at greatparks.org/volunteer or contact Niki Marengo at nmarengo@greatparks.org or at 513-245-7471. For volunteers of all ages. Park Cleanup [Shawnee Lookout\C&P West].

Nature at Night: Pumpkin Hike
Sat 10/26, 6:30 p.m.
Jack-o’-lanterns will light the way as park guests explore nature at night along the Pin Oak Trail. Volunteers are needed to help staff activities inside and outside of the barn, set out pumpkins, light the jack-o-lanterns and more.

Bring a flashlight! Meet at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve Ellenwood Barn. To volunteer, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpreter Programs [Farbach Werner\Education & Events].

Visitor Center and Gift Shop Help
Call for days and shift times
Volunteers are needed to help provide park guests with truly memorable experiences. If you enjoy making someone’s day better, volunteer at Miami Whitewater Forest or Glenwood Gardens Visitor Centers. You will answer phones, assist guests with purchases, run the cash register, answer questions and do some light housekeeping which will make the facility shine. Training provided. For volunteers ages 18 and up.

To volunteer at Miami Whitewater Forest, contact Vickie Brech at vbrech@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4774. Visitor Center/Niche [Miami Whitewater\Guest Exp West].

To volunteer at Glenwood Gardens, contact Doug Stevenson at dstevenson@greatparks.org or phone 513-771-8733, ext. 110. Visitor Center/Niche [Glenwood Gardens\Guest Exp Central].