We’re Growing to Three!
Kris Roselle, Volunteer Resources Manager

Niki and I are happy to announce the hiring of Volunteer Resources Coordinator Lauren McClure. Lauren graduated from the Ohio State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Anthropological Sciences and Zoology. She was quickly hired by the Cincinnati Zoo where she led weekly environmental-themed summer camps for children and teens, and she taught education programs to people of all ages and backgrounds throughout the greater Cincinnati region. Lauren also engaged corporate and community volunteers in service projects and assisted in recruitment, training and management of volunteers in the Zoo’s Volunteer Educators Program. Lauren has a comprehensive knowledge of volunteer management, a wealth of experience working with underserved youth and a strong and expansive list of community connections.

Lauren is an avid hiker, swimmer and loves to travel – she recently spent a month in Europe and went on a road trip through Washington, Idaho and Montana. Lauren learned how to crochet when she was 10 years old and hasn’t stopped creating things since! She loves to read and hopes to have her own at-home library one day. Lauren is very passionate about sustainability and tries to live the greenest life she can. Jane Goodall, who Lauren had the good fortune to meet twice, is one of her biggest heroes. Her work inspired Lauren to study Anthropology and Primatology in college.

Lauren will grow our Volunteer Resources team to three, which will allow us to do a bit of a department reorganization. She will be focusing on the long-term teen volunteer program and, once she gets that under her belt, will take on the long-term adult volunteer program. She will also be looking at ways to build relationships with underserved communities as she works to grow these programs.

Niki will be shifting her focus to schools, scouts, community and corporate groups that would like to partner with Great Parks on a one-time or short-term basis. She’ll be busy working with our field staff to develop meaningful projects with these groups, and she’ll also be working to expand this program by reaching out to new community partners.

And me? I’ll be focusing on directing and managing the overall volunteer program, helping Niki and Lauren where needed and working on ways to support our staff who work directly with you!

Lauren’s first day was October 21. We’re excited for you to meet her. Feel free to stop by the Winton Centre and give her a warm Great Parks welcome!

THIS MONTH’S BLOG
Awesome Photo Walk Photos
Leaves for Little Folks  
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].

Stars, Sparks & Stories  
Fri 11/1, 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 of 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 18 and up. Interpreter Programs [Farbach Werner\Education & Events].

Bear Badge Day: Fur, Feathers, and Ferns  
Sat 11/2, 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.  
Volunteers are needed to assist Cub Scouts and their leaders with nature exploration activities as we help them complete the necessary requirements for the Fur, Feathers and Ferns badge. This will take place outside so dress for the weather. Meet at the Glenwood Gardens Cotswold Visitor Center. To volunteer, contact Randi Greathouse at rgreathouse@greatparks.org or phone 513-931-3057. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Interpreter Programs [Glenwood Gardens\Education & Events].
Sharon Woods Harbor Overlook Invasive Plant Removal
Wed 11/06, 8–11 a.m.
Come out to Sharon Woods to help control invasive shrub and plant species. Learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them. You’ll also be creating better habitat for our native plants and wildlife. Meet at the Lakewood Lodge parking lot, located right off Kemper Rd. To volunteer, contact Jeremy Barkley at jbarkley@greatparks.org or phone 724-814-1008. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew [Sharon Woods\Education & Events].

Saving Trees at Woodland Mound
Thu, 11/14 & 11/21, 9 a.m.–noon
Join the Woodland Mound Conservation & Parks team in their ongoing fight against invasive vines along one of the entrance roads. Removing Asian bittersweet and English ivy will give trees new life and provide a safer walk for our guests. Meet at Juneberry 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\C&P East].

Holiday in Lights 5K
Sat 11/16, 5 p.m.
Volunteers are needed to help with everything from race day registration to handing out water to passing out food to runners during this very popular 3.1-mile 5K run/walk through the holiday lights. To volunteer, contact Liz Keer at lkeer@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551, ext. 285. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Special Events [Sharon Woods\Education & Events].

Santaland
Fridays & Saturdays 5:30–10:30 p.m.
Sundays–Thursdays 5:30–9:30 p.m.
After Holiday in Lights, guests will head inside Sharon Centre for family-friendly entertainment, a train display, holiday shopping, sweet treats and SANTA! Lots of volunteers are needed to pass out event information, queue the Santa line and help in the indoor play area. To volunteer, contact Liz Keer at lkeer@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3551, ext. 285. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Special Events [Sharon Woods\Education & Events].

Francis Homestead Dump Site Cleanup
Wed 11/20, 8–11 a.m.
Come out to the Francis Homestead to help remove a dumpsite that was located after removing honeysuckle. You’ll improve wildlife habitat and get to explore one of Great Parks newest parks. Meet us at the Francis RecreAcres parking lot located on the east side of Conrey Road. To volunteer, contact Jeremy Barkley at jbarkley@greatparks.org or phone 724-814-1008. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew [Francis RecreAcres\C&P East].

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:
Thu 11/7, 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Wed 11/13, 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.
2020 MVPS AND RECREATION CARDS COMING SOON

Annual year-end volunteer mailings, which include your 2020 motor vehicle permit (MVP) and 2020 recreation card(s), are coming soon. To ensure you receive these items in a timely manner, and admittedly, to make our jobs a bit easier, please make sure your mailing address is current and begin updating your hours today. Any 2019 hours entered after we generate the Great Parks Annual Report the first week of January will be accepted, but cannot be used for grant writing and fund raising purposes. Therefore, it is extremely important to enter your hours and keep them updated through the end of the year. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to reach out to Kris, Niki or Lauren at volunteer@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275.

Year-end Mailing Schedule:

- Today: Get caught up on recording your volunteer service and make sure your mailing address in VIC is up-to-date.
- Friday, November 1: Volunteer Resources will run a service hour report.
- Friday, November 8: Reminder letters will be mailed to volunteers whose hours are not up to date based on the November 1 service report.
- Friday, December 6: Volunteer Resources will run a second service hour report.
- Friday, December 13: Packets with 2020 MVPs will be mailed to volunteers whose hours are up to date based on the December 6 service report.
- Friday, December 13: A second reminder letter will be mailed to volunteers whose hours are not up to date based on the December 6 service report.
- Friday, January 3: Volunteer Resources will run a third service hour report.
- Friday, January 10: 2020 recreation cards will be mailed to volunteers who earned them based on the January 3 service report.
- Friday, January 17: We will begin mailing packets with 2020 MVPs to volunteers whose hours were turned in late, after the December 6 service report.
- Friday, January 17: Inactive letters will be mailed to volunteers who did not enter or update their hours and did not respond to previous communications about their hours mailed on November 8 and December 13.
- Friday, January 17: Volunteers may begin requesting second MVPs if they drive two different vehicles for volunteering. Second MVPs are for volunteer use only and should not be shared with friends or family members.

2020 packets will contain:

- 1-2020 motor vehicle permit
- 1-2020 paper time sheet
- Other fun stuff!

Recreation cards will not be included in 2020 packets. They will be mailed separately according to the schedule above. You will receive:

- 1-2020 recreation card if you contributed 100 hours of service in 2019.
- 2-2020 recreation cards if you contributed 250 hours or more in 2019.

Great Parks of Hamilton County is one of the premier park systems in the state of Ohio because of your awesome talent and outstanding support. Thank you for a wonderful 2019!