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!

**Tue, Mar 17** – Todd Palmeter, Great Parks Chief Executive Officer, will take a look back at 2019 and provide insight on what lies ahead in 2020. Stay tuned with what’s going on in the park district.

**Tue, May 19** – Shara Clark, Professor at Miami University, and Dan Marsh, Director of Education at the Cincinnati Zoo, will share their experiences in Namibia, Africa as a part of the Project Dragonfly Master’s Program. Hear about their work with the Cheetah Conservation Fund and how conservation organizations can succeed in partnering with local communities to save wildlife.

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.
Lin Huelsman

What is your life motto? To have a positive attitude, always greet people with a smile and treat others the way you want to be treated.

What are three things on your bucket list?
To take a ride on a giant farm tractor
Tour the Kentucky Bourbon Trail
Visit Yellowstone National Park.

What did you want to be growing up?
From the fourth grade on, I knew I wanted to be a teacher. My neighbor and I used to fight over who would be the teacher when we grew up. What’s ironic is that both of us became teachers.

What is your favorite volunteer activity/memory?
Without a doubt, all volunteer activities are rewarding and fun. My passion would be for the Special Riders Program where you are matched up with a rider for approximately 10 weeks. You watch them bond with the horse and grow in their confidence and ability in handling the animal. Nothing is better than seeing the rider smile at you during their lesson.

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.

Bird Hike/Volunteer Appreciation Event
Wed 2/5, 8–11 a.m.
We want to take the time to appreciate all the hard work Sharon Woods volunteers have put in to improve the habitat for our native flora and fauna! Come out to Sharon Woods to investigate what bird species call Ohio home during winter. This is an opportunity open to all Great Parks volunteers! Bring your own binoculars. Meet at the Gorge Trail parking lot. To join, contact Jeremy Barkley at jbarkley@greatparks.org or phone 724-814-1008. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew [Woodland Mound\C&P East]

Francis RecreAcres Invasive Removal
Wed 2/19, 8–11 a.m.
Come out to Francis Homestead to help control the invasive species. Also learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyard and how to properly remove them. Meet at the Francis RecreAcres parking lot. 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]

Woodland Mound Trail Maintenance
Thu 2/6, noon–3 p.m.
Help the Woodland Mound Conservation & Parks team improve the Hedgeapple Trail! We’ll walk the trail, talk about what is working, and fix any issues. Your help will provide a safer and more pleasant hike for our guests. Meet at the Weston Shelter parking lot. 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]

Glenwood Gardens Invasive Removal
Thu 2/20, 9 a.m.–noon
Get ready for the Glenwood Gardens honeysuckle hunt and removal! We’ll be removing this invasive species to improve native wildlife habitat. Meet in the parking lot near the service road in the back of Glenwood Gardens. To volunteer, contact Shaun McClary at smclary@greatparks.org or phone 513-869-9525. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew [Glenwood Gardens\C&P Central].
Withrow Nature Preserve
Invasive Removal
Sat 2/22, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Join the Conservation & Parks team to improve the woodlands at Withrow! We will remove invasive plants between the parking lot and Trout Lily Trail. There will also be a pot of homemade chili to keep you warm if the weather is frigid. Meet at 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\C&P East]

Winter Litter Pickup
Thu 2/27, 9 a.m.–noon
Join us to pick up litter around the Inner Loop Bike Trail and around the surrounding tree line, where litter tends to collect and often goes unnoticed. Meet at Shaker Trace Hike/Bike Trail parking lot. To volunteer, contact Alex Hearing at ahearing@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4626. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Park Cleanup [Miami Whitewater\C&P West]

Hunt for Celandine
Wed 2/26, 9–11 a.m.
Join us to help scout, seek, and remove lesser celandine. We are constantly working to improve our habitats and insure this invasive plant doesn’t take hold! Trained herbicide applicators a plus. Meet at the Shawnee Lookout Maintenance Building. 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]

Hunt for Celandine
Sat 2/29, 1–3 p.m.
Join us to help scout, seek, and remove lesser celandine. We are constantly working to improve our habitats and insure this invasive plant doesn’t take hold! Trained herbicide applicators a plus. Meet at the Shawnee Lookout Maintenance Building. 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]

Repair Projects at Farbach Werner
Help us restore Great Parks history! We are looking for skilled individuals to aid in two separate “restores.”
1. Recaning antique chairs from the 1940’s to use in the Ellenwood Barn. Experience in caning is necessary. Volunteers will need to bring their own tools, however, some tools could be purchased depending upon the need.
2. Repairing and retuning an old player piano housed in the Ellenwood Barn. Experience in piano repair is necessary. Volunteers will need to bring their own tools, however, some tools could be purchased depending upon the need.
If interested in either project, please contact Susan Sumner at ssumner@greatparks.com or phone 513-385-4811. Repairs & Renovations [Farbach Werner\Education & Events]

Volunteers and Park Staff join forces to tackle invasive species!
Our Conservation & Parks Team want to extend a huge thank you to Tom Nault! Tom single-handedly cleared a large section of bush honeysuckle from a very popular overlook on the Blue Jacket Trail at Shawnee Lookout. You can see by the pictures what a huge difference is made in the view and the mission of conservation within the park district. Clearing that invasive honeysuckle will allow more native plants to grow and support local wildlife. Great job, Tom, and thank you to everyone who assists with invasive plant removal. Your work is much appreciated! —Adam McCosham

**Fall Prevention Workshop**

Interested in learning how to protect yourself from falls?

“Stepping On” is a **FREE** evidence-based falls prevention workshop through Whole Home that meets 2 hours a week for 7 weeks. Trained leaders and guest experts coach you to recognize your risk of falling and help you build the balance, strength and practical skills you need to gain confidence and stay active in your community.

This workshop is designed for people 60 and older who live independently. This is NOT meant for people who use a wheelchair full time or have cognitive impairments. They provide exercise instruction, physical items on display, and a home assessment offered by a “Certified Aging in Place Specialist”.

Two concurrent classes will begin on Feb 18 at the Whole Home Innovation Center located at 4628 Paddock Rd. Classes occur on:

- Tuesdays 2/18-3/31, 10 a.m.-noon
- Tuesdays 2/18-3/31, 2-4 p.m.

To register or for more information, visit the Whole Home website or contact Sara Bourgeois at 513-482-5100 or sarab@wholehome.org.

**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:

- Tue 2/4, 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](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 hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.