Kay Capetillo
Years of Service – 12

What might we be surprised to know about you? I lived in Mexico for many years and I have been blessed with 10 children and 46 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren

If you could go anywhere in the world where would it be? Right now I would want to go to Germany to visit my son and his family again. Another place to visit would be Hawaii

When not at Great Parks where would we find you? I most likely would be on a soccer field or volleyball court with my grandchildren or visiting my kids in Michigan, Connecticut, Minnesota or New York

What is your favorite outdoor activity? Walking and hiking in Great Parks or the National parks

What hobbies are you passionate about? I enjoy crocheting, reading mystery novels and playing the flute

Volunteer Spotlight

Join the 2021 City Nature Challenge!

Great Parks is joining forces with the Cincinnati Park Board to compete in an international competition called the City Nature Challenge. It takes place from April 30 through May 3. Simply download the free app, iNaturalist to take photos and record environmental data. Hundreds of cities around the world will be calling on their citizen scientists to bioblitz their community’s biodiversity. Any wild animal, plant or fungus is game. This BioBlitz, also known as Citizen Science, encourages the public to help discover, identify and catalog plants, animals, and fungus in their region.

Locally, the City Nature Challenge is an exciting opportunity for all to learn more about biodiversity in our community. We are hoping that many people, including Great Parks volunteers, will participate and download this free app for their smartphones. Once the app is downloaded and you have created your account, look for a project called ‘City Nature Challenge 2021 Cincinnati-Hamilton County’. You can join this project from April 30 to May 3, take pictures of plants, animals, and fungus in your backyard, neighborhood and parks. If you can identify them, great! If not, iNaturalist works with AI online once the observation is uploaded, and teams from Great Parks will help with the identification process.

Everything must be turned in to the event organizers by May 2 so they can determine which city had the most living things identified. Hopefully, we can make a huge splash for our first year! The parks are also offering many programs leading up to and during this weekend that you can join if you are interested. Check out the calendar of events and join us!

You can find instructions and tutorial videos of how to use iNaturalist here. If you participate in the City Nature Challenge, please record your volunteer hours under Interpreter Programs–Offsite [Edu & Events]

THIS MONTH’S BLOG

How Your Dog’s Poop Can Kill Fish
https://blog.greatparks.org/2021/03/how-your-dogs-poop-can-kill-a-fish/

CONNECT WITH GREAT PARKS

facebook.com/GreatParksHC
twitter.com/greatparks
instagram.com/great_parks
May Volunteer Opportunities

*If you would like to participate but you have not completed the COVID-19 training, contact Lauren McClure at lmcclure@greatparks.org.

For all Stew Crew projects – participants should bring work gloves, a facemask (to be worn if 6-feet physical distance cannot be maintained), hand sanitizer, insect repellent, water, snacks and wear long pants, boots or sturdy shoes. Tools will be provided.

Don’t forget to RSVP – Due to COVID-19 health and safety protocols, we are limiting group sizes for volunteer projects. Drop-ins are no longer permitted.

Link to parks and park maps – https://www.greatparks.org/parks
Link to record your service hours – https://app.betterimpact.com/Login/Login

Guest Experiences Program Data Entry
Recurring Monthly, Days and Times flexible
We are looking for a dedicated and detail oriented volunteer to put our upcoming programs and events into various community calendars. This role will require data entry and proofreading to be sure that program and event information is entered correctly. Your assistance will help our Interpreters and Special Events team get their programs and events out to the public where more people will see them and, hopefully, increase interest in and attendance. To volunteer, contact Amy Roell at aroell@greatparks.org or phone 513-678-7552. For volunteers ages 18 and up.

Lake Monitoring at Winton Woods or Miami Whitewater
Recurring Monthly, Days and Times flexible (only occurs on weekdays)
Join our Lake Monitoring team and help keep our waterways safe! Volunteers will use a Great Parks canoe or kayak to survey a section of Winton Lake or Miami Whitewater Forest Lake for abnormalities, take photos, and complete Secchi disk readings to measure water clarity. Surveys are completed once per month while boathouses are open. Volunteers will survey lakes in groups of two. Surveys will require basic canoe/kayak skills. Safety training, which will require swimming, will be mandatory. To volunteer, contact Amanda Nurre at anurre@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-3545. For volunteers ages 18 and up. Lake Monitor – Winton Woods [Natural Resources/Central] or Lake Monitor – Miami Whitewater [Natural Resources/West]

A Weekend Opportunity! Garlic Mustard Removal at Shawnee Lookout
Sat 5/1, 9–11 a.m.
Garlic mustard is in full bloom, and we need your help to tackle this unwanted plant. It’s easy to identify and easy to pull. Meet at the Miami Fort Trail. 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]
A Weekend Opportunity! Preserving Natural Areas at Winton Woods
Sat 5/1, 9 a.m.–noon
The focus of this project will be removing Asian bitter-sweet vines that are harming our trees and taking over our woods on the horse trail. With your help, we can help the trees, and maintain a healthy, more diverse habitat. Meet at Fox Knoll Picnic Shelter parking lot. To volunteer, contact Jaimie Martin at jmartin@greatparks.org or phone 631-334-3876. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew—Winton Woods [C&P/Central]

An Evening Opportunity! Garlic Mustard Removal at Shawnee Lookout
Tue 5/4, 6:30–8 p.m.
Garlic mustard is in full bloom, and we need your help to tackle this unwanted plant. It’s easy to identify and easy to pull. Meet at the Waterhole Meadow Shelter 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/Central]

Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods
Wed 5/5, 8:30–11:30 a.m.
Come to Sharon Woods to help remove invasive shrub species here in Ohio. Volunteers will assist in the removal and treatment from the Sharon Creek riparian area. Learn about what invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them. Meet at the Sharon Center parking lot. To volunteer, contact Jeremy Barkley at jbarkley@greatparks.org or phone 724-814-1008. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew—Sharon Woods [C&P East]

Invasive Plant Removal at Mitchell Memorial
Thu 5/6, 9–11 a.m.
Volunteers and staff will be removing invasive plant species from Mitchell Memorial Forest. The main focus will be working on invasive plants in higher quality natural areas near the Mountain Bike Trail to help preserve the natural beauty of these forested hills. Meet at the Mitchell Memorial Maintenance Building. To volunteer, contact Ben Braeutigam at bbraeutigam@greatparks.org or phone 937-405-6212. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew—Mitchell Memorial Forest [C&P/West]

Garlic Mustard Pull at Miami Whitewater
Sat 5/8, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
Miami Whitewater Forest needs your help in controlling invasive garlic mustard on our most popular wooded trails. Meet at the Timberlakes Trail parking lot. To volunteer, contact Alex Hearing at ahearing@greatparks.org or phone 513-646-4217. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew—Miami Whitewater [C&P/West]

Invasive Plant Removal at Woodland Mound Park
Tue 5/11, 8–11 a.m.
Join the Woodland Mound Conservation & Parks team in removing honeysuckle, Asian bittersweet, and other invasive plants from the Seasongood Trail. Some great native wildflowers should be in bloom and we want to create an environment where they can thrive. Your help will also improve the view of the Ohio River and create a great experience for trail users. Meet at the parking lot at Seasongood Nature Center. 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]

Invasive Removal at Francis Homestead
Wed 5/19, 8:30–11:30 a.m.
Come out to the Francis Homestead to help control the invasive species found there. Volunteers will assist in the removal and treatment of invasive plant species creating better habitat for our native plants and wildlife. Learn about what invasive plants could be present in your backyards 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/West]

Invasive Plant Removal at Mitchell Memorial
Thu 5/20, 9–11 a.m.
Volunteers and staff will be removing invasive plant species from Mitchell Memorial Forest. The main focus will be working on invasive plants in higher-quality natural areas near the Mountain Bike Trail to help preserve the natural beauty of these forested hills. Meet at the Mitchell Memorial Maintenance Building. To volunteer, contact Ben Braeutigam at bbraeutigam@greatparks.org or phone 937-405-6212. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew—Mitchell Memorial Forest [C&P/West]

Landscaping Project at Glenwood Gardens
Thu 5/20, 9 a.m.–noon
We’ll be adding compost and biochar to the annual flowers planting areas, to promote a year of happy annuals! Meet at the parking lot by the service drive gate. To volunteer, contact Shaun McClary at smcclary@greatparks.org or phone 513-869-9525. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew—Glenwood Gardens [C&P/Central]
Shout Out!
Well it was a rainy day to load trucks with cut ornamental grass debris. But four of you showed up to complete the task. For that the Great Parks of Hamilton County thanks you...
—Shaun McClary, Conservation & Parks Technician

Great Parks Golf Pro Earns National Recognition by the GRAA
Great Parks of Hamilton County PGA Head Golf Professional Matt Starr was recently recognized as a Golf Range Association of America (GRAA) Top 100 Growth of the Game Teaching Professional.

Starr has been the Head Golf Professional at Meadow Links & Golf Academy since 2005 and started his career at the course when he was just 16 years old. As a PGA Professional, Matt strives to ensure his students build a solid framework of golf fundamentals while practicing and playing and he helps each student meet and achieve their individual goals. Matt has worked with a variety of players, ranging in skill and knowledge of the game, but truly enjoys his work with junior golfers. This is the first time Staff has been recognized for this national honor.

Meadow Links & Golf Academy was also selected as a national Top 50 Stand Alone Range. The range at the golf course is not only recognized for its uniqueness and design, but also for the exceptional golf programming that is offered at the facility. Meadow Links is one of six Great Parks golf courses.

For more information about GRAA, visit https://golfrange.org/. For more information about Meadow Links & Golf Academy, visit https://www.greatparks.org/recreation/golf/meadow-links-golf-academy.

Trail Maintenance at Woodland Mound Park
Tue 5/22, 8–11 a.m.
Join the Woodland Mound Conservation & Parks team to make improvements to the Seasongood Trail. This event will include adjusting the outslope, removing berms, and rock armoring as needed. Your help will improve water management and the hiking experience along a trail section with a view over 300 feet above Eight Mile Creek. Meet us at the Seasongood Nature Center 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]

Autumn Olive Cutting at Miami Whitewater
Thu 5/27, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Help out at Miami Whitewater Forest in removing the tenacious and invasive autumn olive and burning bush from the Timberlakes Trail. Meet at the Timberlakes Trail parking lot. To volunteer, contact Alex Hearing at ahearing@greatparks.org or phone 513-646-4217. For volunteers ages 14 and up. Stew Crew—Miami Whitewater [C&P/West]