

## Thank You For Your Feedback!

### Volunteer Resources Team

A few months ago we sent our biennial "Volunteer Happiness Survey" to you, in hopes of learning ways we can make your volunteer experience with Great Parks the best it can be. Wow did you answer the call! We got a great response, with over 150 of you taking the time to complete the survey. We will be taking a deep dive into survey results over the next several months, and meeting with leadership and staff to talk about successes and as well as things we need to work on. But for now, we are able to share some quick survey take-a-ways with you:

Over 90% of survey respondents said they felt "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" when asked how appreciated they felt for their volunteer efforts at Great Parks. Similarly, over 93% felt "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" when asked about their experience as a Great Parks volunteer.

Another great take-a-away from the survey was regarding our Annual Volunteer Recognition Event. Based on feedback, the majority of volunteers preferred a more relaxed event located at Great Parks and a more low-key awards presentation. This is great for us to know as we look ahead to this fall's event! We would also like to share some reminders and additional information based on a few of the more frequent, or similar, comments we received throughout the survey -

**Purchasing special volunteer uniform pieces:** There has never been an expectation that volunteers purchase Great Parks supplemental uniform pieces. You are welcome to wear whatever outerwear you have on hand. If you would like to purchase additional gear you are welcome to do so. These purchases can be made quarterly and you can find the order form on your MIP Homepage, at any of our six golf clubhouses, and attached to email reminders that we send prior to each deadline. If you would like an order form mailed to you, just contact us and we will pop one in the mail to you. As always, short sleeved shirts, hats, name tags and photo IDs can be replaced at no charge by contacting your Volunteer Resources Team.

**Who to contact to volunteer for projects:** When volunteer opportunities are emailed, listed on MIP, or included in the GrapeVINE, contact information for the project supervisor is always included. If you want to volunteer for the project or event, or if you have questions, this is the individual you should contact.

**Program volunteering, and weekend and evening volunteering:** While many program opportunities are still slow to come back, there are numerous weekend and evening opportunities that you can participate in every month. It is our hope that in-person programming will return with increased funding thanks to passage of the levy, as vacant positions are filled, and when COVID settles down. This will not happen overnight but watch for small positive changes throughout the year. If you need help finding opportunities that fit your schedule and interests, reach out to your Volunteer Resources Team.

**Waiting Lists:** If you are interested in being put on a waiting list for certain roles (ex. Adopt-A-Trail, Bluebird Monitoring, Stream Monitoring) you can reach out to you Volunteer Resources Team



**Communication:** The results of the survey helped to confirm some of the things that we are doing really well and also pointed out areas where we can grow. Moving forward, we would love to receive continuous feedback from you throughout the year. We are exploring several ways to do this and hope to come up with an easy-to-use, sustainable process that will allow us to collect feedback for years to come. Be on the lookout for more information about this, coming soon!

Finally, we know there have been many changes throughout Great Parks due to COVID, structural changes within the organization, and probably more to come thanks to passage of the recent levy... it's been a crazy few years! We appreciate the flexibility and patience that you all have shown. Thank you again to everyone that took time to complete the survey. If you would like to reach out about any of the above items, please email [volunteer@greatparks.org](mailto:volunteer@greatparks.org) (that will go to all three of us) or phone 513-521-7275 and ask for Kris Roselle, Lauren McClure or Niki Marengo. Thanks!

### THIS MONTH'S BLOG

February Blog—Here for You: Great Parks' 2021 in Review  
<https://blog.greatparks.org/2021/12/here-for-you-great-parks-2021-in-review/>

### CONNECT WITH GREAT PARKS

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## Volunteer Spotlight



### Jody Bosse

**Years of Service—** I was in the second volunteer class in 1980

**What is your favorite volunteer activity?** Working at the Riding Center at Parky's Farm in Winton Woods, especially the programs with the Special Olympians or the Special Riders

**What's your favorite outdoor activity?** Hiking/biking with my husband, Jim or horseback riding with my barn "buddies" at Winton Woods. Don't make me choose!

**What are three things on your bucket list?** I'd like to see the Northern Lights from Alaska, the Synchronous Fireflies at Elkmont in the Smokies, and attend a Concert of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir & Orchestra in Temple Square, Salt Lake City, Utah.

**What are you looking forward to right now?** More RV travel with my husband Jim & our 2 cats, Bert & Ernie

**When you're not at Great Parks, where might we find you?** The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

**What is your life motto?** To live by the Golden Rule & treat others as you wish to be treated.

## February Volunteer Opportunities

Interpreter programs are back! Check out what's coming up and join in on the fun.

For all Stew Crew projects - Tools will be provided. Participants should bring work gloves, hand sanitizer, insect repellent, water, snacks and wear long pants, boots or sturdy shoes. It's getting cold so make sure you dress for the weather!

Masks are required for both vaccinated and unvaccinated employees and volunteers inside park buildings and park vehicles, as well as outdoors if 6 feet of distancing is not possible.

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

### Animal Care at The Summit Center

**Weekdays, flexible schedule**

Help us care for the animals used in educational programming in the parks! Volunteers will clean enclosures, feed the animals, and document work done that day, while providing nature interpreters more time to focus on programs and engaging park guests. Training is provided. Animal types include: snakes, turtles, frogs, and insects. To volunteer, contact Ashley Moore at [asmoores@greatparks.org](mailto:asmoores@greatparks.org) or phone 513-673-3480. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Animal Care—Summit Center \[Edu & Events/East\]](#)

### Prescribed Burn Prep at Winton Woods

**Sat 2/5, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Each spring Great Parks staff conducts a number of controlled burns throughout our parks to help maintain the health of our prairies. Fire helps to prevent brush and trees from overtaking prairie habitats and also encourages new growth. We will be preparing burn breaks for spring by clearing brush, limbs, and cut wood from the area. Meet at 10026 McKelvey Rd (near the gated area). To volunteer, contact Jaimie Martin at [jmartin@greatparks.org](mailto:jmartin@greatparks.org) or phone 631-334-3876. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew—Winton Woods \[C&P/Central\]](#)

### Kilby Road Cleanup at Miami Whitewater

**Tue 2/8, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Help get one of our most popular trails cleaned up and the campground ready for this year's camping season by picking up trash and debris. Meet at the Hike/Bike trail parking lot near the Mt. Hope Rd. cross walk. To volunteer, contact Alex Hearing at [ahearing@greatparks.org](mailto:ahearing@greatparks.org) or phone 513-646-4217. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew—Miami Whitewater \[C&P/West\]](#)

### Volunteer Appreciation Bird Hike at Sharon Woods

**Wed 2/9, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.**

Come out to Sharon Woods to appreciate all the hard work that staff and volunteers have put into invasive removal in the last year. We highly recommend bringing your own binoculars, but there will be spare pairs available. Meet at the Lakeside Lodge parking lot. To join, contact Jeremy Barkley at [jbarkley@greatparks.org](mailto:jbarkley@greatparks.org) or phone 724-814-1008. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew—Training \[C&P/East\]](#)



### Clearing Tree Fencing at Woodland Mound

Sat 2/12, 12 – 2:30 p.m.

Be a part of the bigger picture. You have invested a lot of time planting trees throughout our parks. Many trees are thriving but weeds and vines are encroaching. Your help is needed to clear the invasive growth from these areas. This will reduce stress on the trees and make them stronger. Stronger trees are more resistant to diseases and will provide food and habitat for wildlife. Meet at the Weston parking lot. To volunteer, contact Dan Hart at [dhart@greatparks.org](mailto:dhart@greatparks.org) or phone 513-250-0925. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Woodland Mound \[C&P/East\]](#)

### Wild Garlic Pull at Glenwood Gardens

Thu 2/17, 9 a.m. – noon

Come out and help us prep our landscaping beds for the spring! We will be pulling wild garlic (looks and smells like an onion) that has popped up in these areas, so grab some gloves and be ready to smell like onions for the rest of the day! Meet at the back of the parking lot by the service gate. To volunteer, contact Shaun McClary at [smcclary@greatparks.org](mailto:smcclary@greatparks.org) or phone 513-869-9525. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Glenwood Gardens \[C&P/Central\]](#)

### Tree Maintenance at Withrow Nature Preserve

Tue 2/22, noon – 2:30 p.m.

Be a part of the bigger picture. You have invested a lot of time planting trees throughout our parks. Many trees are thriving but weeds and vines are encroaching. Your help is needed to clear the invasive growth from these areas. This will reduce stress on the trees and help make them stronger. Stronger trees are more resistant to diseases and will provide food and habitat for wildlife. Meet in the parking lot. To volunteer, contact Dan Hart at [dhart@greatparks.org](mailto:dhart@greatparks.org) or phone 513-250-0925. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Withrow \[C&P/East\]](#)

### Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods

Wed 2/23, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Come to Sharon Woods to help remove invasive shrub species along the Gorge Trail. Learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them. Meet at the Buckeye Falls playground parking lot. To volunteer, contact Jeremy Barkley at [jbarkley@greatparks.org](mailto:jbarkley@greatparks.org) or phone 724-814-1008. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Sharon Woods \[C&P/East\]](#)

### Things That Bark & Howl Program at Sharon Woods

Fri 2/25, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Help our guests learn about man's best friend and their native relatives (both living and extinct). During this program, volunteers will sign people in, pass out props, and show different taxidermy animals to the attendees. Meet at the Sharon Center. To volunteer, contact James Harris at [jharris@greatparks.org](mailto:jharris@greatparks.org) or phone 216-702-1766. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs–Sharon Woods \[Edu & Events/East\]](#)



*Red shouldered hawk spotted in Winton Woods*



### Shout Outs

Thank you to everyone that donated their gently used tree stands to Farbach Werner Nature Preserve. They were put to good use decorating Ellenwood Barn for the winter season. Guests are enjoying the winter feel during story time in front of the fire. From the entire Farbach Werner Nature Preserve Team, thank you!



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### Great Parks Forever Receives Grant For Reforestation Pilot Project

Great Parks Forever, the philanthropic partner of Great Parks of Hamilton County, has received a \$10,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation to test several reforestation methods and determine which will best create wildlife habitat and support the growth of native plant species. The project began this fall with site preparation and native seeding across 9 acres owned by Great Parks along the Whitewater River corridor. In 2022, Great Parks will begin planting trees and shrubs at the site, located west of Miami Whitewater Forest and Mitchell Memorial Forest.

As a leader in conservation, Great Parks works to restore forests, prairies, shrublands and wetlands throughout the county with projects such as converting former farmland back into natural areas. However, such projects can be severely impacted when white-tailed deer browse on young trees.

Great Parks will use this funding from the Duke Energy Foundation to pilot different reforestation methods by planting trees and shrubs in different ways and monitoring their growth and success over time. Planting techniques to be tested will include varying levels of plant protection, locations close to and farther away from busy traffic, variations in planting densities and planting bare root versus container plants.

Results of the project will be publicly available and used to improve the success of future reforestation efforts throughout Hamilton County.