



## Volunteer Spotlight



**Name:** Em Rhodes

**Years of Service**—2

**What problem do you wish you could solve?**

The climate crisis. I would like to find a way to turn people's focus back to the importance of nature, not just for the sake of preservation, but for our very survival on this planet.

**Whom in the world would you most like to share a meal with?**

Greta Thunberg! She is an amazing person, and she persists in saying what we need to hear at this time.

**What are you looking forward to right now?**

I am a speech therapist and am about to start a new job. In addition to Great Parks, Cincinnati has great environmental groups that are doing amazing work. I am excited to be part of an effort to make Cincinnati a shining example of what a sustainable city can be!

**What are three things on your bucket list?**

A trip to Japan with my son. To see my favorite band, Phish, play at Madison Square Garden, on New Year's Eve. To learn how to play electric bass and piano.

**What's the most interesting thing you've learned recently?**

That children learn language not starting with words, but in whole chunks. This is a learning style of many children on the autism spectrum disorder, they tend to repeat phrases they hear others say. Rather than trying to get them to stop using these phrases, we should realize that they have communicative function and help the child shape them into language that is more functional. I'm really excited about the potential to help children in this way!

## There's a lot going on in April!

### Winton Woods Cleanup

Come out and join us for our largest community volunteer event of the year on **Sat 4/9 from 9 a.m. - noon!** Join Great Parks and Forest Park Environmental Awareness for the cleanup that's been making a difference for over 30 years! Bring a group or work solo - removing the litter from around Winton Woods Lake requires all the hands we can get. [Register here](#), and you'll be assigned a site before that event. If you plan on volunteering with a group, please register everyone in your group together. Stay after the cleanup for a grilled lunch provided by JTM and raffles from Wild Birds Unlimited. All ages are welcome! Record your hours under [Community Projects- Winton Woods Cleanup](#)

### National Volunteer Week

April is the time to celebrate all things volunteers! National Volunteer Week will take place from 4/17 - 4/23 and is a time to reflect on the impact of volunteer service in our community. In 2021 alone, our amazing volunteers served over 25,000 hours of service, planted 375 trees, collected over 1000 bags of garbage, and removed almost 29 acres of invasive plants. We cannot thank you enough for your time and support. Our parks are great because of you all!

### Earth Day

Did you know that the first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970? It was estimated that over 20 million people across the U.S marched for a healthy, sustainable environment (all without the aid of cellphones or the internet!). What followed was a massive change in laws geared towards protecting our planet and its natural resources such as the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Resource Recovery Act, and more! Celebrate Earth Day by getting outside and making a difference! Great Parks is hosting a number of volunteer events that day so come and lend a hand. You can find and [register](#) for those projects on the volunteer webpage. Record your hours under [Community Projects- Earth Day](#)




### City Nature Challenge 2022

Mark your calendars, the City Nature Challenge is back for 2022! Do you like to snap photos of your nature discoveries? Explore **anywhere** in Hamilton County at your leisure between 4/29 - 5/2 and contribute to the City Nature Challenge 2022 BioBlitz. Hundreds of cities around the world will be calling on their citizen scientists to bioblitz their community's biodiversity. Everyone, no matter what your nature knowledge, is encouraged to participate. Simply download the free iNaturalist app to log photos of plants and animals you see anywhere in Hamilton County. You can record your hours under [Interpreter Programs- Offsite \[Edu & Events\]](#)

#### APRIL BLOG

Historic Women in Conservation  
<https://blog.greatparks.org/2022/03/historic-women-in-conservation/>

#### CONNECT WITH GREAT PARKS

 [facebook.com/GreatParksHC](https://facebook.com/GreatParksHC)  
 [twitter.com/greatparks](https://twitter.com/greatparks)  
 [instagram.com/great\\_parks](https://instagram.com/great_parks)

## April Volunteer Opportunities

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

For all Stew Crew projects - 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! Tools will be provided.

Link to parks and park maps—<https://www.greatparks.org/parks>

Link to record your service hours—<https://app.betterimpact.com/Login/Login>

In order to make different volunteer opportunities more noticeable we will be color coding projects and programs based on their department. Please refer to the key below:

**Conservation & Parks—green**

**Natural Resources—purple**

**Education & Events—blue**

**Golf—orange**

**Park's Farm—red**

**Community Projects- teal**

### **Golf Maintenance Help at Woodland Mound**

Ongoing, early April through September, flexible schedule (mornings, 2-4 hours a week)

Help us keep our turf clean and pristine! We are looking for volunteers to help fill in divots with sand throughout the golf course. This will enable the turf to grow back more quickly and will improve playing conditions. Providing the best playing surfaces possible is a goal of all golf courses. Customer satisfaction is at its highest when the turf is healthy. To volunteer, contact Eric Estridge at [eestridge@greatparks.org](mailto:eestridge@greatparks.org) or phone 513-474-3007. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Golf Maintenance—The Vineyard \[Golf/East\]](#)

### **Park's Farm Volunteer Crop Bed Restoration**

Sat 4/2, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Come out and help us prepare for spring! This event will transform existing crop beds into garden plots to facilitate garden space for volunteers interested in maintaining the plots for the 2022 growing season. The project will consist of forming square mounded garden plots with compost soil and adding woodchip mulch paths around each plot. Meet at the garden. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Bryan Burke at [bburke@greatparks.org](mailto:bburke@greatparks.org) or phone 513-931-3057. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Garden & Landscaping—Park's Farm](#)

### **Trail Improvements at Winton Woods**

Sat 4/2, 9 – 11:30 a.m.

Come help our beautiful Great Oaks nature trail by removing berms and improving drainage. Prepare to get a great workout, get dirty, and have fun. Meet at Great Oaks Trailhead parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, 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 \[C&P/Central\]](#)

### **Garlic Mustard Pull at Winton Woods**

Mon 4/4, 9 a.m. – noon

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 Great Oaks Trailhead parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Connor McClellan at [cmcclellan@greatparks.org](mailto:cmcclellan@greatparks.org) or phone 513-746-9020. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew—Winton Woods \[C&P/Central\]](#)

### **Volunteer Training Day at Miami Whitewater**

Tue 4/5, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Miami Whitewater Forest Conservation and Parks is looking to train volunteers in basic tool and powered natural resources equipment as well as train willing volunteers in pesticide application. Some training covered will be: Club Car operation, string trimmers, backpack and powered blowers, water pumps and hose management, and various hand tools. If you're new to GPHC volunteering or maybe just want more insight into some of the work we do, this is an exciting learning opportunity and excellent way to help us out. Meet at Miami Whitewater Forest Maintenance Building. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Alex Hearing at [ahearing@greatparks.org](mailto:ahearing@greatparks.org) or phone 513-646-4217. For volunteers ages 18 and up with a valid driver's license. [Stew Crew—Training \[C&P/West\]](#)

### **Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods**

Wed 4/6, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Come out to Sharon Woods to help remove invasive shrub species around Buckeye Falls. Learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyard and how to properly remove them. Meet at the Rocky Creek parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Jessica Stephen at [jstephen@greatparks.org](mailto:jstephen@greatparks.org) or phone 937-309-2902. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew—Sharon Woods \[C&P/East\]](#)

## Ohio Valley Forestry Fellowship Tree Bagging Event

Wed 4/6, 6 – 8 p.m.

Ohio Valley Forestry Fellowship is teaming up with Great Parks and Taking Root for the 2022 Cincinnati Public School free tree giveaway. Join us as we bag and box tree seedlings that will be distributed to Cincinnati Public School students in Hamilton County and inspire the next generation to plant trees! Food will be provided! Meet at the Glenwood Gardens Tech Center (377 Sheffield Road, Woodlawn, Ohio). To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact [volunteer@greatparks.org](mailto:volunteer@greatparks.org) or phone 513-521-7275. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Reforestation–Glenwood Gardens \[Natural Resources/Central\]](#)

## Hedgeapple Trail Extension at Woodland Mound

Sat 4/9, noon – 3 p.m.

Calling all trail enthusiasts! We need a lot of volunteers to prepare the land for the Hedgeapple Trail extension. Most of the work will involve cutting honeysuckle and vines from the site. Meet at the Weston Shelter parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, 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 \[C&P/East\]](#)

## Park Maintenance at Farbach-Werner

Tue 4/12, 9 a.m. – noon

There is a lot going on at Farbach! Come out and help us with spring cleaning at a newly acquired property. We will be picking up litter, removing old fencing, and working on invasive plant control. Meet at the Farbach parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Paul Steuer at [psteuer@greatparks.org](mailto:psteuer@greatparks.org) or phone 513-260-1124. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Farbach-Werner \[C&P/Central\]](#)

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## Trees & Trails at Mitchell Memorial Forest

Fri 4/15, 9 – 11 a.m.

Join our C&P staff at Mitchell to plant native trees near our Tall Pines Picnic Area, and then move on to the Wood Duck Trail for trail maintenance. Meet at the Mitchell Memorial Forest Maintenance Building. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List.

For questions, contact Ben Braeutigam at [bbraeutigam@greatparks.org](mailto:bbraeutigam@greatparks.org) or phone 937-405-6212. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Mitchell Memorial \[C&P/West\]](#)

## Flower Bed Improvements at Glenwood Gardens

Thu 4/21, 9 a.m. – noon

Celebrate Earth Week at beautiful Glenwood Gardens. We'll be working on the flower beds, amending the soil with compost, some getting biochar, and mulching flower beds with pine fines. Meet at the Glenwood Garden parking lot near the service gate. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, 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 Tube Round-Up at Miami Whitewater

Thu 4/21, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

We are looking for help in removing protective tree tubes from previous tree plantings. After trees have been planted and matured, over time the protective tubes are no longer needed and will be collected for recycle or reuse in new projects. Meet at the Dry Fork Meadow parking area off West Rd. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, 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 \[C&P/West\]](#)

## Creek Clean-Up at Embshoff Woods

Fri 4/22, 9 a.m. – noon

Have you ever ventured off the beaten path at Embshoff Woods Nature Preserve? We invite you to see what's hidden in the woods and help us clean-up the area in the process! Meet at the Whistling Wind Shelter. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Hannah Riess at [hriess@greatparks.org](mailto:hriess@greatparks.org) or phone 513-296-7465. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Fernbank \[C&P/West\]](#)

## Out of This World Program at Sharon Woods

Fri 4/22 & Sun 4/23, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Join us in celebrating all things space! Guests will have the opportunity to walk along the Solar System, launch water-powered rockets, explore constellations and more! Volunteers will help run the different activity stations. Meet at the Sharon Center. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Tom Hughes at [thughes@greatparks.org](mailto:thughes@greatparks.org) or phone 216-702-1766. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs–Sharon Woods \[Edu & Events/East\]](#)



## Earth Day Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods

Sat 4/23, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Come out to Sharon Woods to help remove invasive shrub species along the Hike/Bike Trail. Learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyard and how to properly remove them. Meet at the Lakeside Lodge parking lot. Because this is a community event, please **register** on our website. For volunteers ages 14 and up, feel free to register family or friends! [Community Projects—Earth Day](#)

## Earth Day Garlic Mustard Pull at Winton Woods

Sat 4/23, 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 it's fun for the whole family! Meet at Great Oaks Trailhead parking lot. Because this is a community event, please **register** on our website. For volunteers ages of all ages, feel free to register any family or friends!

[Community Projects-Earth Day](#)

## Earth Day Hedgeapple Trail Extension at Woodland Mound

Sat 4/23, noon – 3 p.m.

Calling all trail enthusiasts! We need a lot of volunteers to prepare the land for the Hedgeapple Trail extension. Most of the work will involve cutting honeysuckle and vines

from the site. Meet at the Weston Shelter parking lot. Because this is a community event, please **register** on our website. For volunteers ages 14 and up, feel free to register any family or friends! [Community Projects—Earth Day](#)

## Woody Plant Removal at Francis RecreAcres

Wed 4/27, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Come out to the Francis Homestead to work on removal of woody plants from our prairies. Learn about proper ways to cut and treat undesirable woody vegetation. If not maintained, prairies can very easily return to a forested state. Meet at the Francis RecreAcres parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on you MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Jessica Stephen at [jstephen@greatparks.org](mailto:jstephen@greatparks.org) or phone 937-309-2902. For volunteers ages 14 and up.

[Stew Crew—Sharon Woods \[C&P/East\]](#)

## Hedgeapple Trail Extension at Woodland Mound

Wed 4/27, noon – 3 p.m.

Calling all trail enthusiasts! We need a lot of volunteers to prepare the land for the Hedgeapple Trail extension. Most of the work will involve cutting honeysuckle and vines from the site. Meet at the Weston Shelter parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, 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 \[C&P/East\]](#)



## Shout Outs

A big thank you to Michael Bordner who did a great job cleaning up around the south part of Sharon Woods/Cornell Road! We greatly appreciate all of the work that you do. – Jason Dickensheets, Park Manager at Sharon Woods

A big shout out to Margaret Fryman. Thank you for showing up and braving the weather to help with pulling wild garlic. – Shaun McClary, Conservation & Parks Technician at Glenwood Gardens

## Volunteer Team Update

Join us for our **FIRST EVER** Volunteer Team Update! This is your chance to learn about upcoming Great Parks projects, challenges we may be facing and success stories! You'll also have a chance to talk 1:1 with CEO Todd Palmeter and COO Bret Henninger.

Volunteer Team Updates will take place quarterly in different parks and at varying times of the day. Best of all they will be live and in-person!

- April 6, 3 – 4: 30 p.m.
- Winton Woods Orchard Area

RSVP's are required! To join, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. You can also contact Kris or Lauren at [volunteer@greatparks.org](mailto:volunteer@greatparks.org) or phone 513-521-7275.

**Record your hours: [Volunteer Meeting—Training \[Volunteer Resources\]](#)**