

Volunteer Spotlight



David McCamey

Years of Service—14 years

What is your favorite volunteer activity? I volunteer at Sharon Woods as an animal care assistant. I love taking care of the animals and learning about their behaviors. I like sharing my work with younger guests, especially when it's feeding time. Nothing like watching our American Toad eat a night crawler!

When you're not at Great Parks, where might we find you? I am blessed, with my wife, to be able to spend time with my six grandchildren and their families, many times at one of our parks. I also am privileged to partner with my best furry friend, our dog, Freckles.

What hobbies are you passionate about? Although I am trained as a chemist, I am passionate about science in general. The restrictions of the pandemic presented me with the opportunity to learn and enjoy microscopy. I am often at ponds or lakes gathering samples to examine for microscopic critters. Thanks to the help of experts on social media and other resources, I have learned a lot of microbe biology.

Your Great Parks: Nature Center at the Summit

Amy Roell, Director of Programming

This 'little gem' of Great Parks of Hamilton County opened in 2019 after a partnership was formed with the New Prospect Baptist Church in the heart of the Roselawn/Bond Hill area of Cincinnati. The nature center was created from a classroom in the lower level of the building and includes



approximately 6 acres of natural area along the Mill Creek. In addition to the Nature Center itself, there is a forested area, community garden, kids' garden, chicken coop and sunflower plot to explore.

Many natural history programs and archery lessons are conducted in this space for the general public and private groups. These programs are free and accessible to all. Staff also arranges periodic field trips to the parks for area residents and church members to make connections between the natural areas and highlight their importance. Nature Center at The Summit staff regularly attend the Roselawn and Bond Hill Community Council meetings, participate in collaborative programming with New Prospect Baptist Church, created several gardening groups, hosted the July volunteer meeting and attended the Roselawn National Night Out. All these efforts have made it a true community hub of activity!

Last year, the staff of the East Region (with help from other regions and volunteers) held the first ever Urban Farming Festival, which was a huge community event that had all kinds of activities for people to participate in. It was so successful that it will be repeated this year on Saturday, October 8 from 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. If you would like to be a part of the fun, sign up to help our on your My Impact Page Opportunities List or Calendar. We hope to see you there!

OCTOBER BLOG

Odonata: Dragons and Damsels...
Oh My!

<https://blog.greatparks.org/2022/08/odonata-dragons-and-damsels-oh-my/>

HOURS REMINDER

The end of the year will be here before you know it! Please remember to record all of your volunteer hours on MIP by the end of the year.

October Volunteer Opportunities

For all Stew Crew projects - participants should bring work gloves, hand sanitizer, insect repellent, water, snacks and wear long pants, boots or sturdy shoes. Tools will be provided.

Link to parks and park maps (where you can find meeting locations)—<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

Community Projects—teal

Education & Events—blue

Ranger Support—dark green

Natural Resources—purple

Volunteer Engagement—magenta

Special Events—dark blue

Species List Compilation at the Winton Centre

October–December, about 10 hours/week

Our biologists are looking for a few detail-oriented and organized volunteers to help us comb through our research files and compile species lists for our parks. Volunteers will read reports and build a comprehensive list of species found in them using Excel or Word. Volunteers should be comfortable working in an office environment and learning to use the software we manage our references with. You will be interfacing with our team but this project is mostly independent. A working knowledge of taxonomy is helpful but not required. To volunteer, contact Kari Morehouse at kmorehouse@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-4526. For volunteers ages 18 and up.

Admin Support–Winton Woods [Natural Resources]

Herbicide Spray Training at Winton Woods

Sat 10/1, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Invasive removal is an important part of our mission to conserve our native habitats here at the Great Parks. Part of this process involves using herbicides to make sure pesky invasives don't come back to harm our native ecosystems after removal. This will be a training event for volunteers to learn how to safely apply herbicides for future Stew Crew events. This training can also help you with properly spraying herbicide for invasives in your own backyard. Meet at Winton Woods Operations (1400 Springdale Rd). To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Reagan Farmer at rfarmer@greatparks.org or phone 513-267-5263. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Stew Crew–Training [C&P/Central]**

Monarchs and Music at Farbach-Werner

Sat 10/1, 11:45 a.m.–4 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate peak monarch migration with a relaxing day in the park. Park guests can bring a blanket and listen to live music, take part in citizen science through monarch tagging, and learn about their incredible

journey. Volunteers will help at the craft stations or the ice cream station. Meet at the Ellenwood Barn. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Paul Seevers at pseevers@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-2813. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Interpreter Programs–Farbach-Werner [Edu & Events/Central]**

Fall Harvest Backyard Campout at Lake Isabella

Sun 10/1, 2–6 p.m. and 6–10 p.m.

The backyard campout at Lake Isabella is back! We'll have around 50 campsites available for guests to reserve for a camping experience at the lake. Guests will be able to participate in activities around their campsites and even watch a family friendly movie! Volunteers will help with set up, check in, and parking during the first shift and help with concessions, craft table, bonfire and tear down during the second shift. Meet at the Boathouse. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Jamie Piccola at jpiccola@greatparks.org or phone 513-245-7478. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Special Events–Lake Isabella [Guest Exp/East]**

Japanese Stilt Grass Pull at Werk Road

Sun 10/2, 9 a.m. –noon

Come check out one of the latest additions to the Great Parks on the West Side and better the area in the process! Japanese stilt grass is a weak-rooted annual grass that is an aggressive invader of forest lands throughout the United States, but it's super easy to pull. Help us clear the area to create space for native species to grow! Meet at Werk Road property (2918 Werk Rd.), there are no parking spaces available so park on McKinley Avenue and walk in to meet at the old barn. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or phone 513-296-7465. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Stew Crew–Werk Rd [C&P/West]**

Invasive Plant Removal at Withrow Nature Preserve

Mon 10/3, 9 a.m.–noon

Come out to Withrow Nature Preserve and assist removing invasive shrub and vine species on our Trout Lily Trail. Invasive species are a threat to the ecosystem by diminishing biodiversity and taking away resources from native species. Also learn what invasive plants that could be present in your own backyards and how to properly treat them. Meet at the Withrow Nature Preserve parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/list. For questions, contact Elissa Oliveira at eliveira@greatparks.org or by phone 513-673-1102. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Withrow \[C&P/East\]](#)

Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods

Wed 10/5, 8:30 –10:30 a.m.

Come out to Sharon Woods to help remove invasive shrub species along a restroom access trail on the shelter loop. Learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them. Meet at the Fern Hollow Shelter. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Jessica Stephen at jstephen@greatparks.org or phone 513-646-4217. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Sharon Woods \[C&P/East\]](#)

ALICE Active Shooter Training

Thu 10/6, 6–8 p.m. at Winton Woods Auditorium

Mon 10/17, 3–4 p.m. at Sharon Woods Auditorium

Tue 10/25, 10–11 a.m. at Miami Whitewater Auditorium

Our Ranger Chief Assistant, Captain Dale Steele, will be hosting a number of ALICE Trainings for volunteers. ALICE Training provides modern and effective active shooter training and preparedness solutions, helping people prepare for, respond to, and recover from active threats and other violent critical incidents. Trainings will offer the opportunity to practice different scenarios, the Winton Woods training will be more in depth for those who are interested in diving a little deeper. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Lauren McClure at lmccclure@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-4522. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Volunteer Meeting–Training \[Volunteer Resources\]](#)

Urban Farm Fest at the Summit Center

Sat 10/8, 2–6:15 p.m. and 6–9 p.m.

Help us make the second annual Farm Fest one for the history books! We are hosting a festival that highlights food sovereignty and sustainable farming techniques in urban spaces. This program is free to the community. Volunteers will assist with the welcome booth, track attendance numbers, help vendors, direct guests, facilitate parking, set up/tear down and more! To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact

Ashley Moore at asmoores@greatparks.org or phone 513-563-4513. For vol-unteers ages 14 and up. [Special Events–Summit Center \[Guest Exp/East\]](#)

Trail Maintenance at Woodland Mound

Mon 10/10, 10 a.m.–noon

Come out to Woodland Mound and assist us keep our trails accessible and beautiful. Over time, foot traffic and rain runoff causes natural wear and tear on our trails. Help us return our Parcours Trail to its desired state by filling holes and dips with gravel. Meet at the Weston Shelter parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/list. For questions, contact Elissa Oliveira at eliveira@greatparks.org or by phone 513-673-1102. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Woodland Mound \[C&P/East\]](#)

Invasive Removal at Newberry Wildlife Sanctuary

Tue 10/11, 9 a.m.–noon

Help us keep Newberry free of invasive honeysuckle! Newberry Wildlife Sanctuary is a state-dedicated natural area. These 100 acres are home to a variety of plant and animal species that live among waterfalls and wooded hillsides. Meet at Newberry (5300 Sheits Road), park at the bend in the road on Sheits Rd. close to I-275. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Paul Steuer at psteuer@greatparks.org or phone 513-260-1124. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Newberry \[C&P/Central\]](#)

Invasive Removal at Fernbank

Thu 10/13, 9–11 a.m.

Think about your favorite part of a hike—is it the wildlife, the peaceful calm of the woods, the fresh air? Maybe it's birdwatching or seeing some nice spring wildflowers? Invasive species threaten all of this! Invasives like honeysuckle, winter creeper, and garlic mustard aggressively outcompete native wildflowers, trees, and other native plants. Come help us tackle invasives at Fernbank and keep our trails great for generations to come! Meet at Sycamore Trailhead. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or phone 513-296-7465. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Fernbank \[C&P/West\]](#)

Invasive Removal at Francis RecreAcres

Sat 10/15, 8:30–10:30 a.m.

Come out to Francis Homestead to help remove seed heads from an invasive species here in Ohio. Also Learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them. Meet at the Francis Homestead drive (the gate will be open)

directly across from the main park entrance. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Jessica Stephen at jstephen@greatparks.org or phone 513-646-4217. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew—Francis RecreAcres \[C&P/East\]](#)

Black Walnut Dyeing at Farbach-Werner

Sat 10/15, 9:45 a.m.–2 p.m.

Meet by the fire to help our guests tie-dye a tote bag using dye made from black walnuts! They will then have the chance to hit the trail on a guided hike to learn more about the important role these trees play this time of year. Volunteers will help tend the fire and interact with guests at the dyeing station. Meet at the Amphitheater. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Paul Seevers at pseevers@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-2813. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Interpreter Programs—Farbach-Werner \[Edu & Events/Central\]](#)

Honeysuckle Removal at Winton Woods

Sat 10/15, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Amur honeysuckle is a big issue for our forests because this prolific plant blocks a lot of sunlight from reaching the forest floor. This prevents young trees and other plants from growing up to become the next generation of the forest making it less diverse and stable. We will be cutting honeysuckle with loppers and handsaws. If you received the herbicide training at Winton Woods on 10/1 you will also have the chance to spot spray what we cut. Meet at the Kingfisher Trailhead for this event. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Hayley Miner at hminer@greatparks.org or phone 513-340-8033. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Stew Crew—Winton Woods \[C&P/Central\]](#)

Seed Collection and Invasive Removal at Miami Whitewater

Sun 10/16, 9–11 a.m.

Enjoy learning about our native prairie plants! Volunteers will be collecting seed for our seed nursery at the large wetlands and prairies around our bike trails. Because availability and demand for seed changes frequently, we will also bring equipment for pruning and cutting invasives and line of site issues around our burn units. Meet at the Baughman Rd. parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact AJ Norton at anorton@greatparks.org or phone 513-910-5067. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew—Miami Whitewater \[C&P/West\]](#)

Trunk or Treat at Sharon Woods

Tue 10/18, 4–6:30 p.m.

This fun event will be co-hosted by Sharonville Parks and Recreation. Kids will trick or treat through the Island Grove

area of Sharon Woods. At each stop along the way, they will encounter uniquely decorated 'trunks' from the different Great Parks of Hamilton County divisions and Sharonville businesses. We anticipate approximately 600+ trick or treaters this year! Volunteers will assist with getting 'trunks' to their assigned locations, parking, and checking in guests at the welcome table. Meet at Island Grove parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Katie Lake at klake@greatparks.org or phone 513-266-5945. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Ranger Support—Sharon Woods \[Rangers/East\]](#)

Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods

Wed 10/19, 8:30–10:30 a.m.

Come out to Sharon Woods to help remove invasive shrub species along a restroom access trail on the shelter loop. Also learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them. Meet at the Council Bluff Shelter. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Jessica Stephen at jstephen@greatparks.org or phone 513-646-4217. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew—Sharon Woods \[C&P/East\]](#)

Wildflower Restoration at Glenwood Gardens

Thu 10/20, 9 a.m.–noon

Help Glenwood Gardens restore our wildflowers! Volunteers will collect and spread wildflower seeds in a prescribed burn area. Meet at the Glenwood Garden Maintenance Building (377 Sheffield Rd). To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Shaun McClary at smcclary@greatparks.org or phone 513-869-9525. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew—Glenwood Gardens \[C&P/Central\]](#)

Campground Autumn Olive Removal at Miami Whitewater

Thu 10/20, noon–2 p.m.

Volunteers will be removing the non-native Autumn Olive from the campground in Miami Whitewater. Meet at the Miami Whitewater Campground. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact AJ Norton at anorton@greatparks.org or phone 513-910-5067. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Stew Crew—Miami Whitewater \[C&P/West\]](#)

Invasive Plant Removal at Mitchell Memorial Forest

Fri 10/21, 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 Wood Duck Trail to help preserve the beauty of

these forested hills. 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 or phone 937-405-6212. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [**Stew Crew–Mitchell Memorial \[C&P/West\]**](#)

Make a Difference Day at Miami Whitewater

Sat 10/22, 9 a.m.–noon

Make a Difference Day is a holiday celebrated the fourth Saturday in October where people and organizations are encouraged to do something to make a positive impact on the world and show that making a difference matters! Join us and help with a huge tree planting at our Miller–Heilmayer location near Miami Whitewater Forest. This is part of Great Park's Clean Ohio commitment to reforest approximately 5 acres of this property using high-intensity planting methods for native trees and shrubs. We hope you can help us in making the most of this positive holiday! Meet at the Miller-Heilmayer property (7667 Buffalo Ridge Rd, Cleves OH 45002). To volunteer, register [online](#). For questions, contact Joe Von Allmen at jvonallmen@greatparks.org or phone 513-245-7471. For volunteers of all ages. [**Community Projects–Make a Difference Day**](#)

Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods

Wed 10/26, 8:30 –10:30 a.m.

Come out to Sharon Woods to help remove invasive shrub species behind the Council Bluff Shelter. Learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them. Meet at the Council Bluff Shelter. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Jessica Stephen at jstephen@greatparks.org or phone 513-646-4217. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [**Stew Crew–Sharon Woods \[C&P/East\]**](#)

Invasive Plant Removal at Woodland Mound

Wed 10/26, 9 a.m.–noon

Come out to Woodland Mound and assist in removing invasive shrub and vine species on our new extension

of the Hedgeapple Trail. Invasive species are a threat to the ecosystem by diminishing biodiversity and taking away resources from native species. Also learn about what invasive plants that could be present in your own backyards and how to properly treat them. Meet at the Weston Shelter parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Elissa Oliveira at Eoliveira@greatparks.org or by phone 513-673-1102. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [**Stew Crew–Woodland Mound \[C&P/East\]**](#)

Invasive Removal at Fernbank

Thu 10/27, 9–11 a.m.

Think about your favorite part of a hike—is it the wildlife, the peaceful calm of the woods, the fresh air? Maybe it's birdwatching or seeing some nice spring wildflowers? Invasive species threaten all of this! Invasives like honey-suckle, winter creeper, and garlic mustard aggressively outcompete native wildflowers, trees, and other native plants. Come help us tackle invasives at Fernbank and keep our trails great for generations to come! Meet at Sycamore Trailhead. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or phone 513-296-7465. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [**Stew Crew–Fernbank \[C&P/West\]**](#)

Nature at Night Pumpkin Hike at Farbach-Werner

Sat 10/29, 6–8:30 p.m.

Jack-o'-lanterns will light the path as guests discover the wonder of nature at night along the Pin Oak Trail on a self-guided hike. When finished, they will enjoy some fall fun around the campfire and will even get to take a pumpkin home! Volunteers will interact with guests, lead stations, and check the pumpkins along the trail. Meet at the Ellenwood Barn. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Paul SeEVERS at pseEVERS@greatparks.org or phone 513-728-2813. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [**Interpreter Programs–Farbach-Werner \[Edu & Events/Central\]**](#)

Shout Outs!

Special thanks to Cecilia, Tony, Hattie, and Bruce (pictured right) for braving the stormy weather and rain to come help us take the first step in restoring our Frisbee Golf Course at Embshoff Woods. Your hard work is much appreciated!!

–Hannah Riess, West Region Conservation & Parks Technician

I would like to give a HUGE shout out to all the volunteers who assisted with National Night Out. Your help was greatly appreciated and noticed by all. Without you the event wouldn't have been such a success. I received many compliments from guests saying how smoothly everything went and that's all thanks to each of you! Thank you so much... hopefully we'll see you again next year!

–Sergeant Katie Lake, District Supervisor

