

## Volunteer Spotlight



### Todd Houston

Years of Service—20 years

**What is your favorite volunteer activity?** My favorite volunteer activity is working at the Seangood Nature Center at Woodland Mound Park.

**What's your favorite outdoor activity?** My favorite outdoor activity is walking.

**What hobbies are you passionate about?** My favorite hobbies are travel, especially to National and State Parks and music.

**What is your favorite Great Park and why?** Because it's closest to me, my favorite Great Park is Woodland Mound because it's closest to me.

**When you're not at Great Parks, where might we find you?** If I'm not at the park or work, I do things with my family and my church.

## The Music Garden is Taking Shape

Sean Creighton,  
Landscape Architect

The clattering sounds of backhoes and hammers in Glenwood Gardens' Highfield Meadow will soon be replaced with that of chimes, drums and children's laughter.

The Music Garden that will occupy this space is under construction and on track for a soft opening in December of this year. The stage, with its recorder-shaped columns and arch containing music from the well-known "You Are My Sunshine" (pictured above), has been erected. The outdoor instruments have begun to be placed and the concrete treble clef that forms the walks through the garden (pictured below) and that will allow guests to access the stage and instruments has been installed. Prior to

December's soft opening, all instruments, an accessible walk to the stage and benches throughout the garden will also be in place.

The Music Garden's climax will be in Spring of 2023 when the colorful and textured plants emphasizing the garden's purpose of connecting music and nature have been installed. At this time, it will become another exciting addition to the Highfield Discovery Garden that staff can take proud ownership of and guests can use their imaginations to explore.






## DECEMBER BLOG

Little Brown Bats & White-Nose Syndrome

<https://blog.greatparks.org/2022/10/little-brown-bats-white-nose-syndrome/>

## 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)

## December 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**

**Education & Events—blue**

**Volunteer Engagement—magenta**

### Animal Care Volunteers at Miami Whitewater Forest

**2 Hours Weekly/Biweekly, Tue – Sun opportunities**

Help care for the animals used in our educational programs allowing guests to see and learn about local animals up close. Volunteers who assist allow the interpretive staff more time to focus on the programs they present. Animal types include: snakes, turtles, frogs, insects, spiders, rabbits, etc. Volunteers need to come between 9am-5pm until trained and signed off by staff, then you can come anytime between sunup and sunset. To volunteer, contact Jack Fogle at [jfogle@greatparks.org](mailto:jfogle@greatparks.org) or phone 513-258-7643. For volunteers ages 18 and up.

**[Animal Care—Miami Whitewater \[Edu & Events/West\]](#)**



One of our ambassador animals, an Eastern Box Turtle, from Miami Whitewater Visitor Center

### Trash Pickup at Campbell Lakes

**Fri 12/2, 9 – 11 a.m.**

As the leaves fall it gets much easier to work in areas that are often overgrown the rest of the year. One great way to enjoy the cooler weather is walking around Campbell Lakes and helping us keep it clean. Meet at Campbell Lakes parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact AJ Norton at [anorton@greatparks.org](mailto:anorton@greatparks.org) or phone 513-910-5067. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **[Stew Crew—Campbell Lakes \[C&P/West\]](#)**

### 2023 Year End Packets Mailing Project

**Mon 12/5, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

It's already time to send out 2023 Packets to volunteers! Help with this large mailing project as we will be stuffing over 600 packets with all kinds of goodies. Come hang out with a bunch of awesome people and listen to holiday tunes. Meet at the Winton Woods Auditorium. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact the Volunteer Office at [volunteer@greatparks.org](mailto:volunteer@greatparks.org) or phone 513-728-4522. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **[Admin Support—Winton Woods \[Volunteer Resources\]](#)**

### Invasive Plant Removal at Woodland Mound

**Mon 12/5, 10 a.m. – noon**

Come out to Woodland Mound and assist in removal of invasive species on our extension of the Hedgeapple Trail. This provides an opportunity to learn what invasive plants 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](mailto:Eoliveira@greatparks.org) or by phone 513-673-1102. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **[Stew Crew—Woodland Mound \[C&P/East\]](#)**



### **Woody Invasive Removal at Avoca Park**

**Tue 12/6, 9 a.m. – noon**

Join us at Avoca Trail Head and help us remove invasive species from the riparian forest. This park is more than a trail head, it contains a riparian forest along the Little Miami River. Meet at Avoca Park (8063 Wooster Pike). To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact John Walker at [jwalker@greatparks.org](mailto:jwalker@greatparks.org) or phone 513-272-4131. For volunteers 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Avoca \[C&P/East\]](#)

### **Invasive Removal at Winton Woods**

**Tue 12/6, 10 a.m. – noon**

Overtime honeysuckle has spread into natural areas causing a decline in native species. Help us remove this invasive along the Kingfisher Trail to keep it beautiful and our native species thrive. Meet at Kingfisher Shelter. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Reagan Farmer at [rfarmer@greatparks.org](mailto:rfarmer@greatparks.org) or phone 513-267-5263. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Winton Woods \[C&P/Central\]](#)

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

**Wed 12/7, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Come out to Sharon Woods to help remove invasive shrub species from the Future Forest along Rte 42. Also learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them. Meet at the stone bridge 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 513-646-4217. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Sharon Woods \[C&P/East\]](#)

### **Invasive Removal at Fernbank**

**Thu 12/8, 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? Come help us tackle invasives at Fernbank and keep our trails great for generations to enjoy! Meet at Sycamore Trailhead. 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 \[C&P/West\]](#)

### **Invasive Removal at Winton Woods**

**Fri 12/9, noon – 2 p.m.**

Come help us remove the invasive plant honeysuckle near the Winton Woods Campground. Honeysuckle grows densely and outcompetes with many of our native species. Meet at the Campground parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Hayley Miner at [hminer@greatparks.org](mailto:hminer@greatparks.org) or phone 513-340-8033. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Winton Woods \[C&P/Central\]](#)

### **Great Parks Annual Winter Bird Count**

**Sat 12/10, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Bring your binoculars, bundle up, and head out to the parks for the whole day or just a portion of it. Then head back to Winton Woods Auditorium at 4:00 p.m. for the grand tally. If weather cancels the Saturday count, the make-up date will be Sunday, 12/11 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers will hike their selected park tallying all the birds they see from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Presence at the tally at Winton Woods is not mandatory after the count. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Paul Seevers at [pseevers@greatparks.org](mailto:pseevers@greatparks.org) or phone 513-728-2813. For volunteers of all ages. [Bird Count–All Parks \[Edu & Events\]](#)

### **Vine Clearing at Werk Road**

**Sat 12/10, 9 a.m. – noon**

Check out the latest addition to the Great Parks on the West Side and better the area in the process! Help us clear the area of Winter Creeper and porcelain berry to create space for native species to grow. Meet at Werk Road property, 2918 Werk Rd., there are no parking spaces available on the property 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](mailto:hriess@greatparks.org) or phone 513-296-7465. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Werk Rd \[C&P/West\]](#)

### **Steamboat Bend Litter Pickup at Woodland Mound**

**Mon 12/12, 10 a.m. – noon**

We need your help to keep our parks free of litter. Come out to the Steamboat Bend area and assist us in picking up trash that washed up from the Ohio River. Litter grabbers and supplies will be provided. Meet at Steamboat Bend parking lot off of Rte 52. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Elissa Oliveira at [Eoliveira@greatparks.org](mailto: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 Farbach-Werner**

**Tue 12/13, 9 a.m. – noon**

Help us keep Farbach-Werner free of the invasive plants honeysuckle. Meet at Farbach-Werner 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 \[C&P/Central\]](#)**

### **Brower Road Cleanup at Shawnee Lookout**

**Wed 12/14, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Please join us for hot cocoa, holiday cookies, and natural stewardship! We would like your help to remove litter and recyclables from the Great Miami and Ohio Rivers.

Lawrenceburg/Brower Road follows the park's perimeter so much of the roadside litter ends up in our habitats and eventually, the river during flooding. Meet at the Shawnee Lookout boat ramp on Lawrenceburg Rd across from the Ranger Station. 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 16 and up. **[Stew Crew–Shawnee Lookout \[C&P/West\]](#)**

### **Winter Woodland: Bringing the Outside In at Farbach-Werner**

**Wed – Fri 12/14-1/20, 10:45 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Step out of the cold and into a cozy winter, woodland scene right in Ellenwood Nature Barn! Make a craft and warm up from the winter weather by a log fire. Meet at the Ellenwood Nature Barn. Volunteers will interact with guests and help with a craft. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Paul Seevers at [pseevers@greatparks.org](mailto:pseevers@greatparks.org) or phone 513-728-2813.

For volunteers ages 14 and up. **[Interpreter Programs–Farbach-Werner \[Edu & Events/Central\]](#)**

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

**Wed 12/14, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Come out to Sharon Woods to help remove invasive shrub species here from the Gorge Trail. Also learn about what invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them. Meet at the Gorge Trail parking lot by the dam. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Jessica Stephen at [jstephen@greatparks.org](mailto:jstephen@greatparks.org) or phone 513-646-4217. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **[Stew Crew–Sharon Woods \[C&P/East\]](#)**

### **Litter Pickup at Glenwood Gardens**

**Thu 12/15, 9 a.m. – noon**

Help us clean up our parks this holiday season picking up trash along Sheffield Road. 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](mailto:smcclary@greatparks.org) or phone 513-869-9525. For volunteers ages 14 and up.

**[Stew Crew–Glenwood Gardens \[C&P/Central\]](#)**

### **Invasive Vine and Brush Removal at Miami Whitewater**

**Sat 12/17, noon – 2 p.m.**

Enjoy a small stroll along the outer loop ending with some work on clearing invasive shrubs and vines near one of our large wetlands. Japanese Honeysuckle and Autumn Olive threaten our nearby natural areas and we're always looking for help in removing them. Meet at Baughman parking lot off of Baughman Rd. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact AJ Norton at [anorton@greatparks.org](mailto:anorton@greatparks.org) or phone 513-910-5067. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **[Stew Crew–Miami Whitewater \[C&P/West\]](#)**

### **Ice Age for the Holidays at Sharon Woods**

**Sat 12/17, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

The weather is getting colder but did you know there was a time when it was cold like this year-round? Learn more about the Ice Age while playing games and activities for the whole family. Meet at the Sharon Centre. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, 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 \[Edu & Events/East\]](#)**

### **Ice Age for the Holidays at Woodland Mound**

**Sun 12/18, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

The weather is getting colder but did you know there was a time when it was cold like this year-round? Learn more about the Ice Age while playing games and activities for the whole family. Meet at the Seasongood Nature Center. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact James Harris at [jharris@greatparks.org](mailto:jharris@greatparks.org) or phone 216-702-1766. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **[Interpreter Programs–Woodland Mound \[Edu & Events/East\]](#)**

### **Solar Powered Art at The Summit Center**

**Sun 12/18, 1:30 – 3:15 p.m.**

Did you know that you can use the sun to make art? Volunteers will help participants try two solar projects. Using the sun's power, guests will create sunprint art and build pinhole cameras to take photos outside.



Meet at the Nature Center at the Summit located behind the church, parking is available around the back. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Abbey Ketterer at [aketterer@greatparks.org](mailto:aketterer@greatparks.org) or phone 513-716-7327. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs—The Summit Center \[Edu & Events/ East\]](#)

### **Invasive Removal at Fernbank**

**Thu 12/22, 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! 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](mailto:hriess@greatparks.org) or phone 513-296-7465. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew—Fernbank \[C&P/West\]](#)

### **Annual Winter Hike Series**

**Sat 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

The Annual Winter Hike Series is back for 2023! This is one of our most popular programs of the year and we'd love to have your help for one, several or the whole series. Whether you are interested in leading a group, being follow-up support, or lending a hand serving soup, we need you! This is an entirely outdoor event, and hikes range between 4-5.5 miles over uneven terrain. Some hikes are more challenging than others and are almost never canceled due to the weather, so be prepared for cold, snow, and rain. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Suzanne Roth at [sroth@greatparks.org](mailto:sroth@greatparks.org) or phone 513-385-0075. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [Winter Hike—Park Name \[Edu & Events\]](#)

Hikes start at 10 a.m. **Volunteers must be present for a 9:30 pre-hike meeting.**

Sat 1/7—Winton Woods

Sat 1/14—Sharon Woods

Sat 1/21—Woodland Mound

Sat 1/28—Shawnee Lookout

Sat 2/4—Miami Whitewater Forest



### **Shout Out!**

The volunteers were amazing for Pumpkin Hike at Farbach-Werner. Not only did they carve a massive amount of pumpkins, but we had 790 people come through in an hour and a half. As always, they went above expectations and we couldn't have done it without them! Thank you!

—Stephanie Morris, Central Region Interpreter



## Recycling Continues this Season at Great Parks!

Holiday Lights Recycling returns to Great Parks thanks to a continuing partnership with Cohen, the leading recycler of metal and electronics in the Midwest.

Drop off broken or unwanted lights in marked bins located at six Great Parks locations between December 1, 2022, and February 1, 2023.

**Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve: Ellenwood Nature Barn**

3455 Poole Road, Cincinnati, OH 45239

**Glenwood Gardens: Entrance near the restrooms**

10397 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45215

**Miami Whitewater Forest: Visitor Center**

9001 Mt. Hope Road, Harrison, OH 45030

**Sharon Woods: Sharon Centre**

11450 Lebanon Road, Sharonville, OH 45241

**Winton Woods: Winton Centre**

10245 Winton Road, Cincinnati, OH 45231

**Woodland Mound: Seasongood Nature Center**

8250 Old Kellogg Road, Cincinnati, OH 45255

**\*\*We ask that ONLY lights be placed in bins. No bags, boxes or containers of any kind!**

This is the ninth year for the program that keeps lights out of landfills and gives them new life by refining the precious metals and materials to produce new products. Over the past eight years, over 26,600 pounds of lights have been recycled. The program also gives back to ongoing Great Parks conservation efforts thanks to a generous donation from Cohen each year.

For more information, visit <https://www.greatparks.org/discovery/projects/holiday-lights-recycling>. For more information about Cohen Recycling and their regional efforts with the program, visit <https://www.cohenusa.com/>.