



greatparks.org/volunteer

GRAPEVINE

Volunteer Information, News & Events



Volunteer Spotlight



Ed Steinebrey

Years of Service—14

What is your favorite volunteer activity? Working at Sharon Woods Boathouse

When you're not at Great Parks, where might we find you? Working in my yard

What's your favorite outdoor activity? Walking and golf

What might we be surprised to know about you? Have traveled to more than 40 countries since retirement in 2009.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be? Australia and New Zealand

What did you want to be growing up? Accountant

What is your favorite Great Park volunteer memory? Helping grandparents with getting family infants in the boats and making them feel safe

2022 A Year in Review!

It's said every year, but somehow 2022 has come to an end and 2023 is here! In many ways 2022 felt like the beginning of a return to normal. As the world opened again, a lot of our beloved programs and special events made a grand return! We were able to gather in person again and see so many of you at our various volunteer meetings and annual celebration event.

Despite all of the challenges we have faced the last few years, the amazing support that volunteers have for Great Parks has been constant. Here are just a few things volunteers and staff accomplished this year, while working together:

- Removed at least 948 bags of trash, 85 bags of recycling, and 33 tires from park lands and around waterways, which positively affects the water quality not only in our parks, but also all the streams and rivers which make their way to the Mississippi River and down to the Gulf of Mexico! Never forget, it's all connected!
- Planted 2926 trees and shrubs, leading to better habitat for local wildlife, increased shaded areas for park guests, and less mowing for staff which means saving funds, using less gas, and less warming for the entire PLANET!!
- Walked, monitored, and improved over 72 miles of trail by removing 76 water bars and installing other sustainable measures. This means less erosion on the trails, less maintenance for our staff and safer trails for guests.
- Removed 19.5 acres of invasive plants, making room for native plants to grow which results in better food sources and overall habitat for native wildlife.
- Harvested buckets and buckets of native seeds at the Shaker Trace Nursery, so that we can continue to create new habitats and sustain the old with local plant genotypes.
- Spread 65 cubic yards of mulch, which helps plants retain moisture, contributes to our water conservation efforts, and provides appealing outdoor spaces for park guests to enjoy.
- Helped bring Kid's Expo back and engaged over 3,000 people from the local community, schools, and camps in outdoor education & recreation.
- Saw the beginning of our Holidays on the Farm event, 29 of you braved the cold weather to bring smiles to thousands of our guests this holiday season.
- Welcomed 88 new long-term volunteers to the team!
- Contributed over 26,800 hours of service to Great Parks!

These numbers show us just a glimpse of some of the amazing things that were accomplished by volunteers this year. We know there are so many more moments that simply can't be quantified. So, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you for all that you have done to support Great Parks throughout 2022. We are so excited to see what 2023 will bring!

Sincerely,
Kris, Lauren and Joe

FEBRUARY BLOG

Top 10 False Nature Narratives
<https://blog.greatparks.org/2022/11/top-10-false-nature-narratives/>

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Volunteer Meeting

Volunteer meetings are a great way to meet new people, hear about upcoming volunteer opportunities and learn something interesting from an exciting lineup of guest speakers!

No need to RSVP, just come and enjoy! Bring a snack to share. Coffee and tea will be provided. Meetings will take place from 6–7:30 p.m. with networking and refreshments from 6-6:15 p.m. There is always time to ask questions and socialize at the end of each meeting. If you are bringing a snack to share, arrive a few minutes early and be sure to bring serving utensils.

Meetings will take place in the Winton Woods or Sharon Woods Auditorium unless otherwise specified.

Jan 24– RESCHEDULED! Due to a burst pipe that occurred in the Winton Centre at the end of December, the Auditorium will be closed for renovations for the next several months. This closure has caused a strain on our larger reservable spaces forcing us to reschedule the January meeting to March 21.

Feb 21–Volunteer Team Update!

Connect with Great Parks Leadership Team as they provide important park updates and an opportunity to ask questions during and after their presentations. Meet at the **Sharon Woods Auditorium** from 6 - 8 p.m.

Mar 21– Volunteer Meeting! Join us and Great Parks Conservation Biologist, Jack Stenger, for an animal themed meeting! Jack will be updating us on many of our wildlife monitoring programs, from bluebirds, bats, snakes, and more! Meet in the **Sharon Woods Auditorium** or join virtually!

When recording your hours in MIP for volunteer meetings, log them under **Volunteer Meeting–Training or Team Update [Volunteer Engagement]**.

Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.

February 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

Philanthropy—pink

Reminder!

Please make sure to RSVP for a project and event before attending. If you can no longer make it, reach out to the staff leading the event to let them know. Every project and event listed will have the contact info of the staff person leading the project.

Invasive Removal at Fernbank

Thu 2/2, 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]**

Great Parks Forever Valentines Mailing at Sharon Woods

Thu 2/2, 9 a.m. – noon

Great Parks Forever, our philanthropic partner, is looking for some help for a super-sized mailing project! This mailing is an important tool to raise money for Great Parks. We plan to reach nearly 2,700 known constituents. Approximately 2,700 envelopes need to be stuffed! Meet at Sharon Woods Auditorium. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Elisheba Hawkins at ehawkins@greatparks.org or phone 513-245-7444. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Admin Support–Sharon Woods [Philanthropy]**

Annual Winter Hike Series

Sat 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! Please note that 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 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.

River Cleanup at Miami Whitewater

Sun 2/5, 9 – 11 a.m.

Help us take care of some trash along the Miami Whitewater Corridor and explore a rarely seen part of park property! This area is a beautiful section of the river but unfortunately trash often finds itself washed upon the shore. Come help help us remove the trash and debris. Expect vines, uneven terrain, and other obstacles. Brave volunteers who wish to accept this task are advised to wear sturdy shoes, gloves, and clothes they don't mind getting dirty. Meet at the Welch Property Drive (8291 East Miami River Road). 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 \[C&P/West\]](#)

Litter Pickup at Woodland Mound

Mon 2/6, 10 a.m. – noon

We need your help to keep our parks free of litter! Come out to Steamboat Bend and assist us in picking up trash that washes up from the Ohio River. Litter grabbers and supplies will be provided. Meet at the Steamboat Bend 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 \[C&P/East\]](#)

Brower Road Cleanup at Shawnee Lookout

Wed 2/8, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Please join us for hot coffee, cocoa, and natural stewardship! Lawrenceburg/Brower Road is heavily traveled and follows the perimeter of the park. Much of the litter along the roadside ends up in some of our most sensitive habitats and eventually into the Great Miami and Ohio Rivers during flood events. We would like your help in removing the litter and recyclables to help protect our waterways. Visibility vests will be provided. 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 or phone 513-646-4217. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Shawnee Lookout \[C&P/West\]](#)

Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods

Wed 2/8, noon – 2 p.m.

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

Honeysuckle Removal at Winton Woods

Fri 2/10, noon – 2 p.m.

Honeysuckle takes up a lot of space in our forest understory where native species could grow – it also keeps us from getting a great view of the forest! We will be removing this invasive plant along the Kingfisher trail for both the ecosystem and humans alike. Grab a jacket and let's get cutting! Meet at the Kingfisher Trailhead. 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 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Winton Woods \[C&P/Central\]](#)

Things That Bark & Howl at Sharon Woods

Fri 2/10, 6:30 – 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 assist in showing guests different taxidermy such as skulls and pelts. Meet at the Sharon Centre. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact James Harris at jharris@greatparks.org or phone 216-702-1766. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs–Sharon Woods \[Edu & Events/East\]](#)

Valentine's Bash at Woodland Mound

Sat 2/11, 1 – 3:30 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of fun with games, crafts, and other activities for the whole family! Guests will meet some of our lovable animal ambassadors, make some Valentines, and learn how some animals show their love to each other. Volunteers will help guests with crafts as needed, keep craft areas relatively clean, and help guests with the Andromeda story costumes. Meet at the Season-good Nature Center. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Lisa Salehpour at ssalehpour@greatparks.org or phone 513-289-6609. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs–Woodland Mound \[Edu & Events/East\]](#)

Valentine's Day Invasive Removal at Farbach-Werner

Tue 2/14, 9 – 11:30 a.m.

Show your love for the parks this Valentine's Day by joining us for an invasive plant removal! Farbach-Werner is

one of our smaller parks located in a more developed area. Clearing this park of invasives will improve habitat and food sources for local wildlife. Meet in the Farbach-Werner parking lot. 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—Farbach-Werner \[C&P/Central\]**](#)

Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods

Wed 2/15, noon – 2 p.m.

Come out to Sharon Woods to help remove invasive shrub species from the parcourse trail. Also learn about what invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them. Meet at the Highbanks parking lot by the dam. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Jessica Blaha at jblaha@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 2/16, 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 \[C&P/West\]**](#)

Honeysuckle Hunt at Glenwood Gardens

Thu 2/16, 9 a.m. – noon

Get out this winter at Glenwood Gardens and help us remove invasive plants from the park! We will be cutting and stump treating honeysuckle. Meet at the service drive gate towards the back of the main parking lot. 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 \[C&P/Central\]**](#)

The Purr-fect Seminar at Sharon Woods

Fri 2/17, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Help our guests learn about their purr-fect pets and their native relatives (both living and extinct). During this program, volunteers will assist in showing guests different taxidermy such as skulls and pelts. Meet at the Sharon Centre. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact James Harris at jharris@greatparks.org

or phone 216-702-1766. For volunteers ages 14 and up.

[**Interpreter Programs—Sharon Woods \[Edu & Events/East\]**](#)

Maple in the Moonlight at Farbach-Werner

Fri 2/17, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

Kick off the maple season with the chance to play in the park after dark at this program just for adults! Guests will hike the trail and then warm themselves by the fire to experience the journey of bringing maple syrup to the table. They will also make a maple syrup-inspired project to take home while enjoying maple tastings and local music. Volunteers will need to arrive at 6:30. Tasks include serving tastings, assisting with crafts, assisting with candle dipping, following a hike group and maintaining a fire. Meet at the Ellenwood Nature Barn. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 18 and up. [**Interpreter Programs—Farbach-Werner \[Edu & Events/Central\]**](#)

Vine Clearing at Werk Road

Sat 2/18, 9 a.m. – noon

Come check out one of the latest park additions and better the area in the process! Winter creeper and porcelain berry are highly invasive, choking vines that are taking over in some areas of the park. Help us clear the area and 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 \[C&P/West\]**](#)

Brush Removal at Embshoff Woods

Wed 2/22, 9 a.m. – noon

Did you know that there's more than 300 acres of green space tucked away in Delhi? Embshoff Woods Nature Preserve was opened back in 1982 and was formerly a horse farm. Now it's home to several picnic shelters, a disc golf course, and a parcourse trail. Come visit us and help clean up the area while you're here! We will be clearing brush, woody debris, and invasive species from a few areas. Meet at Mossycup Hill Shelter. 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—Embshoff Woods \[C&P/West\]**](#)

Honeysuckle Removal at Winton Woods

Fri 2/24, noon – 2 p.m.

Come help us clear the Kingfisher Trail of honeysuckle. Our goal is to create a better hiking experience for everyone by removing this invasive plant. We will be creating space for native species to grow up in place of

what we cut. Meet at the Kingfisher Trailhead. 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 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Winton Woods \[C&P/Central\]](#)

The Musty Mustelids: A Seminar on Weasels & Their Relatives at Sharon Woods

Fri 2/24, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

You can't weasel your way out of this talk! If you're a ferret lover, head over to Sharon Woods and help our guests learn about ferrets' closest relatives that live in Ohio. During this program, volunteers will assist in showing guests different taxidermy such as skulls and pelts. Meet at the Sharon Centre. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact James Harris at jharris@greatparks.org or phone 216-702-1766. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs–Sharon Woods \[Edu & Events/East\]](#)

Maple Sugar Days at Farbach-Werner

Sat 2/25 & Sun 2/26, 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

It's maple sugaring time! This event for the whole family celebrates the awakening of the trees as they prepare for spring with the very traditional craft of making maple syrup. Enjoy this delicious weekend of tastes, crafts, demonstrations, and hikes. Tasks include assisting with maple syrup boiling, following up on hikes, serving food and interacting with guests at educational stations and activities. Meet at the Ellenwood Nature Barn. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or phone 513-385-4811. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs–Farbach-Werner \[Edu & Events/Central\]](#)

Invasive Plant Removal at Withrow Nature Preserve **Mon 2/27, noon – 2 p.m.**

Come out to Withrow Nature Preserve and assist in removal of invasive species. Invasive species are a threat to the ecosystem by diminishing biodiversity and taking away resources from native species. This also provides an opportunity to learn about what invasive plants that could be present in your own backyards and how to properly treat them. We will be removing invasive species on our Trout Lily Trail. Meet at the Withrow 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–Withrow \[C&P/East\]](#)

Pear Tree Cut & Haul at Miami Whitewater Forest **Tue 2/28, noon – 2 p.m.**

Removal of invasive species is a constant job for the parks, and prescribed burns is one way we control these non-native plant invaders. This year Conservation and Parks is hoping to burn and cut a large prairie on the north end of Miami Whitewater. Your help is needed cutting woody honeysuckle and pear trees, applying herbicide to stumps will prevent regrowth, and loading cut pear trees into pickup trucks for disposal. Meet at the Shaker Building parking lot (11347 Oxford Road). 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 \[C&P/West\]](#)

Project Update: The Music Garden at Glenwood

The new Music Garden at Highfield Discovery Garden is now open! Come make musical discoveries – children can have an impromptu performance on the stage and play large instruments. We're excited to see how guests enjoy the Music Garden.

We will have a grand opening celebration in the spring, once the new plantings have been installed. The addition of this new themed area is sure to inspire future generations of gardeners and musicians!



Shout Outs

With our inaugural Holidays on the Farm event now over, we'd like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the event a success! Whether you were stamping Reindeer Round-up games at Santaland or keeping watch at the Woodlot Trail entrance, we are thankful for your time. We can't wait to continue this event for futures years!

A BIG thank you to:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mia Baldridge | Dawn Johnson |
| Henry Bernay | Donna Lanter |
| Sandy Bleau | Kyra Lewis |
| Jody Bosse | Gary Lord |
| Christine Bruewer | Paige MacMorland |
| Dan Bruewer | Nancy Martin |
| Tracy Brumett | Megan Prewitt |
| Shelly Cain | Jennifer Querner |
| April Cook | Melinda Reilly |
| Diana D'Amico | Em Rhodes |
| Teresa Dransman | Susan Robinson |
| Steve Dressing | Kaye Schallick |
| Stan Espelage | Louise Schurfranz |
| Ronda Glassmeyer | Greg Voorhies |
| Lin Huelsman | |

—Jamie Piccola & Mary Anneken, Special Event Coordinators



On Sunday, 12/18 a hardy group of volunteers (pictured left) braved the cold temperatures to plant trees along a stretch of a decommissioned trail at Miami Whitewater Forest. This was done to bring this section back to a natural state. Under the guidance of employees AJ Norton, this group planted 34 trees in two hours! Thank you so much!

Well, we have another volunteer project in the books. We spent 3 hours picking up trash along Sheffield Road and collected 12 bags of trash. Thank you to Angie Wasson, Erich Baumgardner, Kelly Kern, Lisa Neumeier, and John Martens for putting in the time with Great Parks as a volunteer.

—Shaun McClary, Glenwood Gardens
Conservation & Parks Technician