



greatparks.org/volunteer

GRAPEVINE

Volunteer Information, News & Events



Volunteer Spotlight



Susan Browne Years of Service—3

What's the most interesting thing you have learned recently?

I recently read a story that had an octopus as a primary character. I did a little research and was surprised to learn they have nine brains and are very clever. They can pick locks and solve puzzles with surprising speed. One aquarium has even recorded an octopus roaming outside its tank to snatch delicacies from nearby tanks and returning to its own tank during hours when the building is closed!

What is your favorite outdoor activity? Walking! I try to walk each day. Long walks, short walks, on sidewalks or trails. There is always something to see and something to think about.

When you are not at Great Parks, where might we find you?

When I am not at a park, I might be at the zoo or the art museum, but it is more likely that I will be in my yard. I seem to be either cutting the grass, digging a hole for a new plant, or mulching.

Volunteer Engagement Department Update

Kris Roselle, Director of Volunteer Engagement

We want to announce that there will be some changes coming soon to the Volunteer Engagement Department. Lauren McClure will be leaving us at the end of March to take some extended time off to travel the world with her new husband (they just got married on March 11th!). While we will greatly miss Lauren, this has been a dream of hers for a long time and we wish her the best on her upcoming adventures!

Lauren joined Great Parks in the fall of 2019. During her time with us she has been an integral part of strengthening our

long-term volunteer program (welcoming hundreds of new volunteers) as well as piloting a new short-term volunteer program designed for college students. She also played a major roll in making the switch from Volgistics to My Impact Page, making electronic signups a possibility, and much more!

The accomplishment she is most proud of was initiating and leading a new and innovative youth employment program called the Green Team, designed for students from diverse backgrounds who are not typically engaged by the environmental movement.

Lauren's last day will be Wednesday, March 29. If you would like to say goodbye to Lauren before she heads out, feel free to give her a call or set up a time to stop by the Winton Centre. She will also attend our next Volunteer Meeting on Tue 3/21 at the Sharon Woods Auditorium where you can stop by early at 5:30 p.m. to help us wish her farewell.

We are in the interview process for Lauren's position and will have some updates soon on our new staff member... so stay tuned!



**Happy National
Volunteer Week!**
Sun 4/16 – Sat 4/22

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April 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>

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

Natural Resources—purple

Special Events—dark blue

Community Projects—teal

Reminder!

Please be sure to RSVP for a project and event before attending. If you can no longer make it, cancel your shift sign up on MIP or 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.

Barks & Brews Marketing Help

Flexible schedule (April only)

Our Special Events team is looking for some friendly volunteers to spread the word about an exciting upcoming event! Volunteers will help call local animal-centric businesses and drop off flyers and other marketing materials at local coffee shops, small businesses, and breweries. Volunteers will be provided with a script and further training from our staff. Use of a park vehicle to drop off materials is an option after a motor vehicle background check. If you are interested in this project reach out to Jamie Piccola at jp Piccola@greatparks.org or phone 513-245-7478. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Special Events—Offsite [Edu & Events]**

Hawk Lookout Program at Otto Armleder

Sat 4/1, 12:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Get out your hiking boots and binoculars as we search for local birds of prey! Join our staff to help guests during this bird hike, acting as a follow up to the gorup and helping to carry supplies. Meet at the Pavilion. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact James Harris at jharris@greatparks.org or call 513-728-2072. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Interpreter Programs—Armleder [Edu & Events/East]**

Invasive Plant Removal at Woodland Mound

Mon 4/3, 10 a.m. – noon

Come out to Woodland Mound and assist in removal of invasive species on our Hedgeapple Trail. Invasive species are a threat to the ecosystem by diminishing biodiversity and taking away resources from native species. This provides an opportunity to learn about what invasive plants could be present in your own backyards and how to properly treat them. Meet at the Weston Shelter. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions,

contact Elissa Oliveira at eloliveira@greatparks.org or phone 513-673-1102. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Stew Crew—Woodland Mound [C&P/East]**

Garlic Mustard Pull at Winton Woods

Fri 4/7, noon – 2 p.m.

Have you ever taken a walk in our state nature preserve Spring Beauty Dell? It contains some of the best spots for viewing spring wildflowers. To keep seeing these flowers year after year, we will be pulling the invasive garlic mustard plant. Meet at the Beauty Dell picnic area. 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]**

Fishing for Beginners at Lake Isabella

Fri 4/7, 12:30 - 3:15 p.m.

Join us as we help new anglers learn the simple steps of fishing. Volunteers will be paired with small groups of fishers, helping them put on bait, take fish off of hooks and manage hooks flying in the air. Fishing knowledge is a plus but not requirement. Meet at the Lake Isabella Boat House. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact James Harris at jharris@greatparks.org or call 513-728-2072. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Interpreter Programs—Lake Isabella [Edu & Events/East]**

Trailblazers at Miami Whitewater Forest

Sat 4/8, 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Join us at Miami Whitewater Forest for a productive day "nicking" the trail. "Nick" is a term that describes a method of getting trail drainage. Standing water is never a good thing on trails and sometimes adding a nick is all that's needed. We'll see how to identify areas that have standing water, even if the trail is currently dry, the process of making a nick, and then put the

tools to work. Bring a pair of gloves and work boots, tools to work. Bring a pair of gloves and work boots, we will supply the tools. This event will happen, rain or shine! Meet at the Timberlakes parking lot. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Dan Hart at dhart@greatparks.org or phone 513-250-0925. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Trailblazers—Miami Whitewater \[C&P/West\]](#)

Trash Hunt at Campbell Lakes

Sun 4/9, noon – 2 p.m.

Our semi-annual cleaning around Campbell Lakes continues as our efforts to keep the area beautiful move into spring. Join us as we enjoy a hike around the lakes of the area and clean up after the heavy traffic that often comes with the sunnier days. Meet at the Campbell Lakes 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—Campbell Lakes \[C&P/West\]](#)

Invasive Removal at Newberry Wildlife Sanctuary

Tue 4/11, 9 a.m. – noon

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. We need your help clearing invasive pear from this high-value area. Meet at Newberry Sanctuary, 5300 Sheits Road. Park at the bend in the road 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 \[C&P/Central\]](#)

Trail Touch-up at Shawnee Lookout

Wed 4/12, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Shawnee Lookout is looking for help in trail maintenance to keep our trails safe and enjoyable for park guests. Join us in learning trail maintenance techniques and take in stunning views of the Ohio River and flowering spring ephemerals. Meet at the Waterhole Meadow picnic area. 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 4/12, noon – 2 p.m.

Come out to Sharon Woods to help remove invasive shrub species from the Hike-Bike trail. Also learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them. Meet at the Lakeside Lodge parking lot. 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 4/13, 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 honey-suckle, winter creeper, and garlic mustard aggressively outcompete native wildflowers, trees, and other native plants. Come help us tackle these invasives 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 \[C&P/West\]](#)

Litter Pickup at Winton Woods

Fri 4/14, 10 a.m. – noon

It's getting warm out! There's more people outside and that means more litter. Help keep the park clean after a lively Easter weekend. We will be picking up trash on a portion of Sharon Road that runs along the Winton Woods property line. We will provide high visibility vests. Meet at The Mill parking lot by the wooden entrance gate. 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 \[C&P/Central\]](#)

Out of this World Program at Woodland Mound

Fri 4/14 & Sat 4/15, 6:30 – 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 activity stations throughout the event, with training provided the day of. Meet at Seasongood Center. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Tom Hughes at thughes@greatparks.org or call 513-805-9042. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs—Woodland Mound \[Edu & Events/East\]](#)

Glenwood Gardens Highfield Discovery Garden Host Training

Sat 4/15 & Sun 4/16, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Highfield Discovery Garden at Glenwood Gardens is a regional hub and destination for families seeking outdoor exploration. We are looking to start a new Garden Host role where volunteers will work independently to engage Highfield Discovery Garden guests with interactive program materials on various topics like insects, music exploration, nature biofacts, and sensory investigation. Volunteers need to attend one training date for this new and exciting ongoing role. After training, volunteers sign up for Garden Host shifts on Saturdays 10 a.m. – noon and 1 – 3 p.m. and Sundays 1–3 p.m. Don't miss this fun and unique way to share your gifts and talents! Meet at the Highfield Discovery Garden.

To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact Susan Sumner at ssumner@greatparks.org or call 513-728-2814. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Garden Host–Training \[Edu & Events/Central\]](#)

Vine Clearing at Werk Road

Sat 4/15, 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! Winter creeper and porcelain berry are highly invasive, choking vines that are taking over in 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 \[C&P/West\]](#)

Protect Your Wild–Earth Day Event at Winton Woods

Mon 4/17 – Wed 4/20, flexible schedule

Great Parks is hosting our inaugural Earth Day Event at Winton Woods Harbor following the Winton Lake Cleanup. We'll have performers, food trucks, sustainable vendors, and local organizations at the event with activities that focus on protecting our earth and educational opportunities for everyone in the family! This event is free and open to the public. We would like help before the event to clean plastic containers that will be used at the craft station. Meet at the Winton Centre. To volunteer, contact Jamie Piccola at jpiccola@greatparks.org or phone 513-245-7478. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Special Events–Winton Woods \[Edu & Events/Central\]](#)

Litter Pickup at Woodland Mound

Mon 4/17, 9 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 \[C&P/East\]](#)

Brush Removal at Embshoff Woods

Wed 4/19, 9 a.m. – noon

Did you know 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 parcours trail. Come out and help us clear 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 \[C&P/West\]](#)

Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods

Wed 4/19, noon – 2 p.m.

Come out to Sharon Woods to help remove invasive shrub species from the parcours trail. Also learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them. Meet at Buckeye Falls in front of the playground. 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 \[C&P/East\]](#)

Litter Pickup at Glenwood Gardens

Thu 4/20, 9 a.m. – noon

April is Earth Month and what better way to show love for our planet than getting outside and picking up the litter that accumulates in our park! Trash is a big threat to wildlife and our water system, so come out and help better our community. 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 smccclary@greatparks.org or phone 513-869-9525. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Glenwood Gardens \[C&P/Central\]](#)

Invasive Plant Removal at Mitchell Memorial Forest

Fri 4/21, 9 – 11 a.m.

Volunteers and staff will be removing invasive plant species from Mitchell Memorial Forest. The focus will be working on invasive plants in higher-quality natural areas near the Mountain Bike 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 Gregor Bundy at gbundy@greatparks.org or phone 513-658-2577. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Stew Crew–Mitchell Memorial \[C&P/West\]](#)

Winton Woods Cleanup

Sat 4/22, 9 a.m. – noon

The Winton Woods Cleanup is our largest community volunteer day of the year! Winton Lake was created to control floods from the Mill Creek and Ohio River. Due to frequent flooding, Winton Woods often accumulates a lot of trash. Removing the litter from around Winton Woods

Lake requires all the hands we can get! Join us as an individual or bring your family and friends! Following the event our Special Events team will be hosting our inaugural Earth Day Event at Winton Woods Harbor. There will be performers, food trucks, sustainable vendors, and local organizations at the event with activities that focus on protecting our earth and educational opportunities for everyone in the family! Those who attend the cleanup will receive a free meal voucher. An exact meeting location (including a map) will be emailed to you as we get closer to the event. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List (other family or friends will need to sign up on the [website](#)). For questions, contact Joe Von Allmen at jvonallmen@greatparks.org or phone 513-245-7471. For volunteers of all ages. [Community Projects–Winton Woods Cleanup](#)

Invasive Plant Removal at Withrow

Mon 4/24, 10 a.m. – noon

Come out to Withrow Nature Preserve and assist in removal of invasive species on our Trout Lily Trail. Invasive species are a threat to the ecosystem by diminishing biodiversity and taking away resources from native species. 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 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 \[C&P/East\]](#)

Garlic Mustard Pull at Sharon Woods

Wed 4/26, noon – 2 p.m.

Come out to Sharon Woods to help remove invasive shrub species from the Hike-Bike trail. Also learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyard and how to properly remove them. Meet at the Lakeside Lodge parking lot. 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 4/27, 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 \[C&P/West\]](#)

City Nature Challenge 2023

Fri 4/28 – Mon 5/1

Explore anywhere in Hamilton County and contribute to the City Nature Challenge 2023 BioBlitz April 28 to May 1. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Hundreds of cities around the world will be calling on their citizen scientists to bioblitz their community's biodiversity. Locally, the City Nature Challenge is an exciting opportunity for all to learn more about biodiversity in our community. Any wild animal, plant or fungus is game. The event utilizes the free iNaturalist platform (web and app) to record your findings. From April 28 through May 1, participants can log photos of plants and animals they see anywhere in Hamilton County. From May 2 through May 8, all the information gathered will be identified and saved to a database. Great Parks and the Cincinnati Park Board are thrilled to be partnering together to organize this experience. Simply download the free iNaturalist app and get practicing for the big event! Please record your volunteer hours under [Interpreter Programs–Offsite \[Edu & Events\]](#)

City Nature Challenge: Be a... Reptile Hunter at Sharon Woods

Sat 4/29, 12:45 - 3:45 p.m.

Let's go in search for snakes, turtles and lizards as we learn the important role they play in our ecosystem. Volunteers help help guests locate reptiles and assist with carrying supplies. We recommend closed-toed shoes as this adventure may take us through fields, forests and creeks. Downloading the iNaturalist app on your smartphone prior to attending is recommended. Meet at the Sharon Centre. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List. For questions, contact James Harris at jharris@greatparks.org or call 513-728-2072. For volunteers ages 14 and up. [Interpreter Programs– Sharon Woods \[Edu & Events/East\]](#)

Garlic Mustard Pull at Miami Whitewater

Sun 4/30, noon – 2 p.m.

Garlic mustard, a nasty invasive species that takes over our forest, has a narrow window where we can simply yank it out of the ground and haul it away. Join us as we hope to hit that window and collect as many plants as we can. Meet at the Tallgrass Trailhead. 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 \[C&P/West\]](#)

Library Pass Program

Amy Roell, Director of Programming

Back in 2018, we began working with the Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library and became a part of their Pass Program. The passes are laminated cards that have the same triangle emblem and year at the top, followed by a list of Great Parks destinations. Each library branch has at least one pass for people to check out. The heavily used branches have two. These passes are not affixed to the windshield but can be laid on the dashboard.

The passes are checked out just like a book, but the time frame is much shorter: three days. Last year, these passes were checked out 215 times, an increase over the 157 times in 2021!

This program has grown to include five passes at the Ronald McDonald House to be available for families who have to spend time here in Cincinnati due to a loved one's illness.



Shout Outs

Thank you to everyone who came out to our first Trailblazer event. It was a homerun! We had 9 volunteers show up on a beautiful day. The photos tell the story and the success (from the Kingfisher Trail in Winton Woods) —Dan Hart, Trails Specialist

