



[greatparks.org/volunteer](https://greatparks.org/volunteer)

# GRAPEVINE

Volunteer Information, News & Events



## Volunteer Spotlight



### Mike Fink

#### Years of Service—1

**What is your favorite volunteer activity?** Stew Crew! I love seeing our impact over time whenever I go to the parks. Natives sprouting where honeysuckle has been removed and trees recovering from smothering bittersweet vines. Working on a common goal with other volunteers and staff outdoors also makes for quick comradery.

**What is your favorite Great Park volunteer memory?** Helping cut in the new Hedgeapple Trail connector at Woodland Mound. Check it out next time you visit!

**If you had a superpower, what would it be?** The Thor super-power combo. Thunder, lightning, immortality, zipping around with a flying hammer or axe! Sign me up.

**What are three things on your bucket list?** Visit all the national parks, get a motorcycle license and hike the Pacific Crest Trail.

## Shaker Trace Inner Loop Trail Improvements

### Edward Melvin, Landscape Architect

As many of you may know, the Shaker Trace Inner Loop Trail at Miami Whitewater Forest has been closed since last spring. The increased flooding events over the past few years have taken a toll on the portion of the trail that went along the creek and under the Mt. Hope Road bridge. Within the riparian buffer, especially within the constriction point under the bridge, the trail is not sustainable due to high-velocity flows during flood events. Great Parks is developing a long-term, sustainable replacement for this trail.

In a two phase project, phase 1 is currently under construction. The Site Construction and Conservation and Parks teams at Miami Whitewater Forest have joined forces to complete the first phase. This first phase includes a gravel trail and demolition of the existing shared-use asphalt trail between the pedestrian bridge and the horse trail gravel parking lot. This gravel trail will be the long-term realignment for the Shaker Trace Horse Trail once phase 2 is complete. The gravel trail will be shared by pedestrians, bikes, and horses.

Phase 2, currently in design, will be a new, paved shared-use trail with a new parking lot to accommodate horse trailers. The second phase is scheduled for construction this summer.



**Save the Date!**  
**2023 Volunteer Celebration**  
**Tuesday, October 10**  
**Sharon Woods**

### CONNECT WITH GREAT PARKS

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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. Bring a snack to share if you like. 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.

No need to RSVP for volunteer meetings, just come and enjoy!

### **May 16, 6 – 7:30 p.m., Winton Woods, Winton Centre Auditorium:**

What the heck is Biochar? Learn the basics from Great Parks Sustainability Coordinator Stephanie Bacher as she explains what this stable solid made from waste material is and how it's benefits will go beyond Great Parks. Biochar can help us address issues such as climate change, diversion of waste from landfills, and soil health.

**Joining Virtually:** Yep! We're going to try this again! We'll be attempting a hybrid model for the May meeting! If you can't make it in person, you can tune in from home (hopefully)! Login information will be shared via email a few days before the meeting with all volunteers who have their email preferences set to receive volunteer opportunities.

When recording your hours in MIP for volunteer meetings, log them under **Volunteer Meeting–Training [Volunteer Engagement]**. Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.

## May Volunteer Opportunities

Spring has sprung! Let's shake off that cabin fever and get outside and have some fun! We've got lots of great things coming up you can help with in May!

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**

**Interpreter Programs—blue**

**Animal Care—purple**

**Guest Experiences—orange**

**Golf—teal    Gardening—pink**

For all trail, litter pickups, invasive removal projects & other similar work – participants should bring work gloves, insect repellent, sunscreen, hat, water, snacks and wear long pants, boots or sturdy closed toe shoes. Tools will be provided.

Link to parks and park maps (where you can find meeting locations) – <https://www.greatparks.org/parks>

Link to sign up and record your service hours – <https://app.betterimpact.com/Login>

If you cannot find a volunteer opportunity in your MIP Calendar or List, please check your filter settings at the top of the page. If you still cannot find a volunteer opportunity, it is most likely full. The opportunities disappear once volunteer capacity has been met.

### **Mulching at Woodland Mound**

**Mon 5/1, 10 a.m. – noon**

Nothing like the smell of fresh mulch in the morning! Help us preserve water resources as we lay mulch in landscape beds and memorial tree rings near Seasongood Nature Center. The new coat of mulch will also freshen the park for spring visitors. Bring work gloves. Tools will be provided. Meet at the Seasongood Nature Center parking lot. For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Elissa Oliveira at [eloliveira@greatparks.org](mailto:eloliveira@greatparks.org) or by phone (513) 673-1102. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/list and record your hours under **Stew Crew–Woodland Mound [C&P/East]**.

### **Ball Popping at Little Miami Golf Center**

**Tue 5/2, 8 a.m. – noon**

Hi, East-siders! We need you, and everyone else who is willing to cross that invisible east/west dividing line to help pop golf balls stuck in the soft turf at Little Miami Golf Course. A long-handled tool will be provided so stooping is limited. We'll also sort through golf balls, removing damaged ones and returning the good ones into service. Wear comfortable shoes or boots and old clothing you don't mind getting dirty. Meet at the Golf Shop. For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Jennifer Riddle at [jriddle@greatparks.org](mailto:jriddle@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 561-5650. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under **Golf Maintenance–Little Miami [Golf/East]**.

## **Fitness Trail Repair at Sharon Woods**

**Wed 5/3, 9 a.m. – noon**

Skip the gym and come out to Sharon Woods to help repair the fitness trail! We will use equipment such as backpack blowers and complete tasks such as shoveling and tamping hot asphalt patch. What a workout! Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required, and we recommend you wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Personal protective equipment and tools will be provided. This will be a labor-intensive project and there will be a considerable amount of walking. Meet at Highbanks Parking Lot. For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Jessica Blaha at [jblaha@greatparks.org](mailto:jblaha@greatparks.org) or phone (937) 309-2902. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under **Stew Crew—Sharon Woods [C&P/East]**.

## **Garlic Mustard Pull at Withrow Nature Preserve**

**Mon 5/8, 10 a.m. – noon**

We need your help to remove one of our most prolific invasive plant species along Trout Lily Trail. Garlic mustard can easily be hand-pulled with a gentle tug and now is the perfect time to remove it before their very prolific seed pods burst! Invasive species are a threat to the ecosystem. They diminish biodiversity and take away resources from native species. Come out and make a positive difference while learning how to ID these and other invasive plants. Meet at the Withrow Nature Preserve Parking Lot. For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Elissa Oliveira at [eloliveira@greatparks.org](mailto:eloliveira@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 673-1102. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/list and record your hours under **Stew Crew—Withrow [C&P/East]**.

## **Invasive Removal at Richardson Forest Preserve Tue 5/9, 9 a.m. – noon**

This is your chance to check out a piece of newly acquired property in Richardson Forest Preserve, while making a positive difference in wildlife habitat. We'll remove invasive plant species that out-compete wildflowers, trees, and other native plants. Meet on Lick Rd at the halfway point of the road (look for the Great Parks truck). For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Paul Steuer at [psteuer@greatparks.org](mailto:psteuer@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 260-1124. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/list and record your hours under **Stew Crew—Richardson [C&P/Central]**.

## **Kroger Hills Grassland Woody Removal**

**Wed 5/10, 9 a.m. – noon**

Join us at one of our more secluded prairies as we do follow up maintenance after the prescribed burn. We will cut and remove woody growth that has started to become established in the prairie. This is an important step to maintain the prairie so woody plants don't take over the

herbaceous growth. Contact John Walker for specific meeting location. For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact John Walker at [jwalker@greatparks.org](mailto:jwalker@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 272-4131. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/list and record your hours under **Stew Crew—Kroger Hills [C&P/East]**.

## **Invasive Crackdown at Oak Glen Nature Preserve**

**Thu 5/11, 9 a.m. – noon**

Come check out the hidden gem of Oak Glen Nature Preserve and help us keep it clean and free from invasive plants. Depending on the number of people and weather, we will cut honeysuckle, pull garlic mustard, and/or pick up trash along the road. Sturdy closed-toe shoes or boots are a must. Long pants and long sleeves are recommended. Meet at Oak Glen (7600 Thompson Rd, Cincinnati). For volunteers 18 years of age and up! For questions, contact AJ Norton at [anorton@greatparks.org](mailto:anorton@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 910-5067. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/list and record your hours under **Stew Crew—Oak Glen [C&P/West]**.

## **Invasive Removal at Fernbank**

**Thu 5/11, 9 – 11 a.m.**

Think about your favorite part of a hike. Is it the wildlife? Is it the peaceful calm of the woods and the fresh air? Maybe it's birdwatching or seeing some spring wildflowers? Invasives like honeysuckle, winter creeper, and garlic mustard aggressively outcompete wildflowers, trees, and other native plants. Come help us tackle invasives at Fernbank and keep our trails great for generations to come! Meet at the Sycamore Trail Head (at the back of the park). For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Hannah Riess at [hriess@greatparks.org](mailto:hriess@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 296-7465. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under **Stew Crew—Fernbank [C&P/West]**.

## **Invasive Removal at the Francis Homestead**

**Sat 5/13, 9 – 11 a.m.**

Help remove invasive shrub species while learning how to ID and remove the culprits safely and effectively. Be ready to walk a considerable amount over uneven terrain and through tall grasses. Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required. Tools will be provided. Meet at Francis RecreAcres on the homestead side of the property. The gate will be open to allow parking along the driveway. For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Jessica Blaha at [jblaha@greatparks.org](mailto:jblaha@greatparks.org) or phone (937) 309-2902. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under **Stew Crew—Francis RecreAcres [C&P/East]**.



### **Kingfisher Crack Down at Winton Woods**

**Sat 5/13, 9:30 – 11:30 a.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. This is an ongoing project that is only possible with the help of volunteers. Our dream is to remove all the honeysuckle inside the loop of the trail. Come help us meet our goal! Meet at the Kingfisher Trailhead. For volunteers ages 14 and up. For questions contact Adam McCosham at [amccosham@greatparks.org](mailto:amccosham@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 978-7198. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List and record your hours under **Stew Crew–Winton Woods [C&P/Central]**.

### **Tunnel Time – Garden Work at Parky's Farm**

**Sat 5/13, 10 a.m. – noon**

What could be more fun for children than running through a tunnel covered in vining vegetables? With your help we can make this happen! Volunteers will make repairs to the tunnel which includes replacing the plastic fencing over the hoops and securing the material with zip ties. We will also weed and mulch the path under the tunnel. Bring work gloves and water and wear sturdy boots or closed-toe shoes. Meet at Parky's Farm Garden. For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Bryan Burke at [bburke@greatparks.org](mailto:bburke@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 931-3057. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under **Gardening & Landscaping–Parky's Farm**.

### **Litter Pickup at Steamboat Bend**

**Mon 5/15, 10 a.m. – noon**

We need your help to keep our parks beautiful and free of litter. Come out and lend a hand picking up trash that washes up from the Ohio River. Litter grabbers and supplies will be provided. Meet at the Steamboat Bend Parking Lot. For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Elissa Oliveira at [eoliveira@greatparks.org](mailto:eoliveira@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 673-1102. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/list and record hours under **Stew Crew–Woodland Mound [C&P/East]**.

### **Brush Removal at Embshoff Woods Nature Preserve**

**Wed 5/17, 9 a.m. – noon**

Did you know that Great Parks has more than 300 acres of green space tucked away in Delhi? Embshoff Woods Nature Preserve was opened in 1982 and was formerly a horse farm. Now it's home to several picnic shelters, a disc golf course, and a fitness trail. We will clear brush, woody debris, and invasive species from the park. Meet at Mossycup Hill Shelter (at the back of the park). For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact

Hannah Riess at [hriess@greatparks.org](mailto:hriess@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 296-7465. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under **Stew Crew–Embshoff Woods [C&P/West]**.

### **Be a Trailblazer at Winton Woods**

**Wed 5/17, 9 a.m. – noon**

No one likes mud, standing water, or erosion as they are hiking! Join us and learn about the effects water has on trails. Together we will identify areas that have water issues, discuss methods of controlling the water, and we'll put tools to the ground to improve drainage. If you want to learn about trail maintenance, this is it! Bring a pair of gloves and work boots or closed-toe shoes, we will supply the tools. This event will happen rain or shine! Meet at the Great Oaks Trail Parking Lot. For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Dan Hart at [dhart@greatparks.org](mailto:dhart@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 250-0925. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under **Trailblazers–Winton Woods [Natural Resources/Central]**.

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

**Wed 5/17, 9 a.m. – noon**

Help remove invasive plant species along the Gorge Trail while learning how to ID and remove the culprits safely and effectively. Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required, tools will be provided! Meet at the Gorge Trail Parking Lot. For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Jessica Blaha at [jblaha@greatparks.org](mailto:jblaha@greatparks.org) or phone (937) 309-2902. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under **Stew Crew–Sharon Woods [C&P/East]**.

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

**Tue, 5/18, 9 a.m. – noon**

It's time to have some good clean fun! We need your help picking up trash along Sheffield Rd which borders beautiful Glenwood Gardens. Pick-up sticks and other supplies will be provided. Wear old closed-toe shoes and clothes you don't mind getting dirty! Meet at the Glenwood Gardens Maintenance Building at 377 Sheffield Road in Woodlawn. For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Shaun McClary at [smcclary@greatparks.org](mailto:smcclary@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 593-3845. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under **Stew Crew–Glenwood Gardens [C&P/Central]**.

### **Invasive Plant Removal at Mitchell Memorial Forest**

**Fri 5/19, 9 – 11 a.m.**

Volunteers and staff will remove invasive plant species from Mitchell Memorial Forest. The focus will be working on higher-quality natural areas near the Mountain Bike Trail to help preserve the beauty of the forested hills. Meet at the Mitchell Memorial Forest Maintenance Building.



For volunteers ages 14 and up! For questions, contact Gregor Bundy at [gbundy@greatparks.org](mailto:gbundy@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 658-2577. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List and record your hours under **Stew Crew–Mitchell Memorial [C&P/West]**.

### **Storybook Weekend: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**

**Fri 5/20 & Sat 5/21, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. & Sun 5/22, noon – 5 p.m.**

Fall down the rabbit hole and join us in Wonderland! Meet the White Rabbit, play crochet, have a tea party, paint the roses red and so much more. Join us for this immersive weekend. Meet in the Cotswold Visitor Center at Glenwood Gardens. For volunteers ages 14 and up! For questions, contact Miranda Sadler at [msadler@greatparks.org](mailto:msadler@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 771-8733. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List and record your hours under **Interpreter Programs–Glenwood Gardens [Edu & Events/Central]**.

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

**Sat 5/20, 9 a.m. – noon**

Come check out Great Parks newest park and better the area in the process! Winter creeper and porcelain berry are highly invasive vines that are taking over areas of the park. Help us remove these choking invasives and create space for native species to grow! The Werk Road property, formerly the old Gamble estate, is in Westwood at 2918 Werk Rd. There are no parking spaces in the park, so park on McKinley Avenue and walk in to meet us at the old barn. For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Hannah Riess at [hriess@greatparks.org](mailto:hriess@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 296-7465. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under **Stew Crew–Werk Rd [C&P/West]**.

### **Great Parks HerpBlitz at Mitchell Memorial Forest**

**Sat 5/20, 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Join us as we use different survey methods including coverboards, dip nets, visual encounters, and turtle traps, to gain a better insight into the amphibians and reptiles that call Mitchell Memorial Forest home! We will walk through terrain that includes hills, uneven surfaces and possibly mud. Long pants, closed-toe shoes or boots are required. Meet at the Wood Duck Parking Lot and then we will carpool to the Reid Tract where the surveys will take place. We will shuttle back to Mitchell Memorial Forest for lunch and then return to the Reid Tract to finish the survey after everyone is fed and rested (lunch will be provided). We recommend bringing a refillable water bottle and snacks. If you would like to bring a non-park volunteer/friend (16 years of age and up) to the program, we will have waivers on sight. For questions, contact Jeremy Barkley at

[jbarkley@greatparks.org](mailto:jbarkley@greatparks.org) or phone (724) 814-1008.

To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under **Herp Monitor–Mitchell Memorial [Natural Resources/West]**.

### **Kilby Road Workday at Campbell Lakes Preserve** **Sun 5/21, Noon – 2 p.m.**

Help fix up one of our tree planting areas and get a look at a rarely seen part of the Miami River Corridor! Volunteers spread gravel, pick up trash, and cut invasive woody plants. Sturdy closed-toe shoes or boots are a must. Long pants and long sleeves are recommended. Meet at Oak Glen (7600 Thompson Rd, Cincinnati). For volunteers 18 years of age and up! For questions, contact AJ Norton at [anorton@greatparks.org](mailto:anorton@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 910-5067. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/list and record your hours under **Stew Crew–Campbell Lakes [C&P/West]**.

### **2023 Waste Audit**

**Mon 5/22, 8 a.m. – noon and/or 1 – 5 p.m.**

Help collect data to improve our recycling rates by participating in a waste audit. Great Parks has committed to reduce waste and ensure good recycling material gets to the processing facility. We need your help to sort through waste and recycling bags and assist in gathering data on how well our park guests are utilizing these receptacles. A health and safety plan will be in place and safety gear will be provided. You can sign up for one or both shifts. Volunteers will need to arrive 15 minutes before their shift so safety protocols and training can be reviewed. Meet at Winton Woods Central Services Building, 10500 Golf View Drive. For volunteers 18 years of age and up! For questions, contact Stephanie Bacher at [sbacher@greatparks.org](mailto:sbacher@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 484-5086. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/list and record your hours under **Sustainability–Waste Management [Natural Resources]**.

### **Bluebird Box Surveying at the Francis Homestead** **Wed 5/24, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

Learn what we are looking for when we survey boxes and how you can nurture this species at home! We will walk a considerable amount over uneven terrain and through tall grass. Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required. Meet at Francis RecreAcres, then we will walk over to the Homestead side of the property together. For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Jessica Blaha at [jblaha@greatparks.org](mailto:jblaha@greatparks.org) or phone (937) 309-2902. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list (no email or phone sign-ups, please) and record your hours under **Stew Crew–Frances RecreAcres [C&P/East]**.

## Invasive Removal at Fernbank

Thu 5/25, 9 – 11 a.m.

Think about your favorite part of a hike. Is it the wildlife? Is it the peaceful calm of the woods and the fresh air? Maybe it's birdwatching or seeing some spring wildflowers? Invasives like honey-suckle, winter creeper, and garlic mustard aggressively outcompete wildflowers, trees, and other native plants. Come help us tackle invasives at Fernbank and keep our trails great for generations to come! Meet at the Sycamore Trailhead (at the back of the park). For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For questions, contact Hannah Riess at [hriess@greatparks.org](mailto:hriess@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 296-7465. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under **Stew Crew–Fernbank [C&P/West]**.

## Talkin' Trash at Winton Woods

Tues 5/30 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Great Parks see a lot of traffic during the festivities of Memorial Day weekend. Join us to clean and beautify Winton Woods so that we can continue to provide a space for our community to find their wild. We will be picking up litter, clearing garbage cans, and cleaning out grills along Valleyview Dr. and West Park Rd. Meet in the parking lot near the Great Oaks Trailhead. For volunteers ages 14 and up. For questions contact Adam McCosham at [amccosham@greatparks.org](mailto:amccosham@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 978-7198. To volunteer, sign up on your MIP Calendar/List and record your hours under **Stew Crew–Winton Woods [C&P/Central]**.

## Volunteer Shoutouts!

Small Efforts Make Mighty Results...from a wonderful anonymous volunteer!

The golf staff and golfers would like to send a big shout out to the volunteers who braved the frosty morning weather to pop balls at Miami Whitewater Forest Golf Course. Michael Draper, Colin Alesbury, Kay Serio, April Boyle, Craig Montgomery, Dave & Janice Carter, Stan Espelage, and Helen & Lester Sterwerf all contributed two hours of their time, gathering in the neighborhood of around 8,000-10,000 balls! This is enough balls to fill our ball dispenser, saves Great Parks valuable time and money and helps develop community among the golf staff and volunteer crew.

–Mike Uffman, General Manager, Miami Whitewater Forest GC



On Tuesday, March 28, 13 volunteers and three staff members attacked the range to recover range balls that were plugged underground and were inaccessible to the range picker. This dedicated group braved the wet conditions to recover roughly 15,000 range balls. This represents a recovery of roughly \$8,125 in range ball assets. A big thank you to everyone that helped us have such a productive day. Volunteers Lisa Neumeier, Chris Terrell, Gail Curtis, Bill Curtis, Dan Busemeyer, Dale & Marianne Hoffmann, Colin Alesbury, David Carter, John Lennon, Craig Montgomery, Barb & Dave Witte, Jean Sterwerf and staff Herman Anderson and Dave Dargis.

–Matt Starr, Head Golf Professional, Meadow Links & Golf Academy

## Great Parks Engagement with Tribes

Jessica Spencer, Director of Natural Resources

Did you know there are 40+ federally recognized tribes who call Ohio home? The Cincinnati area and the land that Great Parks occupies is that of the Adena, Hopewell, Myaamia (Miami), Shawandasse Tula (Shawanwaki/Shawnee) and Wazhazhe Manzhan (Osage) Peoples. These tribes are still active and interested in activities on their native homeland.

Over the last few years, Great Parks has made several steps toward acknowledging Native Americans, including forming a Cultural Resources Team. This team has been mapping out a plan for engaging tribes in future projects. We've reached out to all of them and are working to establish a relationship. There are also collaborations with Ohio History Connection and the Cincinnati Museum Center to guide development of protocols and best management practices for cultural resources on park property.

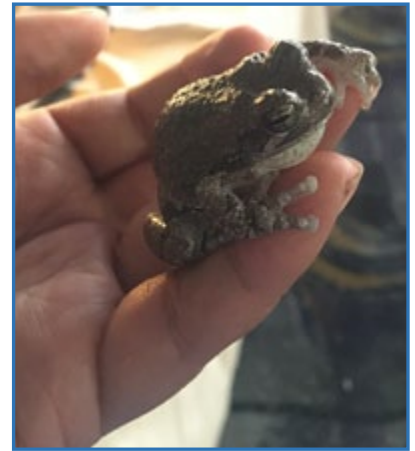
If you have contact with any tribes, please send us an email at [CulturalResources@greatparks.org](mailto:CulturalResources@greatparks.org) so we can coordinate efforts as we continue to work on building these important connections.

## More Volunteer Opportunities

### Program Animal Care

#### Various days and shifts available

Help us care for small animals that are part of our education team. Most of these animals cannot be returned to their natural environment, so they serve to educate park guests during close-up wildlife programs. Volunteers feed the animals, clean their enclosures, document their interactions, and handle the animals so they remain comfortable around people. Snakes, turtles, frogs, insects, spiders, hawks, owls, doves, and rabbits are just a sampling of what you might encounter. Program animals vary by location. 2-hour shifts weekly or bi-weekly are available and vary per location. Animal care can be done in the evening and weekends at most locations once trained and confident with handling and feeding protocols. For volunteers 14 years of age and up.



**Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve:** Volunteers are needed Fridays and Saturdays. Contact Paul Seevers at [pseevers@greatparks.org](mailto:pseevers@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 728-2813.

**Glenwood Gardens:** Volunteers are needed Wednesdays through Sundays. Contact Ellen Meehan at [emeehan@greatparks.org](mailto:emeehan@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 728-3638.

**Miami Whitewater Forest:** Volunteers are needed Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Contact Luke Ogonek at [logonek@greatparks.org](mailto:logonek@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 202-7889.

**Sharon Woods:** This location is good on regular animal care but could use someone to weigh animals once a week (turtles, toads, snakes, etc). Contact Julie Robinson at [jrobinson@greatparks.org](mailto:jrobinson@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 728-4517.

**Woodland Mound:** Volunteers are needed every day but Monday (Saturday is the highest need day). Contact Julie Robinson at [jrobinson@greatparks.org](mailto:jrobinson@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 728-4517.

Record your hours under **Animal Care–Location [Edu & Events/Region]**.

### Visitor Centers

#### Various days and shifts available

Spring is here and Visitor Centers are getting busy welcoming park visitors. We are looking for friendly faces to welcome guests to our big lands! Volunteers will welcome guests to Great Parks, answer and solve general inquiries about the parks, assist with sales, answer phone calls, and restock merchandise on sales floors as necessary, including drinks and snacks. Must be willing to learn how to use a point-of-sale system, phones and credit card machines. Many days and shifts are available, either on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Some locations may have weekend or evening hours. For volunteers 18 years of age and up.

**Glenwood Gardens:** Contact Doug Stevenson at [dstevenson@greatparks.org](mailto:dstevenson@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 326-0121.

**Sharon Woods:** Contact Julie Robinson at [jrobinson@greatparks.org](mailto:jrobinson@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 728-4517.

**Miami Whitewater Forest:** Contact Dan Phillips at [dphillips@greatparks.org](mailto:dphillips@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 202-7801.

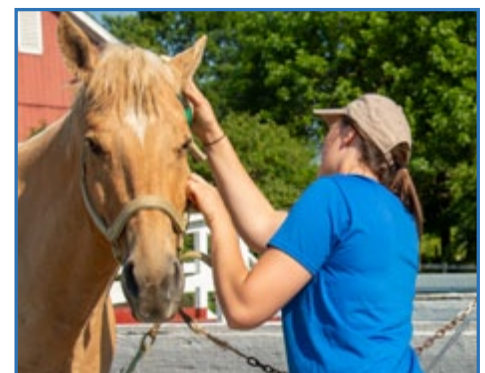
**Woodland Mound:** Contact Julie Robinson at [jrobinson@greatparks.org](mailto:jrobinson@greatparks.org) or phone (513) 728-4517.

Record your hours under **Visitor Center/Niche–Location [Edu & Events/Region]**.

### Giddy Up to Barn Aiding at Parky's Farm

#### Various days available, two hour shifts at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 4 p.m., or 6 p.m.

Work alongside Farm staff and other volunteers to muck stalls and groom, tack and feed horses, ponies and farm animals. You may also have the opportunity to hold horses or program animals for the farrier and/or veterinarian during well checks, and guide horses and animals to and from barns, lesson/program areas, cool down spaces and fields. Monitoring entrance gates and interacting with park guests is also included in this role. You'll be standing for extended periods of time and walking over uneven surfaces while volunteering as a Barn Aid, and you will be exposed to frequent heat and cold (the Farm is open year-round, and the barns are not heated or cooled). You may also occasionally be asked to lift items 10-50 pounds. Successful completion of in-person and online training is required before volunteering may begin. For volunteers 14 years of age and up! For more information, contact Volunteer Margie Rennie at [mrennie@icloud.com](mailto:mrennie@icloud.com) or phone (513) 984-8935. Record your hours under **Barn Aid–Riding Center [Parky's Farm]**.





# To Squeep, Or Not To Squeep?

Jack Fogle, Interpreter

You may have recently asked yourself this very question. Imagine that it's early March, the sun is setting, and you've had a long day. The clear, cerulean sky has metamorphosed into foreboding, heavy cloud cover. Soon, it will rain. That's when you ask yourself, *To squeep, or not to squeep?*

Or... maybe it's just me. You may have never heard of the word "Squeep" before, and that would make sense, because I coined the term myself. Here's the definition: Squeep (v.): To search for amphibians during their migration season. Ex. *"Helga went squeeping last night and found an American Toad"*

The word comes from the sound that Spring Peepers make, a sound that is omnipresent in nighttime woodlands during migration season. I've heard people throw out terms like "herping" (a herp is any amphibian or reptile) or "phibbing" (where "phib" is short for amphibian), but I feel that these terms do not fully capture the experience of going squeeping.

You can go herping or phibbing anytime, under any conditions, but you can only go squeeping during the amphibian migration. At this point, you may be asking, "Jack, amphibians migrate? Like birds?" The answer is: kinda?

Amphibians, meaning frogs, toads, salamanders (and newts), start their lives as aquatic tadpoles equipped with tools adapted for swimming: gills, tail fin, etc. As they eat and grow, they start to develop tools for terrestrial life, like legs, lungs, etc. Thus, (almost) all amphibians need to lay their eggs in water, where they are externally fertilized. That means every amphibian mating season (from February to April), all those landlubbing frogs and toads and salamanders need to return to where they were born.

"Jack," you may once again be asking, "What about the frogs and newts that still live in or around water when they're adults?" That is a good question. Many of those frogs and newts live in water with fish as roommates. And like any terrible roommate, these fish will eat everything that they see, regardless of whose side of the fridge it's on or if there's a sticky note that says "Do not eat". Their favorite snack? Frog eggs, newt eggs, and tadpoles.

Understandably, amphibians by-and-large want to avoid laying their eggs in any body of water with fish in it, instead opting for nurseries that lack rude and hungry fish that may or may not leave dirty dishes in the sink. One of the most common options are vernal pools, which are basically ditches, divots, or dug out areas that fill up with lots of leaves and water in early spring, and dry up by the time summer rolls around. Since they dry out every year, no fish can survive, and the eggs and tadpoles are safe to live their egggy, tadpolish lives. Other options are to lay their eggs on land, fishless wetlands, or in tiny spring ephemeral headwater streams.

But first, those little frogs, toads, salamanders, and newts must travel from where they live to where they want to mate and lay their eggs. While some birds travel thousands of miles from continent to continent when they migrate, a toad's migration might just consist of a 20 foot hop-about from a pond to a nearby vernal pool. Sometimes it's a much longer and arduous quarter mile journey to the nearest headwater stream.

To sum things up, the amphibians go on the move. They must be crafty, though, as traveling this far can carry risks for tasty little cold-blooded, water-dependent amphibians: they may get eaten, they may dry out, they may freeze, or they may even get run over. Thus, the optimum time to see an amphibian migrating is when:

It is dark outside.

It is over 40° F.

There is a vernal pool or a body of water nearby, preferably both.

It is actively raining. The more rain the better.

It is between mid-February and early April.

For the rest of the story, visit the Great Parks Blog at <https://blog.greatparks.org/2023/04/to-squeep-or-not-to-squeep/>

