



greatparks.org/volunteer

GRAPEVINE

Volunteer Information, News & Events



Volunteer Spotlight



Becky Kelley Years of Service—4

What is your favorite volunteer activity? Working at the Visitor Center at Miami Whitewater Forest with all the volunteers.

When you're not at Great Parks, where might we find you? Home working on projects or taking a hike in one of our wonderful parks.

What's your favorite outdoor activity? Bicycling or hiking.

What might we be surprised to know about you? I play the violin in a local volunteer orchestra.

What is your favorite Great Park and why? Miami Whitewater Forest because of the bike trail.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be? Yellowstone again!

What is your life motto? Live and let live.

What did you want to be growing up? Professional tennis player. I use to be a pretty good player.

New Addition to the Volunteer Engagement Team

Elise Moeller, Volunteer Engagement Specialist

My name is Elise Moeller, and I am the newest addition to the Volunteer Engagement Team! I am thrilled to be a part of Great Parks and have already jumped in and attended two tree plantings, the Protect Your Wild Cleanup, and a gathering with almost every staff member. Kris has shared briefly about my experiences, and I wanted to share a little more about myself in this edition of the volunteer newsletter.

My passions are rooted in community engagement and environmental stewardship, and I am so grateful that my career path is now a combination of both! I have worked for a variety of nonprofits that I have loved, with one of my favorites being the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI). The project that I hold the most dearly is the Devils Playground Trail Reroute on the backside of Pikes Peak, where I was able to lead youth corps members on 9-day hitches in Divide, Colorado.

Back here in Ohio, I am striving to create an urban backyard oasis at my Oakley home for our native pollinators and to train for my first half marathon. And I can now say I successfully completed the 2023 Flying Pig Half Marathon!

I cannot wait to connect with all of the lovely volunteers here at Great Parks, and I hope to meet you all in person soon. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out with any volunteer-related questions you may have for me or just to connect in general at emoeller@greatparks.org!



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

CONNECT WITH GREAT PARKS

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Volunteer Team Update at Mill Race Banquet Center

Tue. June 13, 6 – 8 p.m.

Connect with Great Parks Leadership Team as they provide important park updates and an opportunity to ask questions during and after their presentations. Bring a snack to share. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please join us for networking and refreshments from 6 to 6:15 p.m. There is always time to ask questions and socialize at the end of the update. If you are bringing a snack to share, arrive a few minutes early and be sure to bring serving utensils.

Age Requirements: All those ages 14 and up

Registration & Hours: No need to RSVP, just come and enjoy! Please record your hours under [Volunteer Meeting–Team Update](#) [\[Volunteer Engagement\]](#).

And don't forget – you can always reach out to your Volunteer Engagement Team directly at volunteer@greatparks.org!

The next Volunteer Meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 18 at the Winton Woods Auditorium. Keep an eye out for additional details about this meeting coming soon!

June Stew Crew Volunteer Opportunities

As the much-anticipated summer season approaches, we encourage you to get out and explore our big lands through our Stew Crew volunteer opportunities!

What to Wear & Bring: For all trail, litter pickups, invasive removal projects, and other similar work, volunteers are required to wear long pants, and boots or sturdy closed-toe shoes as well as bring work gloves, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat, water bottles, and snacks. 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 volunteer 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, so we encourage you to find another opportunity!

Invasive Removal at Fernbank Park

Thu. June 1, 9 – 11 a.m.

Think about your favorite part of a hike – is it the wildlife? The peaceful calm of the woods and the fresh air? Maybe it's birdwatching or seeing some nice spring wildflowers? Invasive species like honeysuckle, winter creeper, and garlic mustard threaten all of this by aggressively outcompeting native wildflowers, trees, and other flora. Help us tackle invasive species and keep our trails great for generations to come!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Sycamore Trailhead
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Fernbank \[C&P/West\]](#).

For additional questions, please contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or (513) 296-7465!

Mulching at Withrow Nature Preserve

Mon. June 5, 10 a.m. – noon

Assist in making the park look beautiful by mulching landscape beds and around memorial trees to freshen up the Highwood Lodge area for the summer season!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Withrow Nature Preserve parking lot
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Withrow \[C&P/East\]](#).

For additional questions, please contact Elissa Oliveira at eoliveira@greatparks.org or (513) 673-1102!

Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods

Wed. June 7, 8 – 10 a.m.

Help us remove invasive shrub species along the Shared-Use Trail! You will also learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyard and how to properly remove them.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Lakeside Lodge parking lot
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Sharon Woods \[C&P/East\]](#).

For additional questions, please contact Jessica Blaha at jblaha@greatparks.org or (937) 309-2902!

Invasive Removal at Little Miami Scenic Trail

Wed. June 7, 9 a.m. – noon

Come join us as we remove invasive honeysuckle along the Little Miami Scenic Trail near Bass Island. The section we will be working on is a newly transitioned, no-mow area that has been having natural regeneration of oaks that we want to protect.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Bass Island parking lot
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Little Miami \[C&P/East\]](#).

For additional questions, please contact John Walker at jwalker@greatparks.org or (513) 272-4131!

Invasive Removal at Miami Whitewater Forest

Thu. June 8, 9 a.m. – noon

Come join our ongoing fight against non-native species. We will be cutting down invasive species with handsaws and loppers to give our native species room to thrive in natural areas around the shelter.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 18 and up
- Meeting Location: High Plains Shelter (9998 Timberlakes Dr, Harrison, OH 45030)
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Miami Whitewater \[C&P/West\]](#).

For additional questions, please contact AJ Norton at anorton@greatparks.org or (513) 910-5067!

Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods

Sat. June 10, 8 – 10 a.m.

Help us remove invasive shrub species along the Shared-Use Trail! You will also learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyard and how to properly remove them.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Lakeside Lodge parking lot
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Sharon Woods \[C&P/East\]](#).

For additional questions, please contact Jessica Blaha at jblaha@greatparks.org or (937) 309-2902!

Vine Clearing at Werk Road

Sat. June 10, 9 a.m. – noon

Come check out Great Parks' newest west-side park 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 to create space for native species to grow! There are no parking spaces available in the park, so we ask that you park on McKinley Avenue and walk in to meet us at the old barn.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: 2918 Werk Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45211
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Werk Road \[C&P/West\]](#).

For additional questions, please contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or (513) 296-7465!

Invasive Removal at Winton Woods

Sat. June 10, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Honeysuckle takes up a lot of space in our forest understory where native species could grow and 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. 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.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Kingfisher Trailhead
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Winton Woods \[C&P/Central\]](#).

For additional questions, contact Adam McCosham at amccosham@greatparks.org or (513) 978-7198!

Litter Cleanup at Woodland Mound

Mon. June 12, 10 a.m. – noon

We need your help to keep our parks beautiful and free of litter. Come out to Steamboat Bend and assist in picking up trash that washes up from the Ohio River.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Former Steamboat Bend Boat Launch parking lot
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Woodland Mound \[C&P/East\]](#).

For additional questions, contact Elissa Oliveira at eoliveira@greatparks.org or (513) 673-1102!

Roadside Invasive Removal at Shawnee Lookout

Wed. June 14, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Help to remove woody invasive plants from our park roadway. Invasive honeysuckle and Autumn olive crowd out native plants like pawpaw and spicebush that are vital to wildlife. Join us in learning management practices to combat the spread of woody invasive species and how the native plants help in biodiversity within the ecosystem.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Shawnee Lookout Eagle's Landing parking lot (former golf course clubhouse)
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Shawnee Lookout \[C&P/West\]](#).

For additional questions, contact Alex Hearing at ahearing@greatparks.org or (513) 646-4217!

Invasive Removal at Fernbank Park

Thu. June 15, 9 – 11 a.m.

Think about your favorite part of a hike – is it the wildlife? The peaceful calm of the woods and the fresh air? Maybe it's birdwatching or seeing some nice spring wildflowers? Invasive species threaten all of this! Invasive species like honeysuckle, winter creeper, and garlic mustard threaten all of this by aggressively outcompeting native wildflowers, trees, and other flora. Help tackle invasive species and keep our trails great for generations to come!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Sycamore Trailhead
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Fernbank \[C&P/West\]](#).

For additional questions, please contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or (513) 296-7465!

Invasive Vine Control at Glenwood Gardens

Thu. June 15, 9 a.m. – noon

Join us for some pruning and vine control along trails throughout Glenwood Gardens!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Glenwood Gardens Tech Center (377 Sheffield Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45240)
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Glenwood Gardens \[C&P/Central\]](#).

For additional questions, contact Shaun McClary at smcclary@greatparks.org or (513) 593-3845!

Invasive Removal at Mitchell Memorial Forest

Sat. June 17, 9 – 11 a.m.

Volunteers and staff will be removing invasive plant species from Mitchell Memorial Forest. The main focus will be working in higher-quality natural areas near the Mountain Bike Trail to remove invasive plants and help preserve the beauty of these deep-woods habitats.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Mitchell Memorial Forest maintenance building
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Mitchell Memorial \[C&P/West\]](#).

For additional questions, contact Gregor Bundy at gbundy@greatparks.org or 513-658-2577!

The Dam Cleanup at Miami Whitewater Forest

Sun. June 18, noon – 2 p.m.

Come join us in cleaning up heavy debris at the retention basin of the lake at Miami Whitewater Forest. This area is vital to the management of the lake water levels and the drainage structures are constantly being affected by large logs and woody growth. Volunteers will be raking debris, removing logs, cutting small trees and brush, and picking up trash. Parking may be limited so carpooling is encouraged.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 18 and up
- Meeting Location: Retention Basin (8908 Strimple Rd, Harrison, OH 45030)
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Miami Whitewater \[C&P/West\]](#).

For additional questions, please contact AJ Norton at anorton@greatparks.org or phone (513) 910-5067!

Post-Holiday Litter Cleanup at Winton Woods

Tue. June 20, 9 – 11 a.m.

Great Parks sees a lot of traffic during the festivities of holiday weekends. 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 Drive and West Park Road.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Great Oaks Trailhead
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Winton Woods \[C&P/Central\]](#).

For additional questions, contact Adam McCosham at amccosham@greatparks.org or (513) 978-7198!

Invasive Removal at Lake Isabella

Wed. June 21, 8 – 10 a.m.

Help us remove and treat invasive shrub species! Also, learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyards and how to properly remove them.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Campground parking lot
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Lake Isabella \[C&P/East\]](#).

For additional questions, please contact Jessica Blaha at jblaha@greatparks.org or (937) 309-2902!

Invasive Removal at Embshoff Woods

Wed. June 21, 9 – 11 a.m.

Did you know there are more than 300 acres of green space tucked away in Delhi? Embshoff Woods 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 visit us and help clean up the area while you're here! We will be clearing invasive species like garlic mustard, multiflora rose, and honeysuckle along the Fitness Trail. Please bring thick gloves if you have them!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Trailhead across from the Rivermount Shelter
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Embshoff Woods \[C&P/West\]](#).

For additional questions, please contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or (513) 296-7465!

Invasive Removal at Woodland Mound

Mon. June 26, 10 a.m. – noon

Come out to Woodland Mound to assist in the removal of invasive species from the 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.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Weston Shelter parking lot
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Woodland Mound \[C&P/East\]](#).

For additional questions, contact Elissa Oliveira at eoliveira@greatparks.org or (513) 673-1102!

Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods

Wed. June 28, 8 – 10 a.m.

Help us remove invasive shrub species along the Shared-Use Trail! Volunteers will also learn what invasive plants could be present in your backyard and how to properly remove them.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Lakeside Lodge parking lot
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Sharon Woods \[C&P/East\]](#).

For additional questions, please contact Jessica Blaha at jblaha@greatparks.org or (937) 309-2902!

Invasive Removal at Fernbank Park

Thu. June 29, 9 – 11 a.m.

Think about your favorite part of a hike – is it the wildlife? The peaceful calm of the woods and the fresh air? Maybe it's birdwatching or seeing some nice spring wildflowers? Invasive species threaten all of this! Invasive species like honeysuckle, winter creeper, and garlic mustard threaten all of this by aggressively outcompeting native wildflowers, trees, and other flora. Help tackle invasive species and keep our trails great for generations to come!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Sycamore Trailhead
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Fernbank \[C&P/West\]](#).

For additional questions, please contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or (513) 296-7465!

June Interpreter Program Volunteer Opportunities

Frog Week

Wed. May 31 – Sat. June 3, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Kick off our summer series of nature weeks with Frog Week! See and learn about some of Ohio's favorite frogs and toads. There will be live animals, activities, and a craft for kids. Volunteers are needed to welcome and interact with guests and help with crafts.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Location: Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve/Ellenwood Nature Barn
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Interpreter Programs–Farbach Werner \[Edu & Events/East\]](#).

Snake Week

Wed. June 7 – Sat. June 10, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Ssssee and learn about several of Ohio's native snakes on exhibit this week. Volunteers are needed to welcome and interact with guests and help with crafts.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Location: Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve/Ellenwood Nature Barn
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Interpreter Programs—Farbach Werner \[Edu & Events/East\]](#).

Turtle Week

Wed. June 14 – Sat. June 17, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Join us for this exhibit featuring turtles and totally turtle activities. Volunteers are needed to welcome and interact with guests and help with crafts.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Location: Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve/Ellenwood Nature Barn
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Interpreter Programs—Farbach Werner \[Edu & Events/East\]](#).

Raptors of Ohio Week

Wed. June 21 – Sat. June 24, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

See live Ohio raptors at this popular annual exhibit. Volunteers are needed to welcome and interact with guests and help with crafts and an owl pellet dissection!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Location: Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve/Ellenwood Nature Barn
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Interpreter Programs—Farbach Werner \[Edu & Events/East\]](#).

Nature Art & Play Week

Wed. June 28 – Sat. July 1, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Drop in to play nature-inspired games and make nature-inspired art during this week designed to help nurture your creativity and connection to nature and the community. Volunteers are needed to welcome and interact with guests and help with crafts.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Location: Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve/Ellenwood Nature Barn
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Interpreter Programs—Farbach Werner \[Edu & Events/East\]](#).

For additional questions about Frog Week, Snake Week, Turtle Week, Raptors of Ohio Week, or Nature Art & Play Week, contact Stephanie Morris at smorris@greatparks.org or (513) 385-4811!



Volunteer Shoutout!

Stew Crew volunteers at Fernbank Park collected a total of 33 bags of garlic mustard and a few truckloads of honeysuckle on April 27!