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# GRAPEVINE

Volunteer Information, News & Events



## Volunteer Spotlight



### Megan Prewitt Years of Service—2

**What is your life motto?** Be Kind. Be Inquisitive. Be Joyful.

**What cause are you passionate about?** International Rhino Foundation (IRF). I recently went to Indonesia for 2 weeks with IRF. They are a spectacular charity focused on the conservation of the 5 species of rhinos. The 2 species native to Indonesia are the Sumatran and Javan. The Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary just had a baby Sumatran Rhino born. The last time a baby Sumatran Rhino was born was 17 years ago! I learned firsthand how the monies are spent toward the Javan and Sumatran Rhino and how they work with the local communities and government to educate the importance of the native rhinos. It is an all-hands-on-deck model, and it is amazing what they have been able to accomplish.

**What is your favorite Great Park?** Winton Woods, solely based on the proximity to my house. One of the perks of volunteering with the Great Parks is getting to see and enjoy the other parks.

## HerpBlitz in the Wild Wild West!

Jeremy Barkley,  
Conservation & Parks  
Senior Park Manager

On Saturday, May 20, Great Parks staff, volunteers, Ohio Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (OHPARC) members, and college students participated in a BioBlitz at the Reid Tract, a natural, undeveloped area of land close to Mitchell Memorial Forest. Typically, BioBlitz community science programs gather data about all species in a designated area. For our HerpBlitz, we focused specifically on amphibian and reptile species to monitor the success of herps in this area. The 17 staff, community partners, and volunteers used various methods to survey the area, including coverboards, turtle traps, dip nets, and visual encounters. The eight species recorded were the American toad, green frog, spring peeper, bullfrog, Northern two-lined salamander, ravine salamander, red-backed salamander, and plenty of Eastern garter snakes.

Performing surveys like this can give us a better understanding of what species reside in our wild spaces in our parks. This crucial data guides our management decisions to ensure reclamation efforts after a natural or human-caused disaster incorporate restoring habitat for our local herps.

I also want to thank everyone that made this event possible. A big thank you goes to Megan Seymour with OHPARC and USFWS for providing coverboards. Another big thank you to Richard Phillips with Wittenberg University and OHPARC for providing turtle traps. A huge shoutout to our volunteer engagement staff for catering lunch for those who helped the day of the event. Thank you to those who were on the planning committee for this project - especially Gregor Bundy for allowing us to enjoy a part of Mitchell Memorial Forest that not too many people get to see. Lastly, a big thank you to both the Great Parks staff and volunteers who helped the day of the event! I hope you were able to learn something about our scaly and slimy friends that call our parks home!



Save the Date!

2023 Volunteer Celebration  
Tuesday, October 10  
Sharon Woods

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## Volunteer Meeting

### Quail-ity Time with Tim Coates

Tue. July 18, 6 – 7:30 p.m

He's baaack! Our favorite bird guy, Tim Coates, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Forest Park, will return to the Winton Centre Auditorium to talk about our backyard feathered friends and how to make them happy and healthy no matter what season it is. Hold on to your feathers, his fast-paced presentation style will leave you chirping for more. Tim is also famous for his im-peck-able door prizes, so you don't want to miss this 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. Meetings take place from 6 – 7:30 p.m. with networking and refreshments from 6 – 6:15 p.m.

Coffee and tea will be provided, but we invite attendees to bring a snack to share! If you are bringing food, please arrive a few minutes early and be sure to bring serving utensils.

- **Location:** Winton Woods, Winton Centre Auditorium
- **Registration:** No need to RSVP, just come and enjoy!
- **Hours:** Please record your hours under [Volunteer Meeting– Training \[Volunteer Engagement\]](#).

(As always, training hours may be doubled! Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.)

## Stew Crew & Trailblazer Volunteer Opportunities

It is warming up and our big lands are looking for your support! Take a look at all of the Stew Crew and Trailblazer opportunities happening in July.

**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!

Park Information, Maps, & More: <https://www.greatparks.org/parks>

My Impact Page (MIP) Login: <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 Winton Woods

Sat. July 1, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Honeysuckle takes up a lot of space in our forest understory where native species grow and keeps us from getting a great view of the forest! We will be removing this invasive plant along the Great Oaks Trail for both the ecosystem and humans. This is an ongoing project that is only possible with the help of volunteers. Our goal is to remove all the honeysuckle inside the loop of the trail.

- **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](mailto:amccosham@greatparks.org) or (513) 978-7198!

### Invasive Removal at Woodland Mound

Mon. July 3, 9 – 11 a.m.

Assist us in removing 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 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](mailto:eoliveira@greatparks.org) or (513) 673-1102!

### Post-Holiday Litter Cleanup at Sharon Woods

Wed. July 5, 8 – 10 a.m.

After a busy holiday weekend, there is an influx of litter around the park. Our team would greatly appreciate your help to hit the "reset" button and make our park beautiful again!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Sharon Centre 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](mailto:jblaha@greatparks.org) or (937) 309-2902!

### **Post-Holiday Litter Cleanup at Fernbank Park**

**Wed. July 5, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Great Parks sees a lot of traffic during the summer holidays! Help us recover and clean up 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 throughout the park.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Fernbank Lodge parking lot
- 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](mailto:hriess@greatparks.org) or (513) 296-7465!

### **Post-Holiday Litter Cleanup at Winton Woods**

**Wed. July 5, 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 and clearing garbage cans near the harbor and lake.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Winton Woods Harbor Amphitheatre
- 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](mailto:amccosham@greatparks.org) or (513) 978-7198!

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

**Sat. July 8, 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!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: 2918 Werk Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45211
- 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.

- 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](mailto:hriess@greatparks.org) or (513) 296-7465!

### **Invasive Removal & Nature Hike at Miami Whitewater Forest**

**Sun. July 9, noon – 3 p.m.**

Join our ongoing fight against non-native species and learn about our local forest along the way. We will be cutting with handsaws and loppers to give our native species room to thrive and allow more space for campers. Stick around after the work for a short hike around Timberlakes Trail to learn more about our local flora and fauna!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 18 and up
- Meeting Location: Miami Whitewater Forest Camp-ground
- 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](mailto:anorton@greatparks.org) or (513) 910-5067!

### **Landscaping at Woodland Mound**

**Mon. July 10, 9 – 11 a.m.**

Assist us in making our Seasongood Nature Center look beautiful by weeding the landscape beds, pruning low-hanging branches, and removing debris!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Seasongood Nature Center 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](mailto:eoliveira@greatparks.org) or (513) 673-1102!

### **Invasive Removal at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve**

**Tue. July 11, 9 a.m. – noon**

Join our team to remove aggressive invasive species and help our native plants thrive!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Farbach-Werner parking lot
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Farbach Werner \[C&P/Central\]](#).

For additional questions, contact Paul Steuer at [psteuer@greatparks.org](mailto:psteuer@greatparks.org) or (513) 260-1124!

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

**Wed. July 12, 8 – 10 a.m.**

Help us remove invasive shrub species along the Hike-Bike 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](mailto:jblaha@greatparks.org) or (937) 309-2902!

### **Invasive Removal at Kroger Hills**

**Wed. July 12, 9 – 11 a.m.**

Join us as we start a new project to restore a portion of the Kroger Hill woodland! By removing invasive honeysuckle, you will be protecting Eastern Leatherwood, which is uncommon throughout our park district, and creating a more accessible entrance for maintenance.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Kroger Hill North
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew—Kroger Hills \[C&P/East\]](#).

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

### **Invasive Removal at Shawnee Lookout**

**Wed. July 12, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Help remove Japanese stiltgrass from the Miami Fort Trail! This invasive species can aggressively crowd out native plants on wooded edges and canopy openings throughout the forest. The Miami Fort Trail is home to Ohio's second largest population of running buffalo clover, which is a state-listed endangered species. By removing the Japanese stiltgrass before it goes to seed, you can help slow the spread and give space for running buffalo clover to thrive!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Shawnee Lookout Miami Fort Trail parking
- 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](mailto:ahearing@greatparks.org) or (513) 646-4217!

### **Invasive Removal at Fernbank Park**

**Thu. July 13, 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 nice spring wildflowers?

Invasive species like honeysuckle, winter creeper, and Japanese stiltgrass 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](mailto:hriess@greatparks.org) or (513) 296-7465!

### **Trailblazers at Miami Whitewater Forest**

**Sat. July 15, 9 a.m. – noon**

The Tallgrass Prairie Trail is one of the quietest hiking trails and we need your help to keep it peaceful and accessible! Join us to remove rotted timbers from the trail, replace boards on the boardwalk, and more.

- Meeting Location: Tallgrass Prairie parking lot
- Age Requirements: Volunteers ages 14 and up
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Trailblazers—Miami Whitewater \[C&P/Central\]](#).

For additional questions, contact Dan Hart at [dhart@greatparks.org](mailto:dhart@greatparks.org) or (513) 250-0925!

### **Invasive Removal at Embshoff Woods**

**Wed. July 19, 9 – 11 a.m.**

Did you know there are more than 300 acres of green space tucked away in Delhi? Embshoff Woods was opened in 1982 and was formerly a horse farm. Now it's home to 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 Japanese stiltgrass, 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](mailto:hriess@greatparks.org) or (513) 296-7465!

### **Invasive Vine Control at Glenwood Gardens**

**Thu. July 20, 9 a.m. – noon**

Join us for pruning and stump treatment of the vines along trails throughout Glenwood Gardens!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: 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](mailto:smcclary@greatparks.org) or (513) 593-3845!

### **Litter Cleanup at Campbell Lakes Preserve**

**Thu. July 20, 9 a.m. – noon**

The busy season is upon us and that means more park guests fishing in our lakes, and that means more trash! Help us keep our lakes looking beautiful by picking up trash and debris and enjoying the summer weather out by the lakes and the river.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 18 and up
- Meeting Location: Miami Whitewater Forest Camp-ground
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew—Campbell Lakes \[C&P/West\]](#).

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

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

**Fri. July 21, 9 - 11 a.m.**

Help remove invasive plant species in the higher-quality natural areas near the Mountain Bike Trail to 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](mailto:gbundy@greatparks.org) or 513-658-2577!

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

**Fri. July 21, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Honeysuckle encroaches on our native species and keeps us from getting a great view of the forest! Help us remove this invasive plant along the Kingfisher Trail to benefit both the ecosystem and humans. This is an ongoing project that is only possible with the help of volunteers. Our goal 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](mailto:amccosham@greatparks.org) or (513) 978-7198!

### **Trail Maintenance at Sharon Woods**

**Sat. July 22, 8 – 11 a.m.**

Do you feel like woody plants are trying to grab your shoulders and ankles while on the trail? That means it is the prime time of the growing season to do some trimming! Help our team prune back these plants along the School Trail.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Sharon Center 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](mailto:jblaha@greatparks.org) or (937) 309-2902!

### **Invasive Removal at Woodland Mound**

**Mon. July 24, 9 – 11 a.m.**

Assist us in the removal of Japanese stiltgrass, a pesky invasive species that can easily be pulled out of the ground from our parcours trail! 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](mailto:eoliveira@greatparks.org) or (513) 673-1102!

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

**Wed. July 26, 8 - 10 a.m.**

Help us remove invasive shrub species along the Hike-Bike 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](mailto:jblaha@greatparks.org) or (937) 309-2902!

### **Invasive Removal at Fernbank Park**

**Thu. July 27, 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 nice spring wildflowers? Invasive species like honeysuckle, winter creeper, and

Japanese stiltgrass 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](mailto:hriess@greatparks.org) or (513) 296-7465!

### **Litter Cleanup at Woodland Mound**

**Mon. July 31, 9 – 11 a.m.**

We need your help to keep our parks beautiful and free of litter! Come out to the former Steamboat Bend and assist us in picking up trash that washes up from the 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](mailto:eoliveira@greatparks.org) or (513) 673-1102!

## **Interpreter Programs**

### **Tanabata at Glenwood Gardens**

**Fri. July 7, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Sat. July 8, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Sun. July 9, noon – 5 p.m.**

Join us at Highfield Discovery Garden as we observe the Japanese festival of Tanabata! Volunteers will support staff while participants write their wishes on small pieces of paper and hang them on bamboo around the garden and additional Japanese-inspired activities.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Location: Glenwood Gardens/Highfield Discovery Garden
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Interpreter Programs–Glenwood Gardens \[Edu & Events/Central\]](#).

For additional questions, contact Ellen Meehan at [emeehan@greatparks.org](mailto:emeehan@greatparks.org) or (513) 728-3638!

### **Storybook Evening: The Lord of the Rings at Glenwood Gardens**

**Sat. July 22, 5:30– 9 p.m.**

Journey into Middle Earth and explore activities based on the epic tale! Volunteers will support staff while parti-pants escape Shelob's lair, sample some lembas bread, and create their own map for an unexpected journey.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Location: Glenwood Gardens/Highfield Discovery Garden
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Interpreter Programs–Glenwood Gardens \[Edu & Events/Central\]](#).

For additional questions, contact Ellen Meehan at [emeehan@greatparks.org](mailto:emeehan@greatparks.org) or (513) 728-3638!

### **Fairy Tale Festival & Trading Post at Glenwood Gardens**

**Sat. July 29, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Help guide guests or facilitate interactive activities during this fun-filled special event in Highfield Discovery Garden. Throughout the festival, there will be a booth to trade natural materials for treasures where guests will bring in a selection of special rocks, seeds, buttons, and ribbons to barter with the fairies for something new. Dressing up is not required, but highly encouraged!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 18 and up
- Meeting Location: Glenwood Gardens / Highfield Discovery Garden
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Interpreter Programs–Glenwood Gardens \[Edu & Events/Central\]](#).

For additional questions, contact Doug Stevenson at [dstevenson@greatparks.org](mailto:d Stevenson@greatparks.org) or (513) 326-0121!