



greatparks.org/volunteer

GRAPEVINE

Volunteer Information, News & Events



Volunteer Spotlight



Franca Burton (she/her) Volunteer Since 2018

What is your favorite volunteer activity?

My favorite volunteer activity is the winter hike series. I had an opportunity to visit different parks, meet new people, learn about nature, and go for a hike in the brisk winter weather. Sounds like a perfect day!

When you're not at Great Parks, where might we find you? When I am not at the Great Parks, you might find me riding my bike on the Loveland Trail, floating on the Little Miami River, swimming at the community pool, or walk-ing at Spring Grove Cemetery or another park with friends.

What is your favorite Great Park and why? My favorite Great Park is Sharon Woods because it's close to my home, has great walking paths, and I love the hills!

What is your life motto? My life motto is, "Be the reason someone smiles today."

What hobbies are you passionate about? The hobby I am passionate about is volunteering! I enjoy giving my time, helping others, and meeting new people.

Sweepin', Sweepin', Sweepin' up the River (Great Parks' Version)

"The Ohio River Sweep is the annual volunteer cleanup that extends the entire length of the Ohio River. Volunteers from the six states, which border the Ohio River, remove litter at multiple locations along the Ohio River and many of its tributaries."

"Since 1989, this award-winning cleanup [of] the Ohio River has been organized by ORSANCO, FORE, and the environmental protection agencies from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania."

"[While] volunteers for the Ohio River Sweep have made tremendous progress cleaning the [river], litter continues to be a global problem. Volunteers make a positive impact in the entire Ohio River Basin by participating in the Ohio River Sweep." To learn more about the Ohio River Sweep, visit ORSANCO's website at <https://www.orsanco.org/river-sweep/>.

On June 24, Great Parks hosted sites for the Ohio River Sweep at Fernbank Park and Woodland Mound. Volunteers collected a total of 36 bags of trash and 2 bags of recycling! Among the litter collected were a few unique items like several feet of suspected fiber cable, part of a stroller, a storage container for a boat, and one mini tire. Thank you to all our volunteers who worked so hard to clean and protect the Ohio River, our watershed, our neighboring watersheds, and beyond!

P.S. The Ohio River Sweep is one of the two annual river sweeps we participate in, with the next one happening in September! Save the date for the **Clean Sweep of the Ohio River on Saturday, September 16** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Shawnee Lookout. Additional details and registration coming soon!



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

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Stew Crew & Trailblazer Volunteer Opportunities

What to Wear & Bring: For all trail, litter cleanups, 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. It is most likely full if you still cannot find the opportunity, so we encourage you to sign up for another one!

Invasive Vine Removal at Werk Road

Sat., Aug. 5 | 9 – 11 a.m.

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 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 information, contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or (513) 296-7465!

Trailblazers at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve

Sat., Aug. 5 | 9 a.m. – noon

Volunteers will install a grade dip on the Pin Oak Trail to help water shed from the trail and prevent further erosion. Join us and learn about when, where, and why we install grade dips!

- 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 [Trailblazers–Farbach Werner \[Natural Resources/West\]](#).

For additional information, contact Dan Hart at dhart@greatparks.org or (513) 250-0925!

Honeysuckle Removal at Winton Woods

Sat., Aug. 5 | 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

to benefit 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 information, contact Emma Abrahamson at eabrahamson@greatparks.org or (513) 641-7710!

Trail Maintenance at Withrow Nature Preserve

Mon., Aug. 7 | 9 – 11 a.m.

Help keep our trails accessible and beautiful. Lend us a hand on the Trout Lily Trail to cut back the brush hanging over the walking path!

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

Honeysuckle Removal at Newberry Wildlife Sanctuary

Tue., Aug. 8 | 9 a.m. – noon

Newberry Wildlife Sanctuary is a state-dedicated, 100-acre natural area home to a variety of plant and animal species that live among waterfalls and wooded hillsides! Help us tackle invasive honeysuckle along the creek at this conservation area.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: 5300 Sheits Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45252
 - Meet at the bend in the road on Sheits Road adjacent to 275.
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your

MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Stew Crew–Newberry \[C&P/Central\]](#).

For additional information, contact Paul Steuer at psteuer@greatparks.org or (513) 260-1124!

Honeysuckle Removal at Kroger Hills

Wed., Aug. 9 | 9 – 11 a.m.

Join us as we start a new project to restore a portion of the woodland! By removing invasive honeysuckle, we will be protecting Eastern leatherwood, which is uncommon throughout our park district!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Kroger Hills 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 information, contact John Walker at jwalker@greatparks.org or (513) 272-4131!

Invasive Removal at Fernbank Park

Thu., Aug. 10 | 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 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 information, contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or (513) 296-7465!

Stiltgrass Pull at Woodland Mound

Mon., Aug. 14 | 9 – 11 a.m.

Assist us in the removal of Japanese stiltgrass from our parcours trail! This pesky invasive species that can easily be pulled out of the ground. 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 information, contact Elissa Oliveira at eoliveira@greatparks.org or (513) 673-1102!

Signage Repair at Sharon Woods

Wed., Aug. 16 | 8 – 10 a.m.

Help us repair our entrance signs at Sharon Woods! Volunteers will replace wood boards and paint signs to give them a new and refreshed look.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: The turnaround inside the US-42 Entrance
- 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 information, contact Jessica Blaha at jblaha@greatparks.org or (937) 309-2902!

Invasive Removal at Shawnee Lookout

Wed., Aug. 16 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Enjoy a shady hike in the woods and help remove woody invasive plants from the Bluejacket Trail! Invasive honeysuckle and autumn olive crowd out native plants like pawpaw and spicebush that are vital to wildlife. Learn management practices to combat the spread of woody invasive species and how native plants help in biodiversity within the ecosystem.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Waterhole Meadow Shelter parking lot
- 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 information, contact Alex Hearing at ahearing@greatparks.org or (513) 646-4217!

Ragweed Removal at Glenwood Gardens

Thu., Aug. 17 | 9 a.m. – noon

Help us remove a bothersome invasive species, ragweed, at Glenwood Gardens!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: 10397 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45215
 - Please meet in the back of the Glenwood Gardens parking lot by the service gate.
- 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 information, contact Shaun McClary at smccclary@greatparks.org or (513) 593-3845!

Fire Break Pruning & Hike at Miami Whitewater Forest

Thu., Aug 17 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Help us prune to ensure our firebreak is safe and ready to use! Stick around afterwards for a short nature hike

around the prairies and wetlands of the area and learn about our native plants and the land management techniques we implement at the park.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 18 and up
- Meeting Location: 11053 Oxford 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 information, please contact AJ Norton at anorton@greatparks.org or (513) 910-5067!

Honeysuckle Removal at Winton Woods

Sat., Aug. 5 | 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 Kingfisher Trail to benefit the ecosystem and humans. 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 information, contact Emma Abrahamson at eabrahamson@greatparks.org or (513) 641-7710!

Invasive Removal at Mitchell Memorial Forest

Fri., Aug. 18 | 9 – 11 a.m.

Help remove invasive plant species in higher-quality natural areas near the Mountain Bike trail to preserve the beauty of this deep-woods trail and habitat!

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

Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods

Sat., Aug. 19 | 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 information, contact Jessica Blaha at jblaha@greatparks.org or (937) 309-2902!

Invasive Removal at Embshoff Woods

Sat., Aug. 19 | 9 – 11 a.m.

Did you know there are more than 300 acres of green space tucked away in Delhi? Embshoff Woods 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 information, contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or (513) 296-7465!

Invasive Plant Removal at Woodland Mound

Mon., Aug. 21 | 9 – 11 a.m.

Assist in removing invasive species from the Seasongood Trail! Invasive species are a threat to the ecosystem by diminishing biodiversity and taking away resources from native species. Learn what invasive plants could be present in your own backyard and how to properly treat them!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Seasongood 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 information, contact Elissa Oliveira at eoliveira@greatparks.org or (513) 673-1102!

Cattail Removal at Francis RecreAcres

Wed., Aug. 23 | 8 – 10 a.m.

Help us remove invasive cattails along a ditch by cutting them down and loading them into a truck!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 18 and up
- Meeting Location: 11982 Conrey Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45249
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Francis RecreAcres \[C&P/East\]](#).

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

Invasive Removal at Fernbank Park

Thu., Aug. 24 | 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 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 information, contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or (513) 296-7465!

Trail Maintenance at Miami Whitewater Forest

Sun., Aug 27 | Noon – 2 p.m.

Join us on the Timberlakes, Badlands, and Oak Leaf Trails as we tackle maintenance for the season! Work will involve pruning branches, fixing minor erosion issues, and clearing grade dips. Wear comfortable shoes as we will be hiking the majority of the time!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 18 and up
- Meeting Location: Timberlakes Trail parking lot
- 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 information, please contact AJ Norton at anorton@greatparks.org or (513) 910-5067!

Ranger Event & Interpreter Programs

Prepare delicious snacks and teas, help guests use their imagination to explore stories, support the Rangers and more as a volunteer for our upcoming events and programs!

National Night Out at Winton Woods

Thu., Aug. 10 | 3 – 8 p.m.

This community event features Great Parks Rangers and other first responders from across Hamilton County. Guests will have up-close look at vehicles, like EMS, K-9, and SWAT units, while enjoying games, music, and food.

Volunteers will help counting cars, directing traffic, greeting and assisting guests, and more!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Winton Centre Auditorium
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Ranger Support-Winton Woods \[Rangers/Central\]](#).

For additional information, contact Katie Lake at klake@greatparks.org or (513) 230-6481!

Meteors at the Mound (at Woodland Mound)

Sat., Aug. 12 | 9 – 10:30 p.m.

Join us as a volunteer tending to the bonfire as guests relax by the fire, watch the Perseid meteors, search for shooting stars, and use telescopes to observe Saturn's rings!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: SeasonsGood Nature Center
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Interpreter Programs-Woodland Mound \[Edu & Events/East\]](#).

For additional information, contact Sean Masterson at smasterson@greatparks.org or (513) 563-4513!

Storybook Weekend: Peter Pan at Glenwood Gardens

Fri., Aug. 18 | 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Sat., Aug. 19 | 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Sun., Aug. 20 | Noon – 5 p.m.

Volunteers will help guests trade their natural items or science knowledge for something at our trading post! Guests will follow a treasure map, play with shadows, hunt for fairies, learn Peter Pan's theory of seed dispersal, and more during this fun immersive weekend!

- 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 information, contact Ellen Meehan at emeehan@greatparks.org or (513) 728-3638!

The Nature of Fairy Tales at Sharon Woods

Sat., Aug. 19 | 10:45 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Sun., Aug. 20 | 10:45 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Volunteers will dress up as Mother Goose and read stories as well as support guests in building fairy homes and additional self-guided 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 information, contact Ellen Meehan at emeehan@greatparks.org or (513) 728-3638!

Growing Snacks at Glenwood Gardens

Fri., Aug. 26 | 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The veggie garden has been growing all summer and lots of tasty foods are ready to be turned into yummy snacks. Volunteers will assist guests with preparing their own garden produce snack to try. General cooking knowledge appreciated!

- 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 information, contact Ellen Meehan at emeehan@greatparks.org or (513) 728-3638!

Sunset Over the River at Woodland Mound

Sun., Aug. 27 | 7:15 – 9 p.m.

Assist our staff making tea from native plants found by guests on their hike! This foraging hike will end with them enjoying the sunset while sipping on the delicious tea you prepared for them.

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

For additional information, contact Sean Masterson at smasterson@greatparks.org or (513) 563-4513!

for GP's presence at the upcoming Cincinnati Pride Parade. Winton Centre staff got us off to a great start, then 18 SUPER volunteers came in and got us to the finish line with more than 5,700 seed packets stuffed. Our goal was 5,000 packets so we are hugely appreciative of the extras! We are so grateful for the work of these volunteers and are excited to be able to have a sustainable handout for this event.



Event Support at the Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo

Thank you to all of the amazing long-term and corporate



volunteers as well as the Groundwork Green Teams for leading stations at the Kids Outdoor Adventure Expo! We are immensely appreciative for their support of our mission and for providing an amazing experience for local youth. And thank you to Sue and Bob Bohn for maintaining and preparing the fishing rods for the event!

Distribution Support at the Volunteer Uniform Exchanges

We are so thrilled to have the acorn out in the community! Thank you to the volunteers who helped the Volunteer Engagement team with distributing our snazzy, new volunteer uniforms over these past few weeks.

Volunteer Kudos

Seed Packaging for Cincinnati Pride

Stephanie Bacher, Sustainability Coordinator

On behalf of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee, I wanted to express our appreciation for the volunteers who came together to stuff seed packets