



greatparks.org/volunteer

GRAPEVINE

Volunteer Information, News & Events



Volunteer Spotlight



Bob Brodbeck *(Right)*

Years of Service: 2

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

How complex the human brain is, and the amazing things scientists are now discovering and debating about it.

What is your favorite volunteer activity?

Stew Crews because I am outside in a group with other people to improve the parks and get good exercise.

What might we be surprised to know about you?

I have been a member of the National Space Society for almost 50 years, with which among other things have lobbied in person in the halls of Congress for programs such as planetary protection probes (asteroid detection) and solar power satellites to collect and beam energy to Earth.

What is your favorite Great Park and why?

Woodland Mound because of the trails and views, proximity, and familiarity.

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

Probably Egypt to see the ancient sites and the grand museum.

A Trail Mix of Volunteering at Great Parks

Joe Von Allmen, Volunteer Engagement Specialist

National Trails Day is celebrated every year on the first Saturday in June as a call to action to the hiking community to give back. This holiday was established by the American Hiking Society in 1993 and was hugely successful with hundreds of organizations participating nationwide. Great Parks celebrates this holiday by inviting community members to join us for a day of volunteering focused on improving, extending, or maintaining our trails. This year we had a small but mighty group of volunteers join our staff for a hot day of hard work out at Woodland Mound's Hedgeapple Trail extension. With the help of volunteers, we were able to remove multiple truckloads of debris they were along the trail extension making it more pleasant to hike. A big thanks to Dan Hart, Trails Specialist, for helping organize this project!



Luckily volunteers have more opportunities to help keep our trails tidy than just one day a year! One of our most popular volunteer opportunities is our Adopt-A-Trail program. For this program, volunteers attend a trail maintenance training and then perform trail checks at a minimum of every two weeks and report major issues to our staff. This is a great role for people who need a volunteer opportunity that is flexible as they can perform their trail checks on their own schedule. We have volunteers at over 25 different sites helping maintain the amazing trail system we have in the big lands!

Dan has also been working on developing a very cool volunteer program that's specifically focused on trail work! Dan started hosting his Trailblazer events just last year and they've already clocked almost 100 volunteer hours. Dan does a tremendous job of using these events to educate volunteers as well as do some amazing work. It's an excellent alternative for volunteers who are on the waiting list for our Adopt-A-Trail program.

Save the Date!

2023 Volunteer Celebration
Tuesday, October 10
Sharon Woods

CONNECT WITH GREAT PARKS

facebook.com/GreatParksHC
 twitter.com/greatparks
 instagram.com/great_parks

Volunteer Team Update at Sharon Woods

Tue., Sept. 19 | 6 – 7:30 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. No need to RSVP, just come and enjoy! 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

Location: Sharon Woods

Auditorium (11450 Lebanon Rd, Sharonville, OH 45241)

Registration & Hours: No need to RSVP, just come and enjoy! And 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!



Stew Crew, Trailblazers, Clean Sweep, & NPLD 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!

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 a volunteer opportunity, so we encourage you to find another one!

Winter Creeper & Porcelain Berry Vine Removal at Werk Road

Sat., Sept. 2 | 9 – 11 a.m.

Come check out Great Parks' newest westside 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. Park on McKinley Avenue and walk to 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!

Japanese Stiltgrass Removal at Woodland Mound

Mon., Sept. 4 | 9 – 11 a.m.

Help remove Japanese stiltgrass, a pesky invasive species that can easily be pulled out of the ground, from our parcours trail! 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: 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!

Post-Holiday Litter Cleanup at Sharon Woods

Tue., Sept. 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 in hitting the "reset" button and making 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 information, contact Jessica Blaha at jblaha@greatparks.org or (937) 309-2902!

Autumn Olive Removal & Hike at Miami Whitewater Forest

Wed., Sept. 6 | 9 a.m. – noon

Join our ongoing fight against non-native species and learn about our local forest along the way. You will use handsaws and loppers to remove Autumn olive along the Shaker Trace Inner Loop and give our native species room to thrive. Stick around after the work day for a short hike to learn a little about our local flora and fauna!

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

Invasive Removal at Fernbank Park

Thu., Sept. 7 | 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 Trail 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 information, contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or (513) 296-7465!

Trailblazers at Winton Woods

Sat., Sept. 9 | 9 a.m. – noon

Trailheads are the beginning of a journey for guests to experience nature and provide information about the land, the mileage, and sometimes a bit of history. Help us regrade and armor the tread, remove a small catch basin and drainpipe, remove rotted timbers, and refresh the gravel around the sign to refresh and repair the Great Oaks Trailhead!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Great Oaks Trail Parking Lot
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Trailblazers–Winton Woods \[Natural Resources/Central\]](#).

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

Honeysuckle & Winter Creeper Removal at Farbach-Werner Nature Preserve

Tue., Sept. 12 | 9 a.m. – noon

Join us and remove aggressive invasive honeysuckle and winter creeper to 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 information, contact Paul Steuer at psteuer@greatparks.org or (513) 260-1124!

Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods

Wed., Sept. 13 | 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!

Honeysuckle Removal for Eastern Leatherwood at Kroger Hills

Wed., Sept. 13 | 9 a.m. – noon

Join us as we start a new project to restore a portion of the Kroger Hills 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 information, contact John Walker at jwalker@greatparks.org or (513) 272-4131!

Autumn Olive & Honeysuckle Removal at Shawnee Lookout

Wed., Sept. 13 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Invasive Autumn olive and honeysuckle crowd out native plants like pawpaw and spicebush that are vital to wild-life. Throughout the morning, you will 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: Cedar Bend 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!

Invasive Removal at Mitchell Memorial Forest

Fri., Sept. 15 | 9 – 11 a.m.

Help us 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: 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 Embshoff Woods

Sat., Sept. 16 | 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. Today, it is 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 Fit-ness 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 \[C&P/West\]](#).

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

Clean Sweep of the Great Miami at Shawnee

Lookout

Sat., Sept. 16 | 9 a.m. – noon

The Clean Sweep is an annual event focused on removing litter, restoring the health of the Great Miami River, and connecting with your community!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Shawnee Lookout Canoe/Kayak Launch across from the park entrance (2008 Lawrenceburg Rd, North Bend, OH 45252)
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Community Projects–Clean Sweep of the Great Miami](#).

For additional information, contact Joe Von Allmen at vonallmen@greatparks.org or (513) 245-7471!

Invasive Removal at Woodland Mound

Mon., Sept. 18 | 9 – 11 a.m.

Help remove invasive species from the Seasongood Trail! Invasive species are a threat to the ecosystem because they biodiversity and outcompete our 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 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 information, contact Elissa Oliveira at eoliveira@greatparks.org or (513) 673-1102!

Invasive Removal at Sharon Woods

Wed., Sept. 20 | 8 – 10 a.m.

Help us remove invasive shrub species along the Hike-Bike Trail! Throughout the morning, you will 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 Fernbank Park

Thu., Sept. 21 | 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 Trail 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 information, contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or (513) 296-7465!

Wildflower Seed Sowing at Glenwood Gardens

Thu., Sept. 21 | 9 a.m. – noon

Plant a wide variety of wildflower seeds in our restoration areas!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Technical 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 information, contact Shaun McClary at smcclary@greatparks.org or (513) 593-3845!

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) at Miami Whitewater Forest

Sat., Sept. 23 | 9 a.m. – noon

Celebrate the 30th year of National Public Lands Day with Great Parks! Join us for a litter pickup along the Great Miami and help keep our public lands clean for all creatures to enjoy.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: The Welch Property Barn (8291 E Miami River Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45247)
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Community Projects-National Public Lands Day-Miami Whitewater](#).

For additional information, contact Joe Von Allmen at jvonallmen@greatparks.org or (513) 245-7471!

Native Seed Collection at Miami Whitewater Forest

Sun., Sept. 24 | Noon – 2 p.m.

Collect native seeds from our prairies for Shaker Trace Nursery! Volunteers will learn about the surrounding prairies and wetlands and how we cultivate seeds to grow more native plants to be used across the county.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 18 and up
- Meeting Location: Baughman Road Parking Lot (9384 Baughman 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, contact AJ Norton at anorton@greatparks.org or (513) 910-5067!

Disc Golf Course Maintenance at Woodland Mound

Mon., Sept. 25 | 9– 11 a.m.

Check out our new disc golf course and help us maintain this newly renovated amenity by planting grass seeds around the concrete pads!

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

Native Seed Potting at Sharon Woods

Sat., Sept. 30 | 8 – 10 a.m.

Help us pot native plant seeds collected in our parks to plant around Sharon Woods next summer!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Maintenance Shop (11555 Swing Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45241)
- 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!

Interpreter Programs, Special Events, & Golf Tournament Volunteer Opportunities

2023 LMGC Middle School Open at Little Miami Golf Center

Sat., Sept. 9 | 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. & 2 – 7 p.m.

The Little Miami Golf Center (LMGC) Middle School Open is one of the biggest junior golf tournaments in the city that hosts over 200 junior golfers! For this event, volunteers help pick up baskets on the driving range, act as ball spotters on the golf course, and clean up trash throughout the golf center.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Clubhouse
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Golf Tournaments & Clinics–Little Miami \[Golf/East\]](#).

For additional information, contact Jennifer Ridle at jridle@greatparks.org or (513) 272-4133!

Growing Snacks at Glenwood Gardens

Fri., Sept. 15 | 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 16 | 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 delicious snacks. Volunteers will assist guests with preparing their own garden produce snacks to try. General cooking knowledge is appreciated!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Cotswold Visitor Center
- 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!

Hispanic Heritage Festival at Sharon Woods

Sun., Sept. 17 | 1 – 3 p.m., 2:30 – 7:15 p.m., & 6:45 – 8 p.m.

Join Great Parks in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month at our 3rd annual Hispanic Heritage Festival! Guests will enjoy dancing, performances, live music, crafts, food trucks, and more. Local food trucks will be in attendance as well! There will be a variety of volunteer roles, including setup, teardown, welcome booth, craft tables, and supervising inflatables. Bilingual volunteers are appreciated!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Yellowwood Shelter
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Special Events– Hispanic Heritage Festival \[Edu & Events/East\]](#).

For additional information, contact Jamie Piccola at jpiccola@greatparks.org or (631) 560-1220!

Special Olympics State Tournament at Meadow Links & Golf Academy

Sat., Sept. 23 | 8 a.m. – noon & noon – 4 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 24 | 8 a.m. – noon & noon – 4 p.m.

The Special Olympics hosts annual, seasonal games and tournaments, which includes a golf tournament at Meadow Links! For this tournament, volunteers will be spotters on the golf course throughout the competition, help with the food service of over 200 athletes and partners, and monitor the skills challenge.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Pro Shop

- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Golf Tournaments & Clinics–Meadow Links \[Golf/Central\]](#).

For additional information, contact Matt Starr at mstarr@greatparks.org or (513) 521-3980!

All Things Autumn at Glenwood Gardens

Sat., Sept. 23 | 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Enjoy the crisp weather and lead autumn-themed games, crafts, nature education stations, and more!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Gatehouse Lawn
- 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!

Urban Thrive Festival at Nature Center at The Summit

Sat., Sept. 30 | Noon – 2 p.m., 1:30 – 7:15 p.m., & 6:45 – 8 p.m.

Join Great Parks for our 3rd annual Urban Thrive Festival, formerly known as Urban Farming Festival. We've revamped the event and are focusing on promoting all the ways you can "thrive" in whatever environment you live in! We'll have local organizations with a focus on food sovereignty, mental and physical health, the arts, educational hands-on booths, animal interactions, inflatables and crafts for the kids, and live music! There will be a variety of volunteer roles, including setup, teardown, craft tables, supervising inflatables, and other miscellaneous activities!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Nature Center at The Summit (1580 Summit Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45237)
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under [Special Events– Urban Thrive Festival \[Edu & Events/East\]](#).

For additional information, contact Jamie Piccola at jpiccola@greatparks.org or (631) 560-1220!