Volunteer Kudos

Throughout the year, Ellen Meehan, Central Inreach Interpreter, and other phenomenal interpreters host programs based on a variety of classic and magical stories! This past month, they hosted a Peter Pan-themed Storybook Weekend at Glenwood Gardens. Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who help with this program, including Susan Robinson, Amy Robinson, and Mary Kent. Keep an eye out for upcoming opportunities at Storybook Weekends!

Recently, volunteer Stan Espelage supported staff with rock armoring and trail drainage maintenance. This section of the B loop had several erosion issues and exposed tree roots, therefore stabilizing it was a necessity. Because Stan was the only volunteer joining Gregor Bundy, Conservation & Parks Manager for Mitchell Memorial Forest, for the day, Gregor switched the project from invasive removal to trail repair because he knows that Stan is passionate about trail maintenance!

Shaun McClary, Conservation & Parks Technician for Glenwood Gardens, shared how appreciative he is for long-term volunteer Angie Wasson and community volunteer Pierig Lepont, who braved the elements of nature (including ground hornets) to remove invasive ragweed that was unable to be removed with a bush hog!

Save the Date!
2023 Volunteer Celebration
Tuesday, October 10
Sharon Woods
Volunteer Recognition Celebration at Sharon Woods
Tue., Oct. 10 | 4 – 7 p.m. | Sharon Centre

We could not be more excited to host you all this year for our Volunteer Recognition Celebration. This year’s celebration will be an open-house-style event held outside the Sharon Centre on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. Check in begins at 4 p.m. This celebration will include:

- “Ghost of Nature’s Past” interpretive stations,
- A catered buffet dinner and dessert from Vonderhaar’s Catering,
- Years of service awards for those volunteers achieving this milestone,
- An acorn-adorned beanie for each volunteer in attendance,
- And the opportunity to connect with your fantastic fellow volunteers!

Please RSVP by Monday, September 25 by visiting https://bit.ly/3OUvOor or clicking the link on your MIP homepage!

Stew Crew & Trailblazers 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 a volunteer opportunity, so we encourage you to sign up for another one!

Coverboard Survey at Francis RecreAcres
Wed., Oct. 4 | 9 – 11 a.m.
Do you call snakes a slippery noodle or nope rope? If you are excited to see snakes out in their natural environment, this event is for you! You will learn about our snake survey methods and record data throughout the morning. This opportunity includes walking far distances on uneven terrain through tall vegetation.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Francis RecreAcres Parking Lot
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under Stew Crew—Francis RecreAcres [C&P/East].

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

Invasive Removal at Fernbank Park
Thu., Oct. 5 | 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!
Invasive Removal at Winton Woods
Sat., Oct. 7 | 9:30 – 11:30 am
Honeysuckle takes up a lot of space in our wild places where native species are meant to thrive! Remove invasive plants along the Fitness Trail to benefit the ecosystem and humans and continue the necessary maintenance to hinder its growth. You will also learn how to identify a variety of invasive plants and how to safely and properly remove them. This is an ongoing project only possible with your help and support!
- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Fitness Trail Parking Lot
- 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!

Litter Cleanup at Campbell Lakes Preserve
Sun., Oct. 8 | Noon – 2 p.m.
Help beautify Campbell Lakes and the surrounding property and pick up litter as we head into the colder season.
- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 18 and up
- Meeting Location: Campbell Lakes Preserve Parking Lot
- 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 information, contact AJ Norton at anorton@greatparks.org or (513) 910-5067!

Landscaping at Withrow Nature Preserve
Mon., Oct. 9 | 9 – 11 a.m.
Weed landscape beds, prune low-hanging branches, and remove debris around the Highwood Lodge to make it look beautiful!
- 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 Triple Creek
Tue., Oct. 10 | 9 a.m. – noon
Join us and remove aggressive, invasive honeysuckle to help our native plants thrive!
- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Pond Parking Lot
- Enter the park and continue on Buell Road for 300 feet, then turn left toward the parking lot adjacent to the pond.
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under Stew Crew—Triple Creek [C&P/Central].
For additional information, contact Paul Steuer at psteuer@greatparks.org or (513) 260-1124!

Invasive Removal at Embshoff Woods
Sat., Oct. 14 | 9 – 11 a.m.
Did you know there are more than 300 acres of green space tuck 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! Learn more about the park’s history and remove invasives 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 [C&P/West].
For additional information, contact Hannah Riess at hriess@greatparks.org or (513) 296-7465!

Invasive Removal & Hike at Miami Whitewater Forest
Sun., Oct. 15 | Noon – 2 p.m.
Join our ongoing fight against non-native, invasive species and learn about our local prairies along the way! Remove Callery pear and honeysuckle with handsaws and loppers around the Inner Loop to give our native species room to thrive and allow for more space around the trail. Additionally, you will move larger Callery pear trees to accessible areas to be removed by staff. Stick around after for a short hike around the prairies to learn about our local flora and fauna!
- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 18 and up
- Meeting Location: Shaker Houses (11347 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, contact AJ Norton at anorton@greatparks.org or (513) 910-5067!

Invasive Removal at Woodland Mound
Mon., Oct. 16 | 9 – 11 a.m.
Remove invasive species along the Seasongood Trail! Invasive species are a threat to the ecosystem because
they diminish biodiversity and outcompete our native species. Learn how to identify and properly treat invasive plants that could be present in your backyard!

- 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!

Rain Garden Maintenance at Winton Woods

Wed., Oct. 18 | 9:30 – 11:30 am
Learn how to manage and restore a rain garden at our campground! By removing Japanese honeysuckle, Virginia creeper, amur honeysuckle, and various types of little trees, you will help the existing native plants thrive.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Campground Parking Lot (651 Lakeview Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231)
- 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 Fernbank Park

Thu., Oct. 19 | 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 Collection & Sowing at Glenwood Gardens

Thu., Oct. 19 | 9 a.m. – noon
Collect and sow wildflower seeds in our seasonal burn areas! Please bring a plant ID guide or your smartphone with a plant ID app to help identify the various flowers before harvesting their seeds.

- 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 smclary@greatparks.org or (513) 593-3845!

Invasive Removal at Mitchell Memorial Forest

Fri., Oct. 20 | 9 – 11 a.m.
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 Parking Lot
- 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!

Leaf Litter Cleanup at Sharon Woods

Wed., Oct. 25 | 8 – 10 a.m.
Use rakes and scoop shovels to remove leaf litter from our landscaping to help beautify the harbor!

Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
Meeting Location: Sharon Woods Harbor 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!

Make A Doggie Difference at Miami Whitewater Forest

Sat., Oct. 28 | 9 a.m. – noon
This year’s Make A Difference Day is “doggie” themed! Support our furry friends by beautifying the Simmonds Family Dog Park through a variety of landscaping projects, including weeding, mulching, laying weed mat and gravel, and more.

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Simmonds Family Dog Park
- Registration & Hours: To volunteer, sign up on your MIP calendar/list and record your hours under Community Project—Make A Difference Day.

For additional information, contact Joe Von Allmen at jvonallmen@greatparks.org or (513) 245-7471!
Trailblazers at Withrow Nature Preserve
Sat., Oct. 28 | 9 a.m. – noon
Plant trees along the decommissioned section of the previous Troup Lily Trail! By planting these trees, you will be slowing erosion and water runoff, providing food and habitat for forest dwellers, and recouping the land for conservation.

- 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 Trailblazers–Withrow [Natural Resources/East].

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

Halloween Hoopla at Woodland Mound
Sun., Oct. 22 | 11:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Halloween is drawing near and we’re feeling spooky! At this program, you will guide guests through Halloween-themed crafts, games, and activities like mad scientist explorations and creepy critter encounters and will help with cleanup after the program. You are invited to wear your Halloween-themed accessories to embrace the spirit of the season!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Seasongood 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 Lisa Salehpour at lsalehpour@greatparks.org!

Woodland Mystery at Woodland Mound
Tue., Oct. 31 | 5:30 – 9 p.m.
Guests will try to solve a nature-themed mystery by searching for clues throughout the nature center! You will help set up the clues and additional decorations and assist guests in finding clues throughout the event. You are invited to wear your Halloween-themed accessories to celebrate the holiday!

- Age Requirements: For volunteers ages 14 and up
- Meeting Location: Seasongood 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 Margaret Janz at mjanz@greatparks.org!