

Volunteer

IMPACT REPORT 2023

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

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Letter from the Manager

Dear Volunteers & Staff Leads,

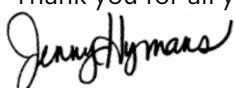
This year has truly been incredible! Here's why:

- We saw an increase in volunteer engagement of over 7,000 hours from 2022 to 2023—that's a 39% increase in total volunteer engagement across the agency! This is particularly incredible given that the majority of organizations engaging volunteer support (65%) are still reporting decreased engagement with fewer hours, fewer opportunities and fewer new volunteers. (Volunteer Management Report; 2023)
- Volunteers gave us lots of great feedback on their volunteer experience with us in our Volunteer Opportunity Feedback Forms. To date, we have received 270 feedback forms with volunteers rating their experience at 4.83 out of 5 stars!
- We offered several new volunteer opportunities in 2023 including two very popular opportunities: the Volunteer Courier, delivering interoffice mail and packages between parks each Wednesday, and the Market Custodial Support, performing light cleaning duties to help us maintain the 2nd Street Market.
- We have also expanded our opportunities to include more flexible, unscheduled opportunities when and where possible. We have several opportunities in Park Maintenance and Conservation for flexible service including: MetroParks Volunteer Patrol, Bat Box Monitor, Bluebird Monitor, and, new in 2023, Gardening Ambassador in the Maimon Memorial Garden at Cox Arboretum MetroPark. Additionally, we have offered several flexible behind-the-scenes Programming and Special Events preparation opportunities that volunteers can support from home, and short-term projects that could be completed by our administrative volunteers virtually.
- In addition to the development of new volunteer opportunities, we saw volunteer engagement at our ongoing opportunities grow exponentially. Carriage Hill MetroPark saw a 4-fold increase in volunteer engagement from 2022 bringing the historic farm back to life! We also saw increased engagement across our programs and special events, and an increase in group volunteer engagement with 36 community groups scheduled for workdays in our park!
- Plus, we introduced a brand-new volunteer incentive and appreciation item as part of our VIP Program- a long-sleeved volunteer shirt for volunteers with 75 hours or more with us.

We are so proud to share the data, pictures, and stories of this impact with you in this, our third edition of the Volunteer Impact Report. Much of this content was collected directly from our dedicated staff leads who lead and support our amazing volunteers in service throughout the year. While we cannot possibly fit everything into one report, we hope that you take pride in the information presented here knowing that you are an integral part of our conservation mission, and your efforts truly made a difference in 2023.

We are busy working with our staff leads across the agency to ensure another high-quality and meaningful volunteer season ahead. We hope you will join us again in volunteer service for 2024 as we continue to protect our region's natural heritage and provide outdoor experiences that inspire a personal connection with nature.

Thank you for all you do! Volunteers like you ARE the difference!



Jenny Hymans

Human Resources Manager, Volunteer Services



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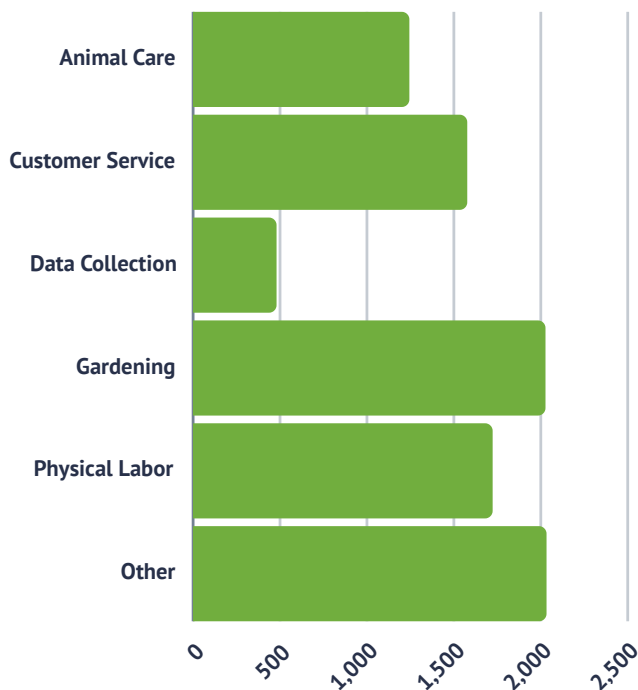
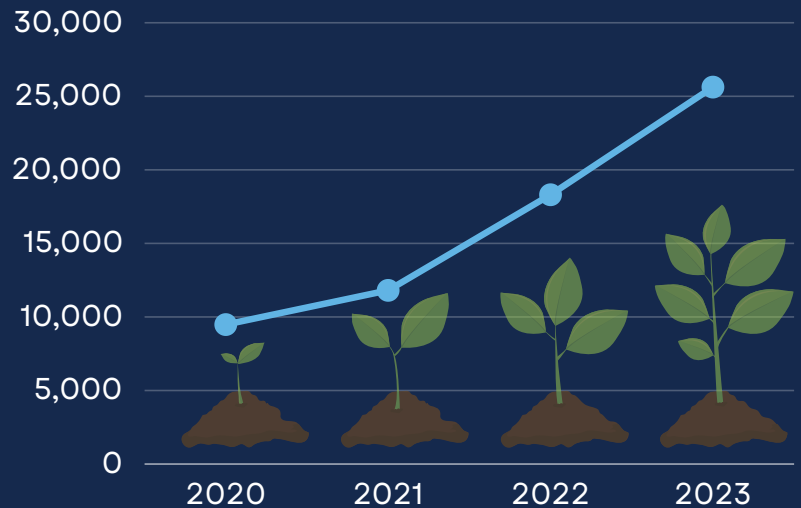
25,624.35

In 2023, volunteers served 25,624.35 hours in support of our parks, programs, and events for a dollar value of \$693,651.15 to the agency. This is a remarkable increase in volunteer engagement from 2022 when volunteers served 18,037.88 hours for a value of \$488,285.41, and an almost unbelievable recovery from the COVID pandemic years of 2020 and 2021 when volunteer engagement was drastically reduced.

\$693,651.15

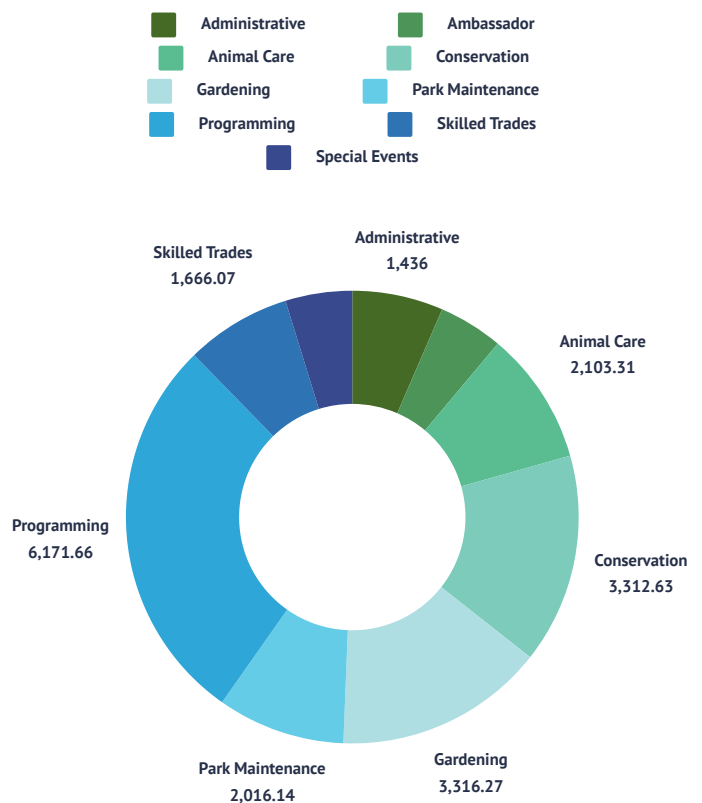
Dollar Value of Volunteer Service is calculated using the 2021 Value of Volunteer Time for Ohio from Independent Sector.

Annual Volunteer Hours Comparison



Volunteer Responses by Primary Skill

Volunteer Hours by Volunteer Position



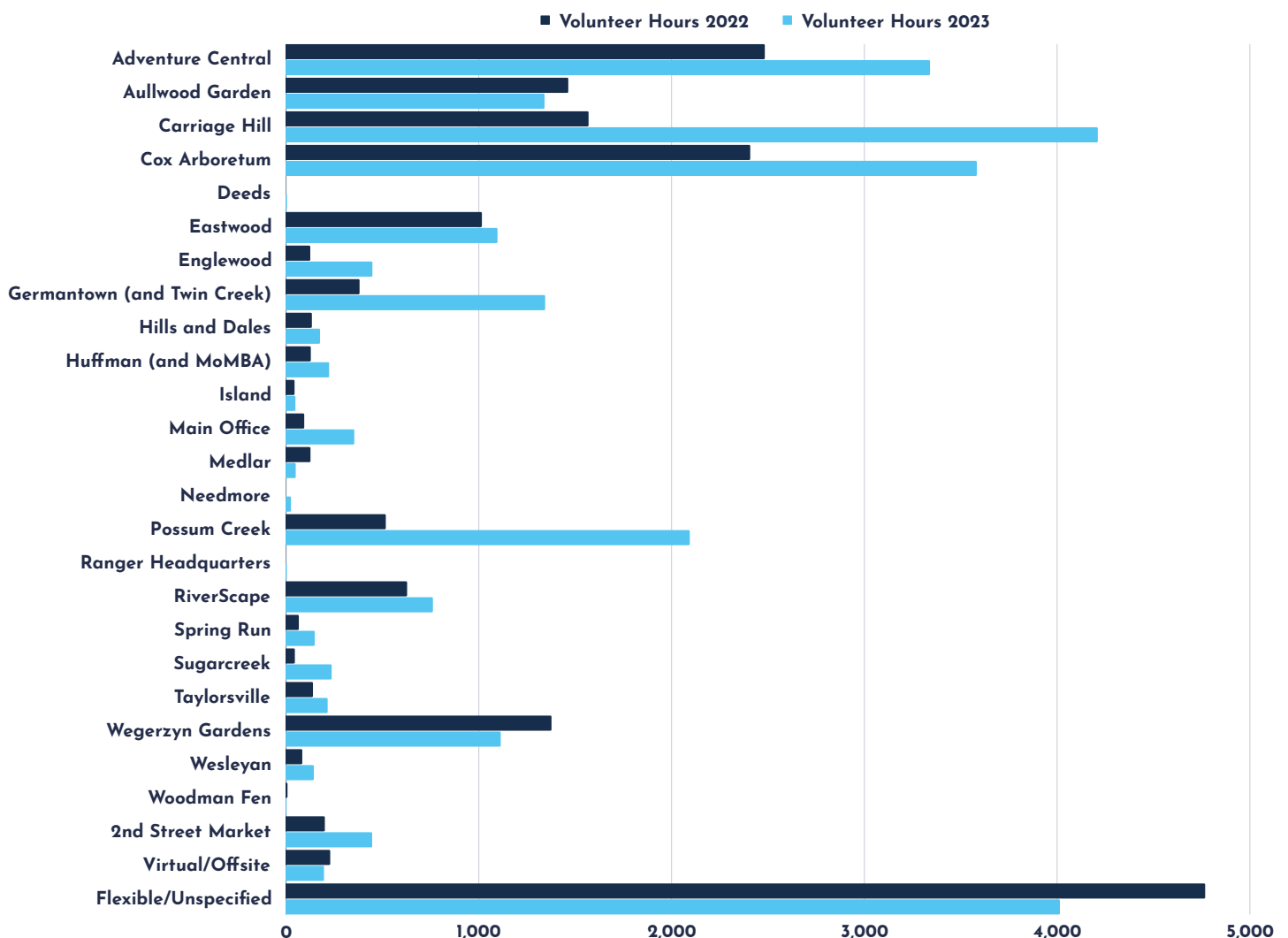


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Volunteer Hours by MetroParks Location Comparison



Almost all park locations showed notable increases in volunteer engagement in 2023. Some parks doubled, tripled, or even quadrupled their volunteer engagement! This year's park with the most dedicated volunteer service was Carriage Hill MetroPark with close to 4x the volunteer engagement of 2022 and over 4,000 volunteer hours!



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Growing Number of Volunteers

2021 2022 2023



Growing Volunteer Engagement

New Volunteers

Through Get Connected, individuals interested in volunteering can explore our volunteer opportunities and onboard as a new volunteer anywhere, anytime. Each quarter we onboarded between 200-500 brand-new volunteers through Get Connected.

Volunteer Opportunities & Responses

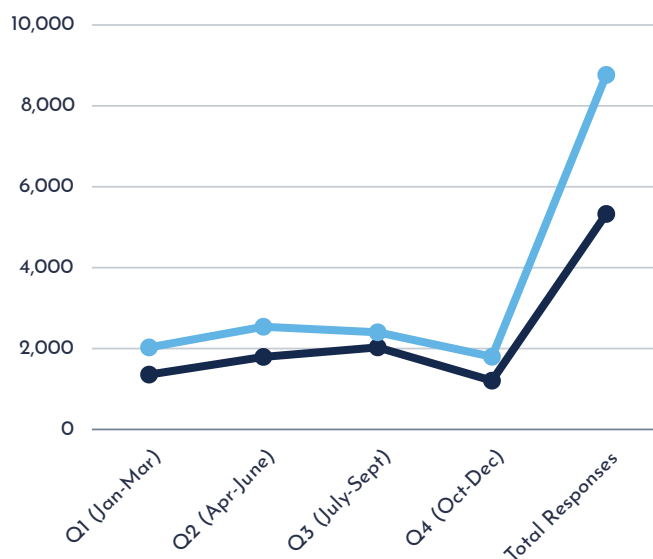
We had 573 volunteer opportunities, many with a number of shifts (5,772 shifts) and over 18,000 available volunteer slots. We received over 8,766 volunteer opportunity responses in 2023.

Most volunteers are able to respond to opportunities the same day that they register and onboard with us as a new volunteer (1,379). Background checks are required every 3 years for adults 18 and over serving in long-term volunteer opportunities. These checks typically take just a few hours to complete, but can take up to 3 days.

Over 2,000 of our registered volunteers have responded to at least one opportunity on our site. Many more have responded to multiple opportunities. See the chart below.

Volunteer Opportunity Responses

2022 2023



Volunteers	2123	1012	742	630	559	384	274	215
Number of Opportunities	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20 or more

3,649

Total volunteers with 1,381 active in 2023.

573

Volunteer opportunities available this year with 5,772 shifts.

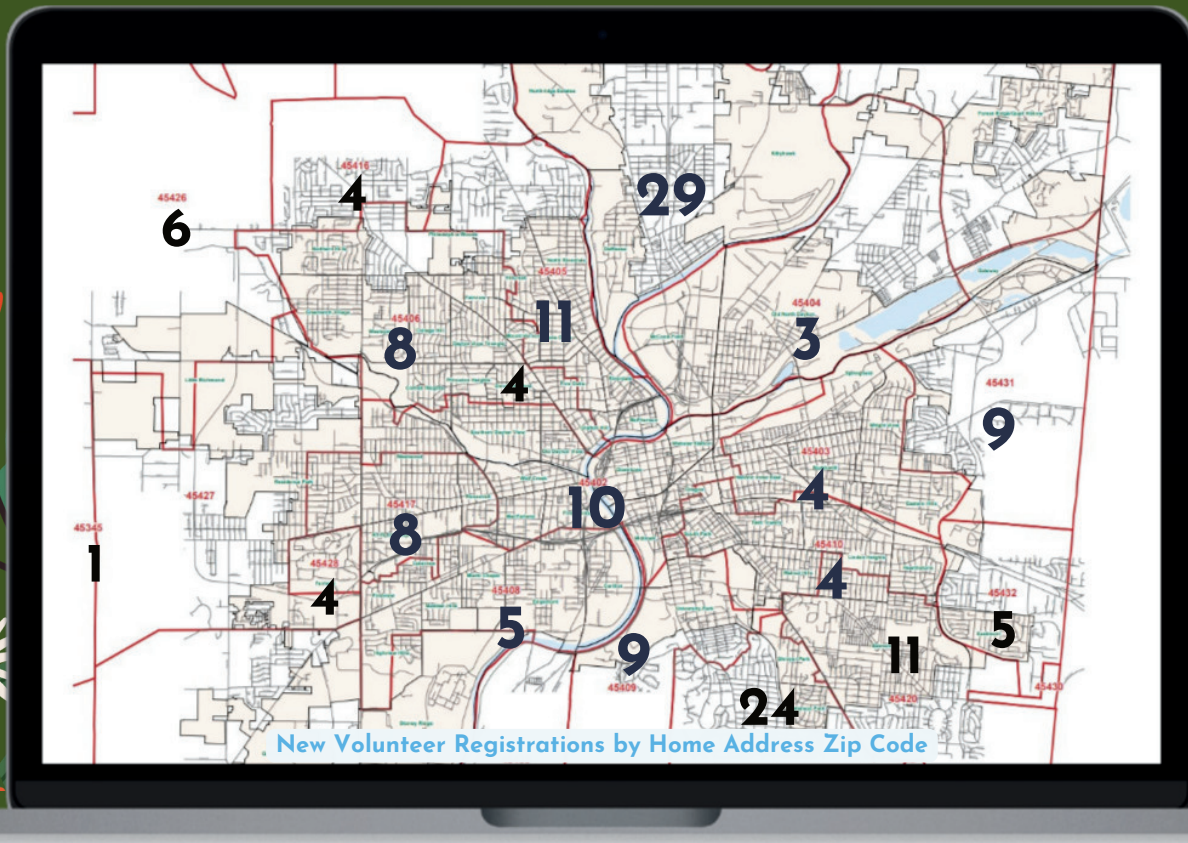
8,766

8,766 volunteer opportunity responses this year.



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Growing Volunteer Engagement Across Dayton

Get Connected is helping us ensure we are reaching every community in the Dayton area and indeed even the Miami Valley with the invitation to support our parks, programs, and events as a volunteer. Our reach is expanding, we are seeing an increasingly more diverse volunteer base develop. New volunteers are joining us from neighborhoods in North, West, East, and Downtown Dayton while we continue to nurture our established volunteer relationships with those volunteers coming to us from South of Dayton. Many of these volunteers began their journey with us at a service event: Adopt-A-Park, Make A Difference Day, or at a Service Saturday. Others came with a workgroup for a private group engagement or made a commitment to ongoing, long-term volunteer service. Some joined us as short-term youth volunteers completing service hours for school or other educational programs. With Get Connected anyone, anywhere can learn about our volunteer opportunities, onboard as a volunteer, and help out in ways that best fits their needs, schedules, and goals.

Volunteer Services utilizes zip code data to see whom we're reaching in our community and who may be missing out on opportunities to support our agency through high-quality, meaningful volunteer service.



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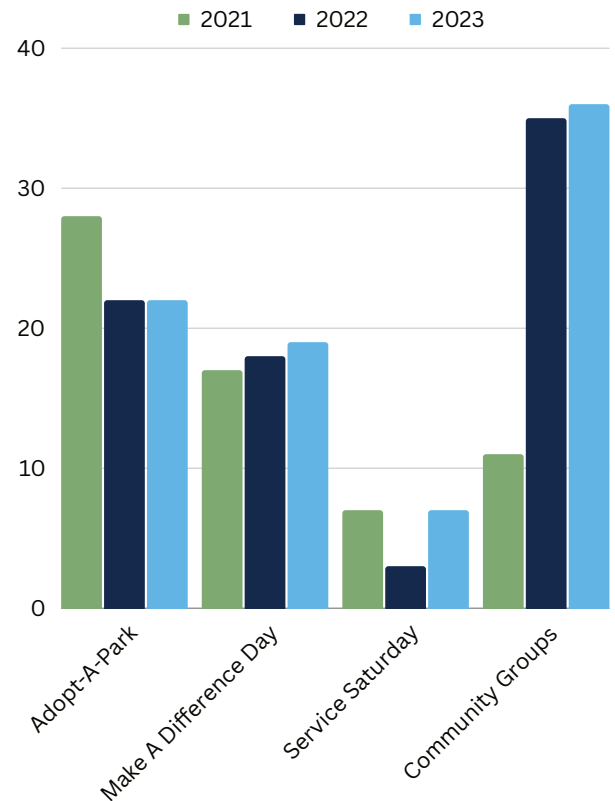


Public Volunteer Opportunities

With fewer projects identified by staff for fewer volunteers, we are seeing reduced engagement in our annual service events: Adopt-A-Park and Make A Difference Day.

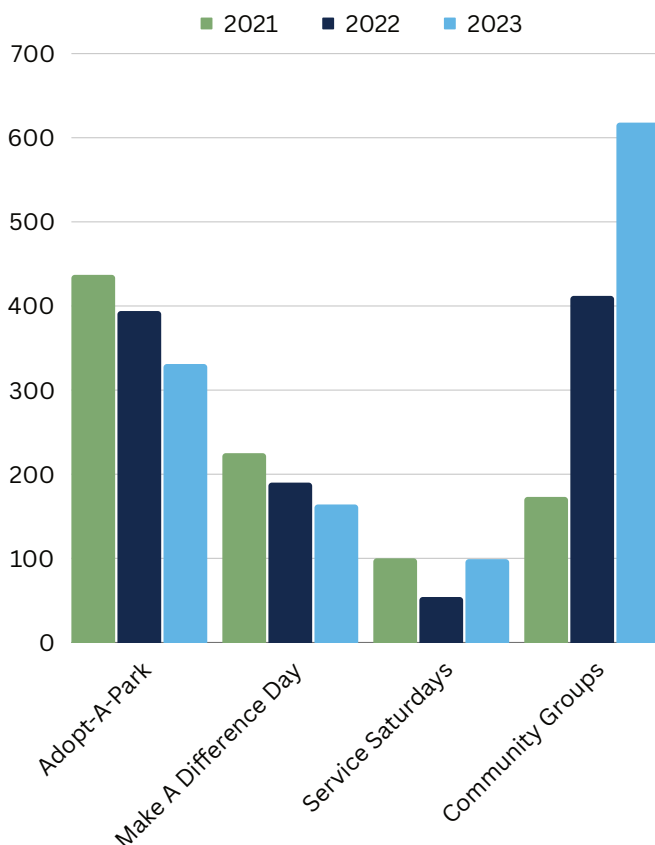
We have; however, seen an increase in projects available and volunteer engagement at Service Saturdays. These public volunteer days are available on the third Saturday morning of each month from May through September across our parks as a great way for anyone and everyone to get outside, connect with nature, and give back to the parks they love.

Number of Projects Available



Public Volunteer Engagement

Number of Volunteers Engaged



We also continue to see an increase in engagement from a variety of community groups requesting private volunteer opportunities for their group. These volunteer workdays can be built based on the needs of our parks, the availability, interest, and abilities of the group interested. This is another great way for corporate groups, school groups, youth organizations, large families and more to get outside and give back together!

In 2023, 36 unique community groups with 618 volunteers served a total of 1,647 hours!

Community groups can request a private group volunteer opportunity through our Group Volunteer Request Form on Get Connected.



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Community Groups & Teams

Families, service clubs, schools, non-profit or governmental agencies, or corporate or religious organizations are all examples of volunteer groups that help Five Rivers MetroParks achieve its mission. Working side-by-side with staff, these volunteers make Montgomery County a better place to live, work and play.

TOTAL VOLUNTEER IMPACT:

In 2023, in collaboration with their group, 618 volunteers contributed 1,647 volunteer service hours for a benefit to the agency of \$44,584.29. Additionally, supporting a variety of public service days and events, 47 teams of 174 volunteers contributed 1087.86 service hours for a benefit to the agency of \$29,448.37.

Thank you to the following [36 community groups](#) who scheduled private volunteer opportunities with us in 2023:

AES Ohio
Barrett Paving Materials
Camp Shalom
Capabilities
Chewy, Inc.
Dayton Metro Library
Dayton Regional STEM School
Dayton-Phoenix Group
EY
Generation Dayton
Girl Scout Troop 3154
HEAPY
Kettering College
LexisNexis
Medical Mutual
Miamisburg High School
Miami Valley Career Technology Center
MYO+
Ohio Hospice
Parker Lord Corp
Premier Health
Procter & Gamble
Scouts BSA Troop 5055
St. Gabriel Parish Family
Synchrony Financial
The Greater Dayton School
The Dayton Foundation
Trotwood-Madison High School
U.S. Bank
The University of Dayton Camp Blue
Upsourced Accounting
USI Insurance
Valley View High School
Wright-Patterson RHBA
Youth Peace Action (Rotary Group)

***Interested in scheduling
an opportunity for your
group or team?***

[Click here to learn more.](#)



Volunteers with Premier Health joined staff to support a variety of gardening and park maintenance tasks at Cox Arboretum MetroPark.



Volunteers with Kettering Health joined staff to support a variety of gardening tasks at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark.



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Adopt-A-Park

Adopt-A-Park: In-Person Projects

Staff hosted 22 Adopt-A-Park in person projects across 16 of our MetroParks: Adventure Central, Aullwood Garden, Carriage Hill, Cox Arboretum, Eastwood, Englewood, Germantown, Hills and Dales, Huffman-MoMBA, Possum Creek, RiverScape, Sugarcreek, Taylorsville, Wegerzyn Gardens, and Wesleyan MetroParks.

TOTAL VOLUNTEER IMPACT:

241 volunteers served in a variety of gardening and park maintenance tasks for a total of 617 hours.

- 252 lbs of landfill litter and debris was collected.
- 100 lbs of recyclable material was collected.
- 1 mile of rivers and lakes were cleaned.
- 1.35 miles of hiking, biking, and/or equestrian trail corridors were cleared.
- 3.7 acres of invasive plants were removed.
- 1 play/recreational areas were cleaned and maintained.
- 175 10-foot fence rails repaired.
- 759 trees and/or shrubs were planted.
- 100 flowers and/or bulbs were planted.



Adopt-A-Park volunteer supporting the demonstration garden at Possum Creek MetroPark.

Adopt-A-Park: Service Kits

109 Adopt-A-Park Service Kits have been distributed. Each service kit comes with enough supplies for up to 5 individuals to support litter collection efforts in the community. Volunteers who registered for a service kit received email and written instructions on how to safely pick up and dispose of litter in our community, a list of targeted sites where litter collection is needed, and instructions for how to report back the details of their litter collection efforts: who helped, where, when, and how much was collected. As we receive these reports through the Spring, we will continue to compile data on the impact of the service kit effort.

TOTAL VOLUNTEER IMPACT:

To date 42 volunteers have been reported supporting litter collection efforts in the following locations:

- North Dayton (Edmund St)
- Riverwalk by Korean War Memorial
- Riverbank near Dryden Road Overpass
- Neighborhood Mad River Rd & Penbrooke
- Great Miami River Corridor
- Twin Creek MetroPark
- Germantown MetroPark
- Cox Arboretum MetroPark
- Eastwood MetroPark
- Island MetroPark
- Kercher Park
- Carillon Historical Park



AES Ohio cleaning up the river with their service kits for this year's Adopt-A-Park.



Young volunteer with mom ready to clean up the earth!

2,235 lbs of litter was collected from these areas, along with several couches, assorted building supplies, a hubcap, window blind, shoes, shovel blade, and fishing lines. 55 youth volunteers and 35 adult volunteers participated in safe, independent litter collection for a total of 90 volunteers.



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Make A Difference Day & Service Saturdays

Make A Difference Day

Through the combined efforts of 164 community volunteers across 19 projects, we were able to remove 325 pounds of landfill litter and 6 acres of invasive plants, clean and maintain 1 mile of rivers and lakes, and plant 170 trees and shrubs, and 2,000 flowers and bulbs.

Volunteers supported projects at the following locations: Adventure Central, Aullwood Garden, Carriage Hill, Cox Arboretum, Englewood, Germantown, Hills & Dales, Huffman, Possum Creek, RiverScape, Sugarcreek, Taylorsville, and Wegerzyn MetroParks, as well as on the Wolf Creek Bike Trail.

TOTAL VOLUNTEER IMPACT:

- 164 volunteers (90 youth, 74 adult)
- 490.56 hours served (270-youth, 220.56-adult)
- 325 pounds of landfill litter and debris were collected
- 845 pounds of recycling land litter and debris were collected
- 1 mile of rivers and lakes were cleaned
- 3 miles of hiking, biking, or equestrian trail corridor were cleaned
- 6 acres of invasive species were removed
- 170 trees and shrubs were planted
- 2,000 flowers and bulbs were planted
- 2 play/recreational areas were maintained
- 80 odd items were removed (picnic tables, irrigation piping, wood stakes, etc...)



164 volunteers contributed 490.56 service hours at Make a Difference Day for a benefit to the agency of \$13,279.45.

Organizations that supported this year's Make a Difference Day through volunteer service include Beta Alpha Psi, Chaminade Julianne High School, Girl Scouts, Johnson Electric, Tau Beta Pi, Wright State University, and Wright State Public Health.

This year's Adopt-A-Park and Make A Difference Day events were generously supported by the following:

Presenting Sponsor: CenterPoint Energy Foundation

Additional Support Provided by: Serve Ohio, CareSource Foundation, Montgomery County Environmental Services, Keep Montgomery County Beautiful, Lexis Nexis, and QEI Engineers Inc.

Service Saturdays

In 2023, we offered 7 Service Saturday projects engaging 99 volunteers served 302.56 hours in gardening, invasive species removal, and trail maintenance at several MetroParks locations: Cox Arboretum, MoMBA at Huffman, Possum Creek, Sugarcreek, Taylorsville, and Wegerzyn Gardens. Service Saturdays are public volunteer days when we encourage everyone to join us in the park for a morning of volunteer service that makes a difference. These public volunteer days are available on the third Saturday of each month May through September.



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Events & Public Volunteer Days

Events & Public Volunteer Days (Initiatives)	Volunteer Slots Filled	Volunteer Hours Served	Value of Service
Adopt-A-Park	331	617	\$16,702.19
Service Saturdays	99	302.56	\$8,190.30
Bike To Work Day	52	109.39	\$2,627.41
Passport to MetroParks	24	64.51	\$1,746.28
TVT Trail Challenge	24	70.73	\$1,914.66
Mud Day Celebration	22	60.49	\$1,637.46
Small Farm & Food Fest	53	210.24	\$5,691.19
The Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience	358	963.55	\$26,083.30
Fall Family Adventure	42	119.47	\$3,234.05
Make A Difference Day	164	490.46	\$13,276.75
Aullwood Winter Luminary Walk	52	133.72	\$3,619.80
A Holiday Evening at Carriage Hill	15	43.68	\$1,182.41
Christmas on the Farm	38	138.97	\$3,761.91
Textile Day	7	64.05	\$1,733.83
Passport to Kindergarten	11	20.70	\$560.35
Artisan Skills & Heritage Cookery	17	49.77	\$1,347.27
Totals	903	3,237.28	\$93,309.16



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Volunteer Position & Opportunity Highlights

Our 9 Volunteer Positions help us organize and communicate all of the agency's varied volunteer opportunities to volunteers. These volunteer positions are organized based on the function and purpose served by the volunteer.



- **Administrative volunteers** work behind the scenes so that all volunteers have all they need to provide high-quality parks, programs, and services.
- **Ambassador volunteers** share their enthusiasm for Five Rivers MetroParks with diverse audiences at outreach booths, programs, and events throughout the Miami Valley.
- **Animal Care volunteers** support staff in caring for farm animals and wildlife animal ambassadors at a variety of our parks.
- **Conservation volunteers** are a part of our regional conservation story by assisting in implementing a variety of natural area management plans.
- **Gardening volunteers** support our horticulture and education staff in caring for a variety of gardens throughout our parks.
- **Park Maintenance volunteers** help to manage and sustain 18 beautiful parks, 11 conservation areas, and 160 miles of hike, bike, mountain bike, and horseback-riding trails for park visitors to safely enjoy.
- **Programming volunteers** work alongside staff to provide support at programs year-round that help participants master new skills, learn about the natural world, and appreciate the value of open spaces.
- **Skilled Trades volunteers** help drive our mission forward by assisting with maintenance projects in fabrication, repair, and interpretation.
- **Special Event volunteers** serve a critical role in ensuring that each special event or large-scale program runs smoothly from set-up to tear-down.

Volunteers can "Fan" their favorite volunteer positions in Get Connected to receive a weekly digest email with the latest opportunities and training offered under those volunteer positions.



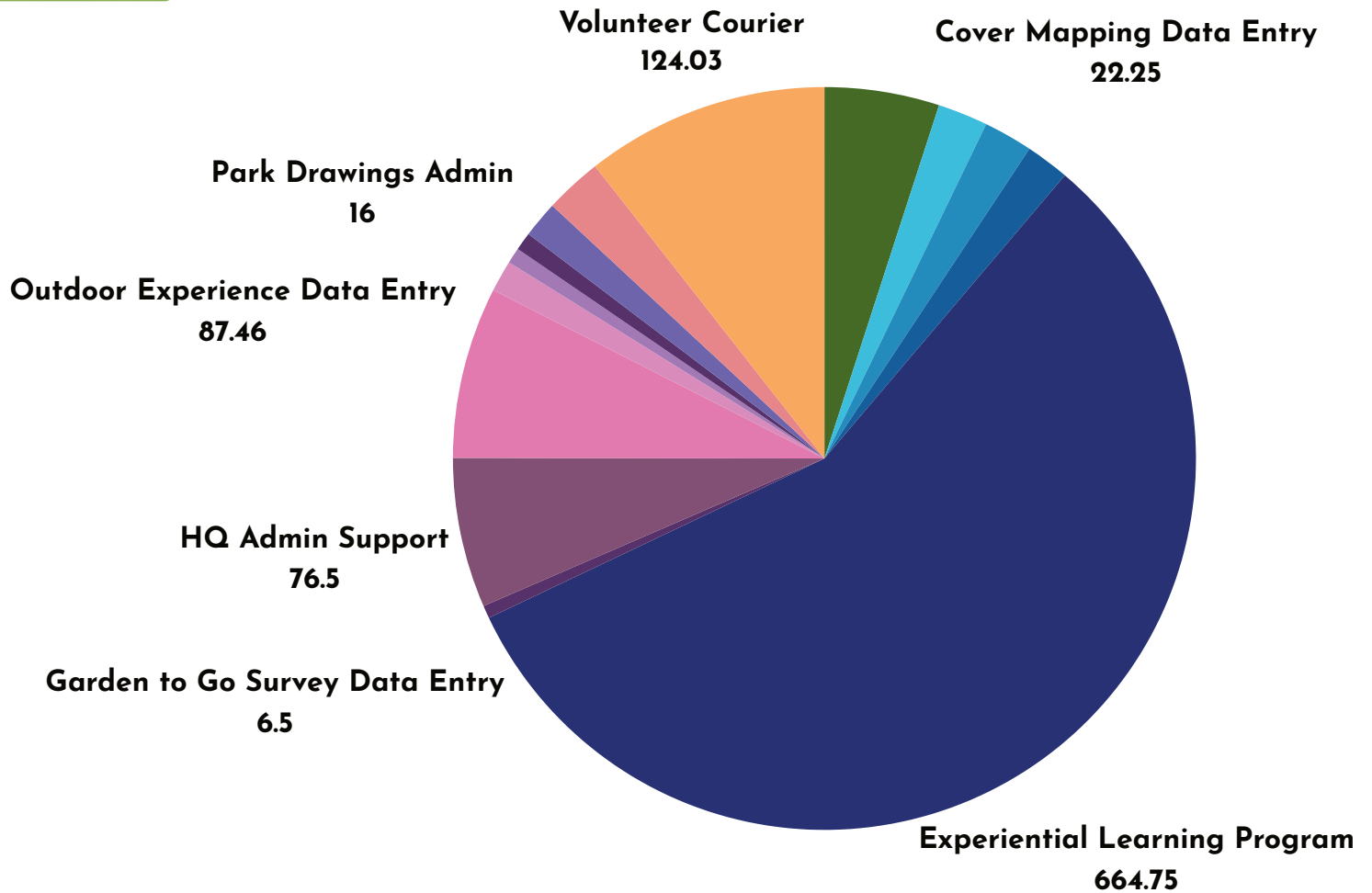
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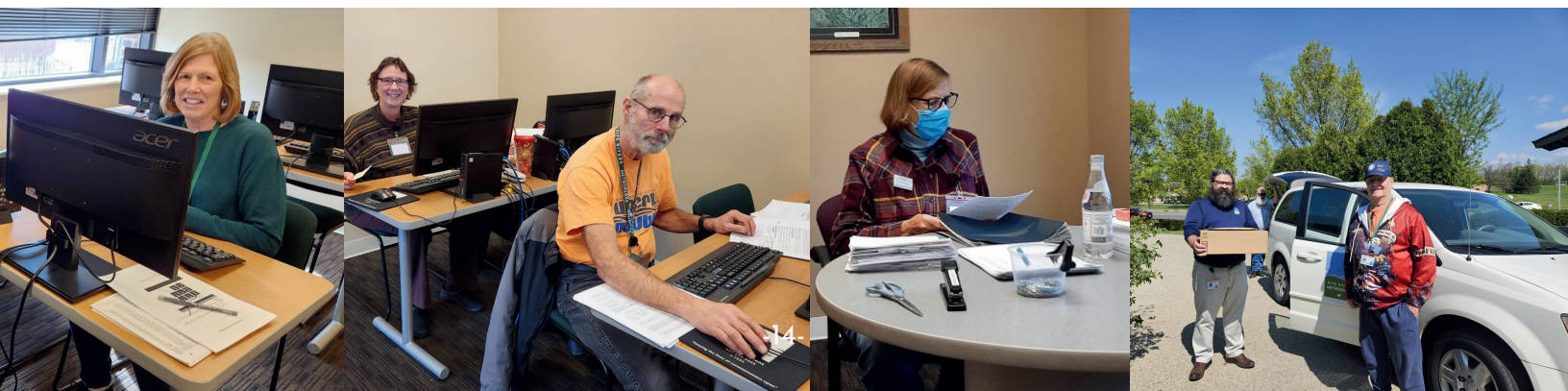


Administration Highlights

- 14 opportunities
- 1,436 Hours



Note: Experiential Learning Program includes partnerships, project-based learning, and service-learning opportunities.





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Administration Highlights

Volunteer Couriers

This is a volunteer opportunity that we brought back to life this year after a several year hiatus brought on by the pandemic. Our Courier volunteers promote operational efficiency by driving designated north and south routes between park offices delivering packages, mail and other items on a weekly basis. Five volunteers were road vehicle trained and covered the weekly routes on a rotating schedule.

Administrative Volunteers

Administrative opportunities were an area of growth in 2023. Volunteers put their skills to good use by providing quality administrative support to MetroParks staff, which enhances the efficiency of our operations. We added 2 additional long-term, ongoing administrative opportunities, for a total of 4:

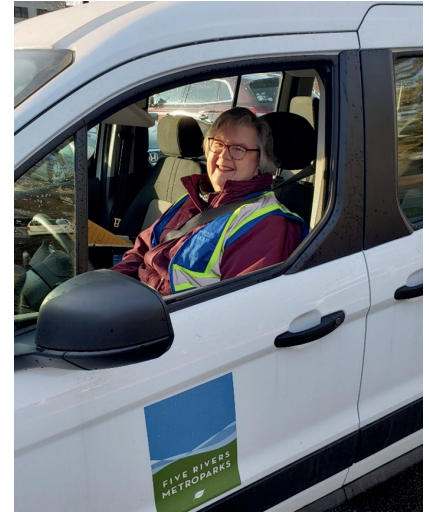
- HQ Administrative Support
- Aullwood Garden Administrative Volunteer
- Riverscape Attendance Data Entry
- Park Drawings Admin Project

In addition, we had requests for 5 new project based administrative volunteer opportunities, all of which were filled by volunteers and completed:

- Covermapping Data Entry Project
- Outdoor Experience Waivers Data Entry Project
- Seed Donations Data Entry Project
- Passport to MetroParks Data Entry Project
- Garden to Go Kit Data Entry

Aullwood History Volunteers

Volunteers assisted staff in conducting recorded oral interviews with individuals who shared their personal stories and memories of Marie Aull. A volunteer skilled in videography was able to compile and edit the recordings into a completed video. This video will be an important tool for promoting and educating the public about the historical significance of the Aull family. In addition, historical research volunteers were able to transcribe several of Marie Aull's plant journals, and are currently creating an inventory of all the books in Marie Aull's personal library.



Volunteer Courier Sue Steinke off on her delivery route.



Administrative volunteers working alongside Outdoor Recreation Coordinator and Staff Lead Angela Moore to perform data entry for the Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience.

Interested in supporting an administrative project?

Complete our [computer skills assessment](#) to get started.



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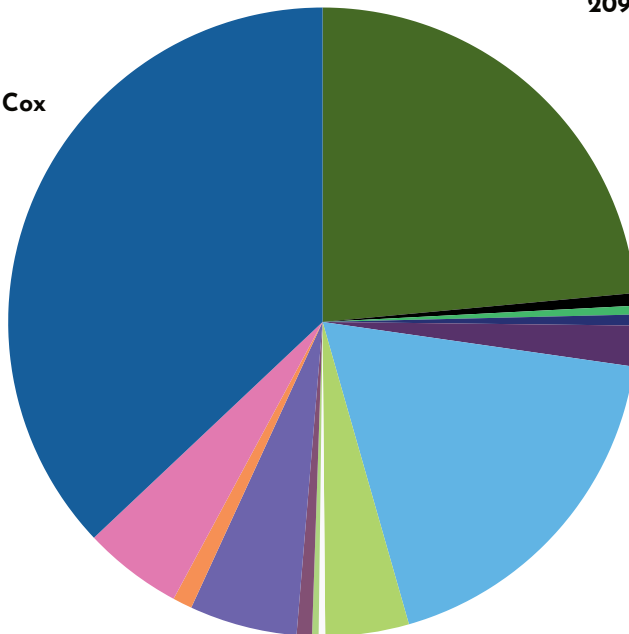


Ambassador Highlights

- 24 opportunities
- 1,018.25 Hours

2nd Street Market Ambassador
209.79

Visitor Center Ambassador Cox
330.24



Bike to Work Day Ambassadors
5.75

Small Farm & Food Fest Info Central
18.62

Outdoor Experience Ambassadors (Waivers, Info Central, Booth, Volunteers)
163.16





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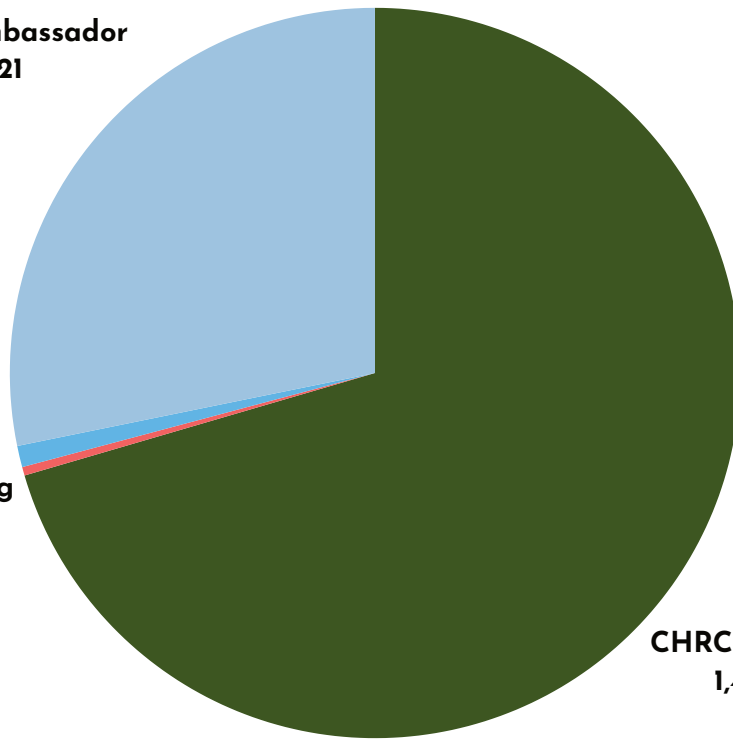


Animal Care Highlights

- 7 opportunities
- 2,103.31 Hours

Wildlife Ambassador
593.21

CHRC Horse Care & Conditioning
19.87



CHRC Barn Aide
1,482.23





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Animal Care Highlights

Carriage Hill Riding Center Barn Aide

Carriage Hill Riding Center Horse Care and Conditioning

Highlights from 2023 include the following:

This year we were able to clean up our internal volunteer records to better track volunteer status and eligibility for the different areas at the Riding Center. We updated the materials for the Get Connected website and cleaned up the webpage information relating to the Riding Center opportunities.

Without volunteer support at the Riding Center, we would not be able to offer the same amount programming as we do. Also they help us keep up with all of the chores that we have to do on a daily basis.

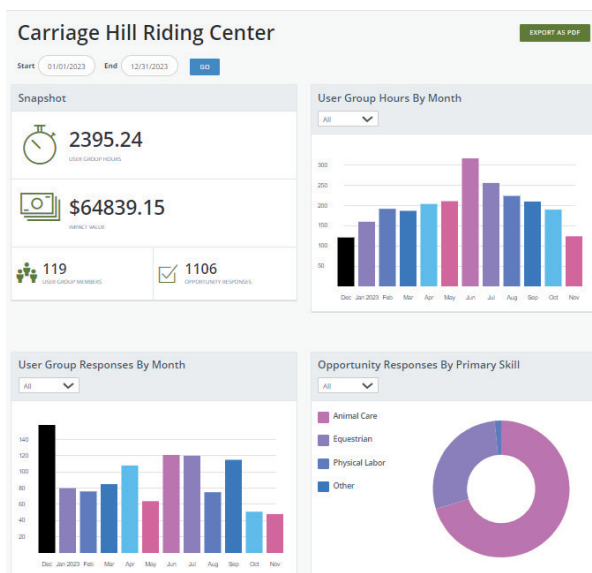
We started a Horse Care and Conditioning group opportunity. It has really helped do a monthly mass grooming of the horses, especially when staff are short on time and the horses are covered in mud.

-Christina Northrup, Equestrian Technician & Staff Lead



Monday and one of our dedicated volunteers Joyce Skinner at our Horse Care and Conditioning day in December.

Interested in supporting our horses at the Carriage Hill Riding Center? Learn how you can get involved on Get Connected. Look for more information about the volunteer impact at the Carriage Hill Riding Center under Park Maintenance and Programming!



Lena, with another incredible volunteer, Erin Luehrs.



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Animal Care Highlights

Wildlife Ambassador Animal Care

Our wildlife animal care volunteers are a spectacular group of people. They are capable and dependable and compassionate. These animals are as healthy and well cared for as they are because of the dedication of these individuals.

Volunteers have given hundreds of hours to feeding our wildlife animal ambassadors: 416 night crawlers, 1,976 mice, 12lbs of fruits and veggies and, 650lbs of bird seed; cleaning bedding and washing dishes; and interacting with the animals.

They keep us all up to date on their condition. With their help both behind the scenes and presenting the animals, we have been able to give 224 hours of programming with our animal ambassadors that have reached approx. 6,688 people of all ages.

To our volunteers, our friends, you matter. You are making a difference, and we thank you.

-Mary Beth Hobson, Education Specialist & Staff Lead

***Interested in providing care for our
Wildlife Animal Ambassadors?***

Learn more in the Volunteer Training
Library [here](#).



Volunteer William Masterson care for our wildlife animal ambassadors and helps train new volunteers to do the same during shadow experiences.



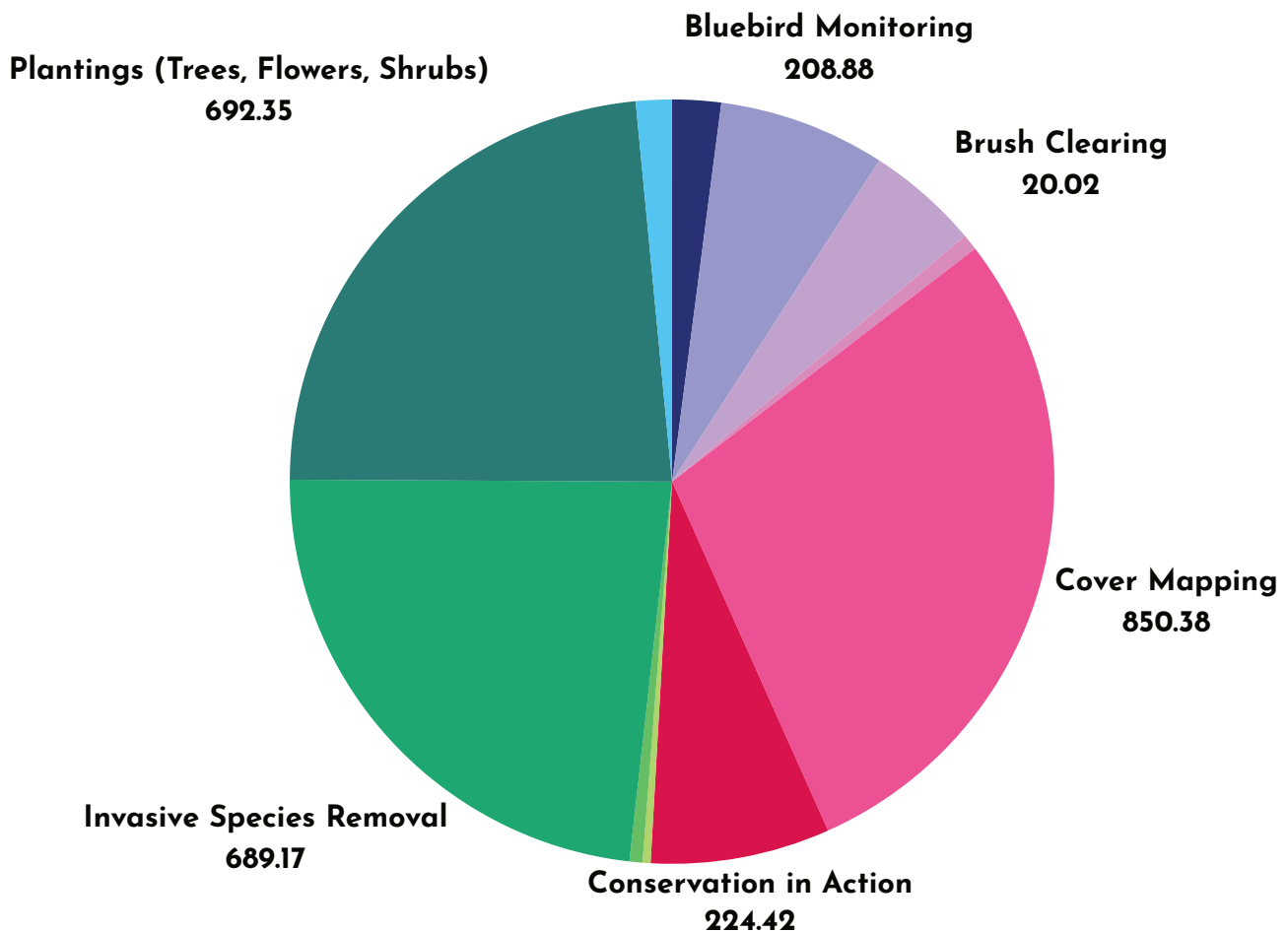
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Conservation Highlights

- 89 opportunities
- 3,312.63 Hours





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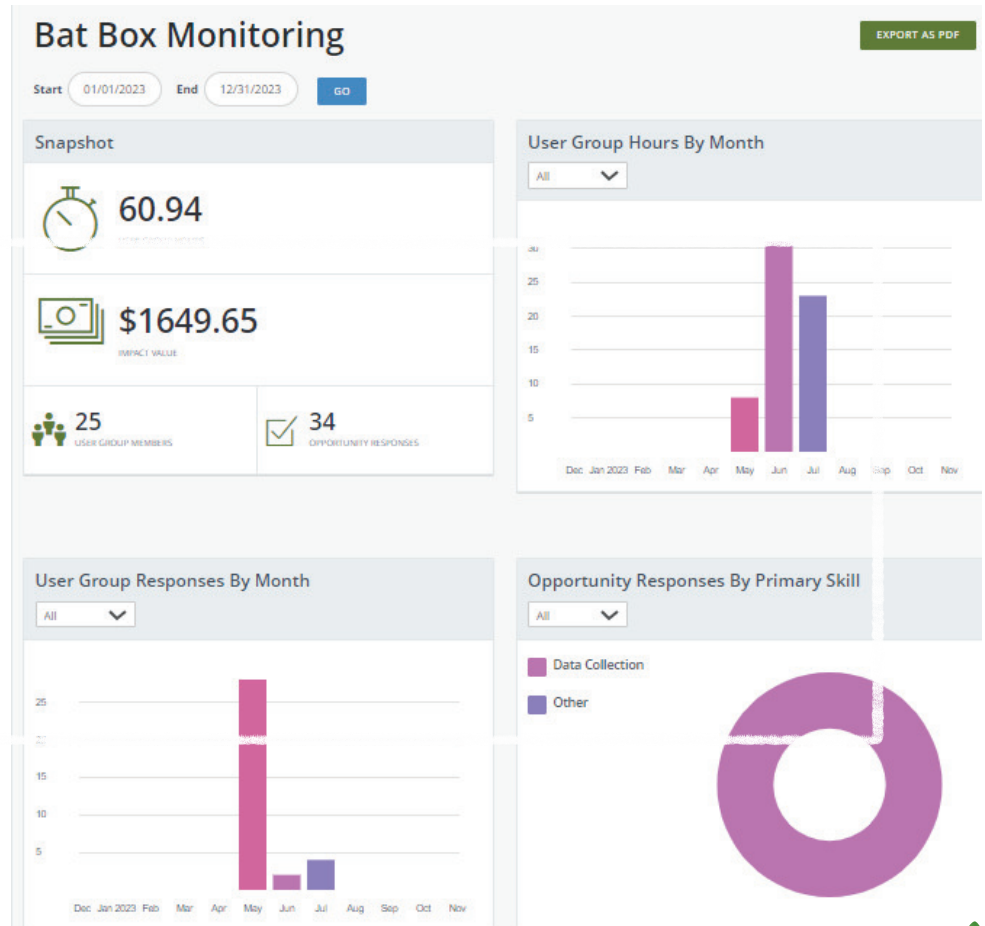


Conservation Highlights

Bat Box Monitoring

Some bat species have drastically declined over the last few years due to the cumulative effects of habitat loss, wind energy development, and white-nose syndrome. In order to protect bats, it's important to know where they are roosting and understand how their population sizes are changing. Volunteers monitor bat boxes throughout Five Rivers MetroParks to determine the species of bat utilizing the box and the approximate size of the roosting populations. By tracking the difference in colony size across the season and across several years, we can start to understand where bats are living and how their populations are changing in our state. Here are the highlights from 2023:

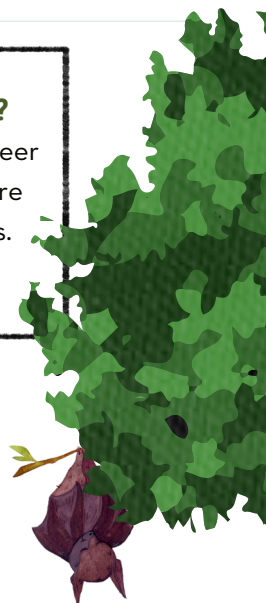
- We added an additional box at Taylorsville for 2023
- We doubled the number of surveys for 2023
- 13 boxes, 78 hours of surveys, 12 volunteers
- 2 of 13 boxes were utilized by Big Brown Bats
- Everyone got to see bats at least flying around overhead and picked up some calls on the echo meter including some Seminole bat calls!



Interested in supporting Bat Box Monitoring?

Bat Box Monitoring is a flexible or unscheduled volunteer opportunity. Contact Volunteer Services to learn more about this and other flexible volunteer opportunities.
volunteer.services@metroparks.org #937-275-7275

-Megan Rude, Conservation Coordinator and Staff Lead





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Conservation Highlights

Bluebird Monitoring

From 1920-1970, Eastern Bluebird populations plummeted throughout their entire range, estimates put the reduction to almost 90% of their total numbers. They became so rare, they were feared to soon become extinct. Negative impacts to their populations were driven mainly by nesting competition from non-native, invasive, cavity-nesting species (House Sparrow and European Starling). Other compounding issues included habitat loss, pesticide use, snag (standing dead tree) removal, and rising populations of feral cats (i.e. free-roaming house cats) – another non-native species.

In response to a fear of their extinction, the installation of nest boxes became popular with many concerned birders and citizen scientists. The design of the boxes was gradually optimized to the benefit of bluebirds and other native species. Volunteers were trained to monitor the boxes, documenting numbers and population health as well as ensuring they were being used by native species instead of House Sparrows and European Starlings. Eventually, bluebird populations rebounded and they are currently stable.

Five Rivers MetroParks has a wonderful, dedicated group of volunteers that work on their own schedule to monitor our boxes. Bluebird nest boxes are not nearly as successful at assisting with population growth/stability without consistent monitoring efforts. Having volunteers monitor and clean out the boxes throughout the breeding season is crucial to help with bluebird nesting success and for us to further understand and conserve bluebird populations. In 2023, we had at least one box at every single location show signs of bluebird activity! Eastern bluebirds displayed nesting attempts in a total of 65% of our 48 nest boxes at some point in the season with 40% of total boxes having contained bluebird eggs or hatched young. We had 13 bluebird monitoring volunteers this season covering 10 areas. They submitted a whopping 807 data sheet entries! Every box was surveyed several times each month from late-March – August. The timing of visits ensures we are able to get a useful amount of data without overly stressing the nesting birds.

-Nicole Freshour, Conservation Coordinator and Staff Lead





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Conservation Highlights

Cover Mapping

Cover mapping is the scientific process of mapping vegetation types. Cover Mapping volunteers collect information about the tree species size, species composition as well as impacts from deer and invasive species to help Five Rivers MetroParks make land management decisions. These volunteers contributed over 865 hours to MetroParks in 2023!

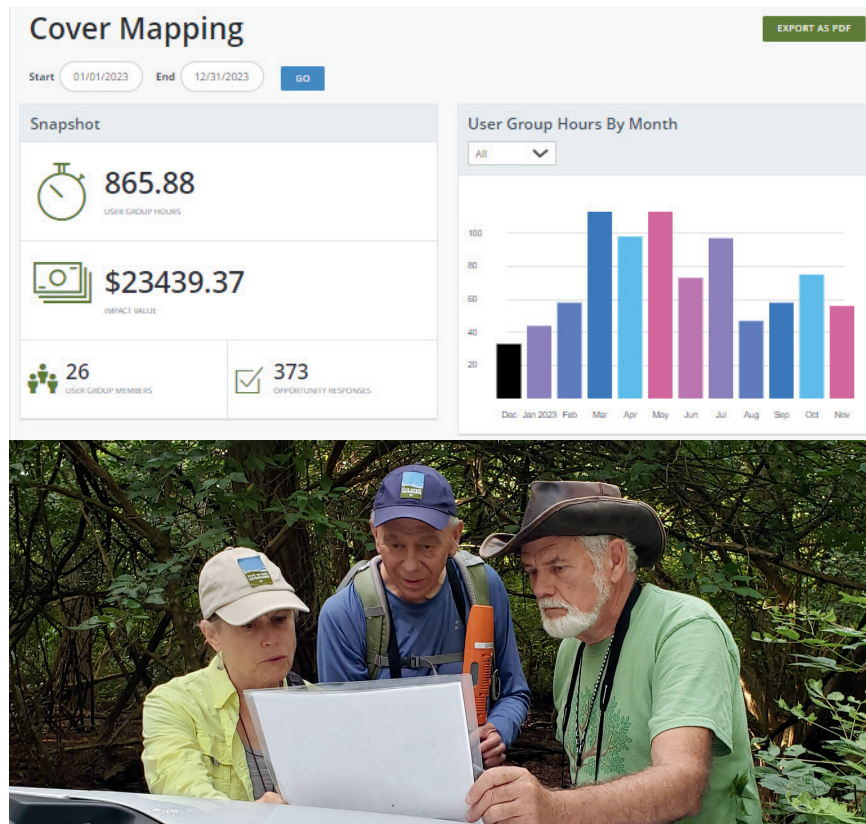
Thank you to each of our cover mapping volunteers and a big thank you to our Cover Mapping Team Leads: Diane Frimel, Jan Mazza, Susan Sandro, Michael Shade, and Ellenmarie Wahlrab.

Prop Ops

Our Prop Ops program, shorthand for Propagation Operation, had a small group of highly dedicated volunteers: Gwen Owen, Neil Mackay, Steve Schwenker, Doug Batty, and Suchitra Nuneekoppula.

Without their enthusiasm and spirit, we would not have been able to accomplish our goals. Honorable mentions go out to Colleen Girard, Sarah Zeigler, Jeanne Boeke, and Madyson Larson for their work. Through their efforts, we potted species such as oaks, hickories, hazelnuts, buckeyes, rattle-snake master, persimmon, paw paw, rose mallow, blazing stars, and many others. Among the trees we tended to were blight resistant chestnut hybrids, a replacement for the American chestnuts that were wiped out by the chestnut blight during the first half of the twentieth century. We literally held a cure for the worst ecological disaster of the twentieth century in our hands. In addition, we assisted with the caterpillars of the Baltimore checkerspot butterfly, a rare species that is found only in high quality wetlands. To feed the caterpillars, we had to sterilize and water white turtlehead plants – the only host plant for the Baltimore checkerspot caterpillars. This paved the way for other volunteer groups, led by Girl Scout Shaylynn Weeber, to step in to reintroduce the Baltimore checkerspot, and its host plant, to Spring Run Conservation Area.

-Kevin Reichling, Conservation Technician and Staff Lead



CoverMapping volunteers Ellenmarie Wahlrab, Michael Shade, and Rex Miller out in the field.



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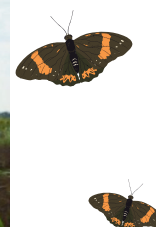
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Conservation Highlights



Spring Run Conservation Area



Scout Projects

Volunteer and local Girl Scout Shaylynn Weeber worked with our conservation team to plan a native planting project. Shaylynn and 27 volunteers planted 500 white turtlehead plugs at Spring Run Conservation Area. The plants will also help restore the wetland environment at Spring Run! Shaylynn completed this conservation project to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award.

Volunteers and local Boy Scouts Nick Weed and Christian Hartman worked with our Biologist to identify a need, and use their craftsman skills to build Turtle Nest Protectors to be used throughout MetroParks. These nest protectors will be placed over turtle nests to protect the eggs from predators and hopefully increase the populations of our native turtles. Both Weed and Hartman completed these projects to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.



Volunteer and Girl Scout Shaylynn Weber with Conservation Manager Grace Dietsch leading a native planting at Spring Run.



Interested in a Scout opportunity with us? There are many opportunities for Scouts to earn the rank of Eagle Scout or achieve the Girl Scouts Gold Award in your MetroParks.

[Click here to learn more!](#)



Volunteers and Eagle Scouts Nick Weed and Christian Hartman sharing their hand crafted turtle protectors with Biologist Lisa Zoromski (left) and Conservation Manager Grace Dietsch (Right).



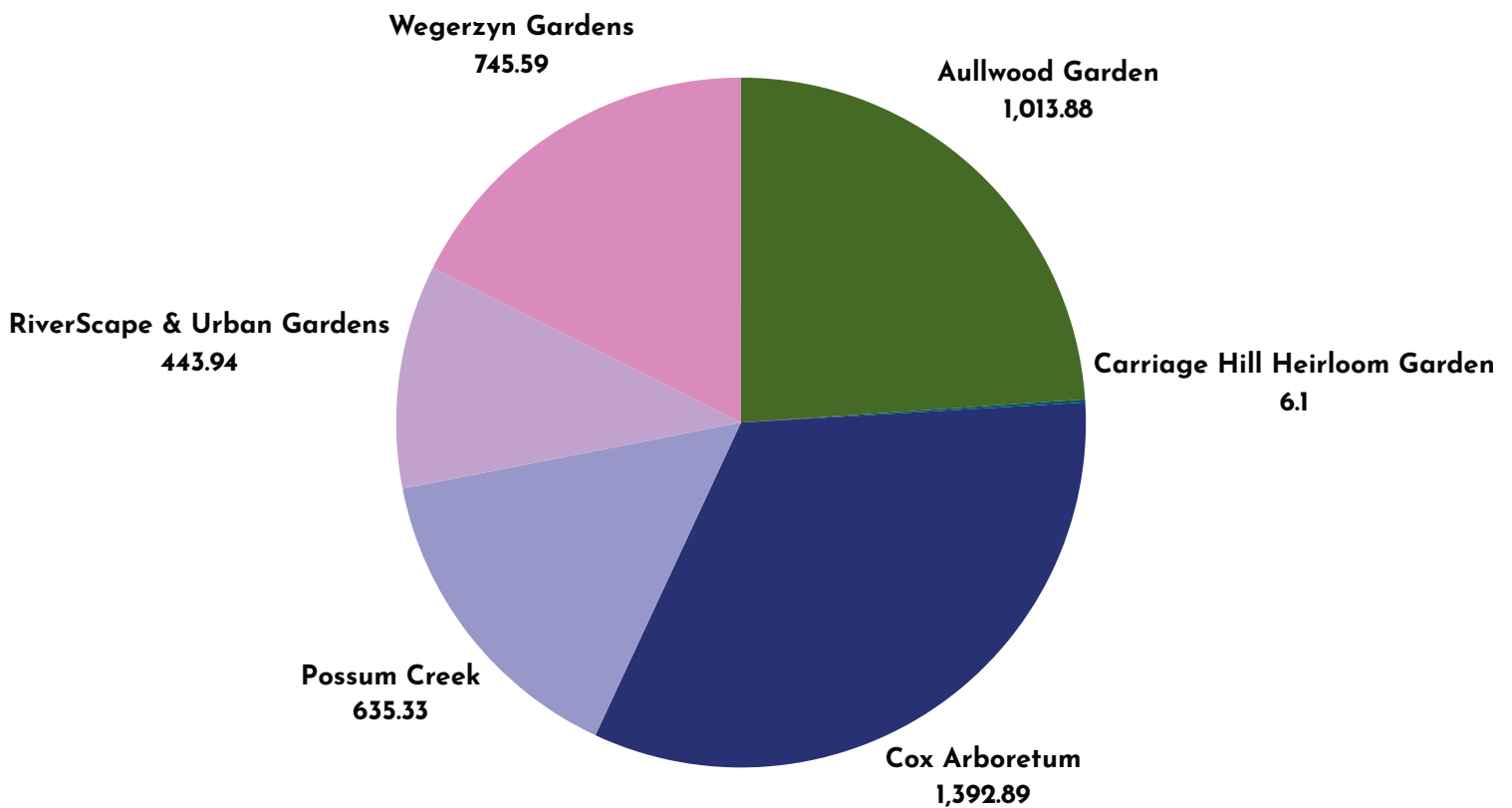
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Gardening Highlights

- 53 Opportunities
- 4,388.35 Hours





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Gardening Highlights

Aullwood Gardening

Aullwood Garden in 2023 experienced a year of wonderful volunteer participation. From our excellent regular volunteers to those who came for one-time volunteer events, Aullwood Garden is on its way to blossoming into its gentle splendor of old. The Big Pull, in the spring during Ohio Native Plant Month, where we join forces with Aullwood Audubon and spearheaded by Hope Taft, was once again very successful in the removal of invasive species! Our Make a Difference Day volunteers from Wright State University and local Girl Scouts were exceptional in how determined they were in raking leaves not just from the front lawn, but also from the middle lawn and Sycamore lawn and they were wet leaves to boot as there was a heavy downpour just prior to the opportunity. They were a joy to work with!

Several volunteer groups supported the garden this year including MVCTC, The Dayton Foundation and Capabilities. Our MVCTC students, along with their instructor Eva Wiley, helped to create the brick pathway from the rose lawn to the lilac lawn. This pathway had been worn thin over the years and visitors can now walk easily from one garden feature, the rose lawn, to the adjacent garden feature, the lilac lawn. It is a beautiful segway from one to the other while maintaining the look of the gardens as it matches the brick pathway within the rose lawn beds.

The Dayton Foundation assisted with seed separation and packaging as well as the much-needed cleaning and oiling of small tools. Wonderful conversations were had regarding the history of John, Marie and Aullwood Garden as well as the various plants grown in the garden as well as their own gardening endeavors.

A group from Capabilities helped with luminary set up, along with many more volunteers which made this event lovely!

Not least of all, we were very grateful and delighted to have our regular volunteers who are a tremendous help in keeping the gardens beautiful and no doubt Marie would be so appreciative of their dedication and wonderful work ~ as we are!! Along with the usual weeding of beds, raking leaves, mulching, pruning and overall tidying areas up, they helped with the prep work for the various 100-year anniversary events held this year, one of which was the annual Aullwood Winter Luminary Walk.

-Beth Langford, Horticulturalist and Staff Lead



The Big Pull at Aullwood Garden MetroPark 2023



Volunteers Becky, Marcia and Teri decorating the gardens for the Aullwood Winter Luminary Walk.



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Gardening Highlights



Wegerzyn Gardening

Wegerzyn had another great year of volunteers in 2023 who helped us out with numerous large projects as well as some of the day to day gardening tasks. The Girl Scouts returned this fall to help plant native plants and close to 20 scouts and nearly the same number of parents planted around 80 trees and shrubs in our woodland expansion project. We had multiple groups in summer planting close to 1000 native perennial plugs in our new woodland thicket and prairie expansion. Volunteers helped us cut back the CDG prairie and garden perennials at Make a Difference day. Our regular Gardening Angels volunteered on a weekly basis in areas all over the gardens. Students from MVCTC returned for multiple projects and helped primarily in the Arbor Garden as we plan for a big renovation. Volunteering is so impactful to how we manage and present Wegerzyn Metropark, and we are very lucky and appreciative to have their support.

-Franz Kirchner, Horticulture Technician and Staff Lead

Interested in supporting our gardens? [View all of our gardening opportunities on Get Connected](#) and sign up to join us in the gardens!



CJ Volunteer Brenden McGarry supporting gardening projects at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark. CJ students like Brenden served over 250 hours with MetroParks in 2023.



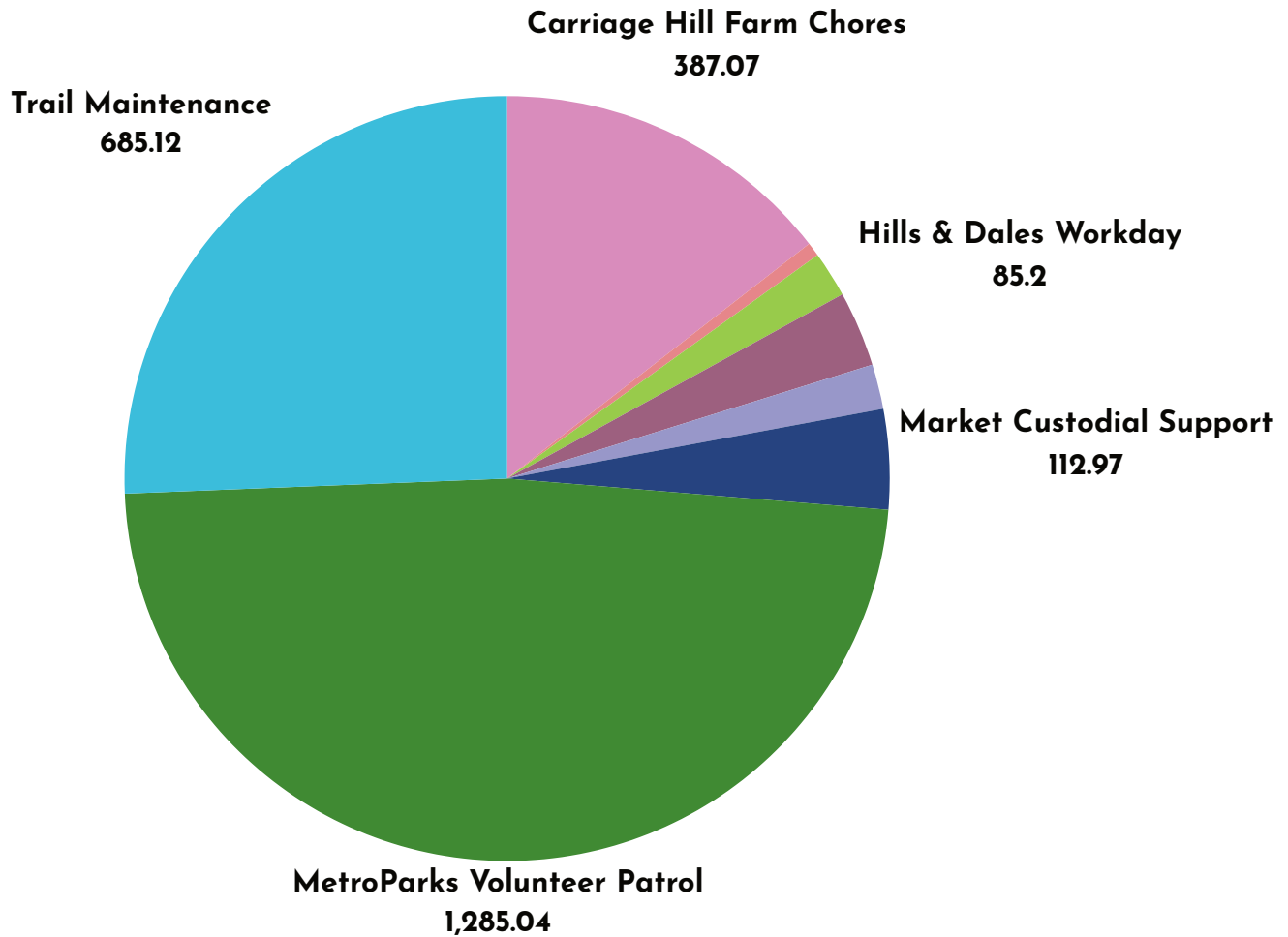
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Park Maintenance Highlights

- 34 Opportunities
- 2,016.14 Hours





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Park Maintenance Highlights

Hay Delivery & Maintenance

Several volunteers signed up to support hay delivery in 2023 at the Carriage Hill Riding Center. These volunteers come out often on short notice to help us unload and stack hay at the barn ensuring our horses are well cared for all season long.

The Riding Center also offered a brand new maintenance opportunity this year. This opportunity is perfect for those volunteers looking to support the Riding Center, don't mind some physical labor, but aren't necessarily available or interested in working directly with the horses. These volunteers were able to clear out the flower bed in front of the Riding Center. The Riding Center hopes to offer quarterly maintenance days to tackle larger projects that require extra helping hands. Look for these quarterly on Get Connected!



Volunteer Richard White hauling hay during a hay delivery shift.

Carriage Hill Farm Chores

Volunteer opportunities are available year-round for volunteers ages 18 and up to support a variety of farm chores on the historic farm at Carriage Hill MetroPark. This is a great way to learn more about the historic farm while giving back. Volunteers support basic animal care including feeding and watering; and barn care including clearing stalls and fence repair. Volunteers served over 380 hours supporting farm chores at Carriage Hill MetroPark in 2023!

Interested in supporting Carriage Hill MetroPark? Join us on the farm! [View available opportunities on Get Connected.](#)



Make A Difference Day volunteer supporting Historic Farm Specialist Sue Nevins at Carriage Hill MetroParks with farm chores.



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Programming Highlights

- 172 Opportunities
- 6,171.66 Hours

Paint A Park Program Support
51.41

CHRC Equestrian Arena Assistant
292.94

CHRC Pony Ride Assistant
175.29

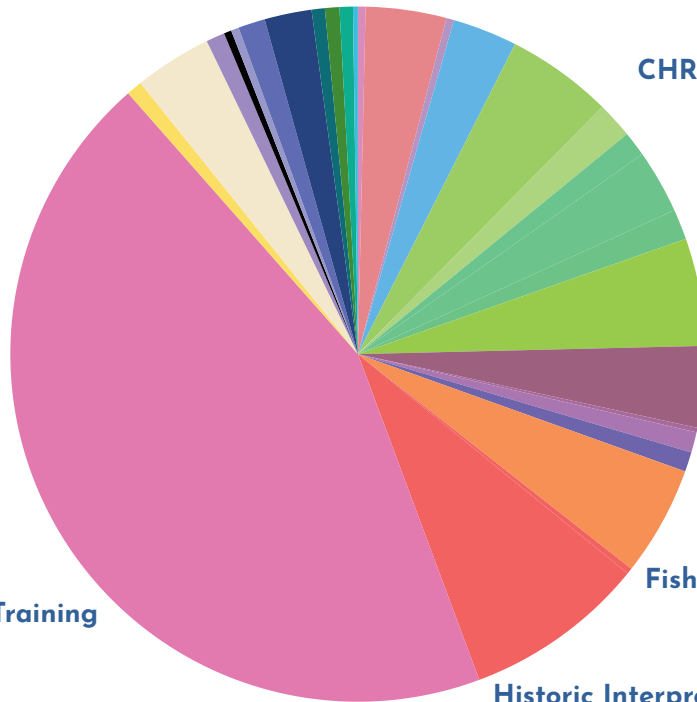
Conservation Kids Program Support
296.25

Camp Counselors in Training
224

Fishing Program Support
303.15

Historic Interpreter
500.97

JET Job Experience and Training
2,617.26





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Programming Highlights

Carriage Hill Historic Farm

- **Historic Interpreters**
- **Historic Blacksmith (Skilled Trades)**
- **Historic Woodworkers (Skilled Trades)**
- **Historic Textile Demonstrator (Skilled Trades)**
- **Program Support**

2023 highlights include structuring our entire volunteer program with videos, written tests, shadow opportunities and new volunteer interpretive trainings. This has provided for a very structured training process that ensures a well versed and knowledgeable volunteer.

Developed our Carriage Hill Textile Group. Through Deb Spencer's guidance, the group helped with mending of clothes and making new garments. In addition, they helped teach classes and assisted Deb and myself with programs like Textile Day, Small Farm and Food Fest and Christmas on the Farm. The group has also been helping with walk in days for the public to see what they do and help recruit new volunteers. In addition, the group has also helped on the inter-departmental level, making repairs for various items from other groups and departments outside of Carriage Hill. Lastly, they have also been instrumental in working on knit good for cold weather for staff and volunteers alike on the historic farm. I cant say enough about what a wonderful and talented group this is.

Re-energized our weekday living history demonstrations with new volunteers learning a wide variety of skills. From woodstove cooking, sewing, knitting and gardening, volunteers have helped us build our weekday programming back up.

Small Farm and Food Fest in August at Carriage Hill saw the most diverse group of volunteers we have ever had. Over 40 volunteers helped us with everything from ambassadors to helping staff our recycling stations. Master Organic Gardener volunteers offered up their expertise for gardening and growing tips. At the historical farm, volunteers helped staff various stations and demonstrated historic skills as well as manning our historic craft shops. This event would not have been possible without the help of these diverse and dedicated volunteers.



Textile volunteers Sue Steinke and Zarriah Blumenstock weave a beautiful winter scarf.



Historic Interpreter & Woodworker Bill Macek on the Treadle Plane in the Historic Woodshop

-Rick Musselman, Education Coordinator and Staff Lead



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Programming Highlights

Fishing Program Support:

When I was asked to say a few words about the impact volunteers have on my programs, I actually threw my head back and laughed! Omgosh - the impact is not only incredible, but unfathomable. I know that years after a program has happened, I've heard how impactful it was in someone's life and how it even changed the trajectory of their life. So to guess on how many other stories might be out there is not possible. Not everyone comes back with a story. But I would not be able to do what I do, teach the skills to help live the healthy, active outdoor lifestyle we all need, and help folks connect to nature making those special memories without the wonderful volunteers that help me.

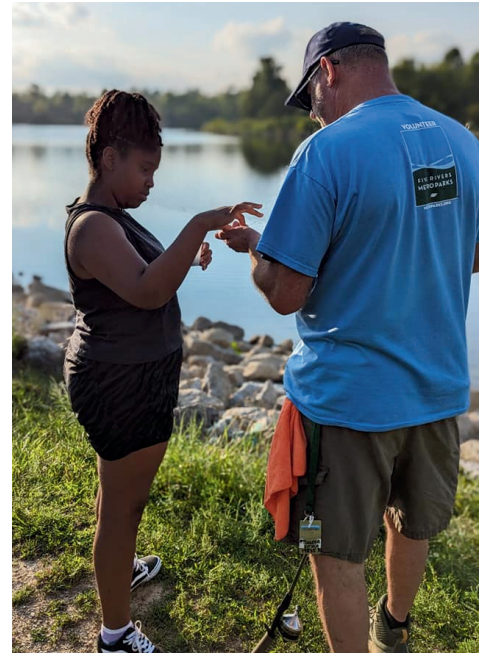
Whether it's helping someone overcome a fear, become competent in a task, take the new knowledge and share with the family, or just learn a new skill that will help them unwind and relax when the stresses of life get a little much - volunteers are very much a part of that and deserve all the thanks or accolades that may come. My volunteers are the best! - and yes, I call them "my volunteers". LOL! They jump right in, take ownership of tasks or assignments, are knowledgeable, love to have fun (like me!) and truly engage with the participants. What better group of folks would you want to work with? And I have such a diverse group, too, because there are so many different ways to help within the same program. I want to make 'more time to shine' for them because I value and appreciate their time and dedication commitment and want to make any investment back to them that I can. I'm looking forward to 2024's program season with "my volunteers", and to the trainings, opportunities and fun times that are coming our way!

-Kelly Kingery, Outdoor Recreation Specialist and Staff Lead



Interested in supporting programs like these, but don't have the skills?

Program Support opportunities are great ways to pitch in and make a difference and often do not require a skill set. Check them out under the Programming Position on Get Connected!



Volunteer Phil Bush helping a child discover fishing.



Volunteers prepping supplies for a fishing program.



Volunteer Kathy Williams supporting Kelly at a fly-tying program.



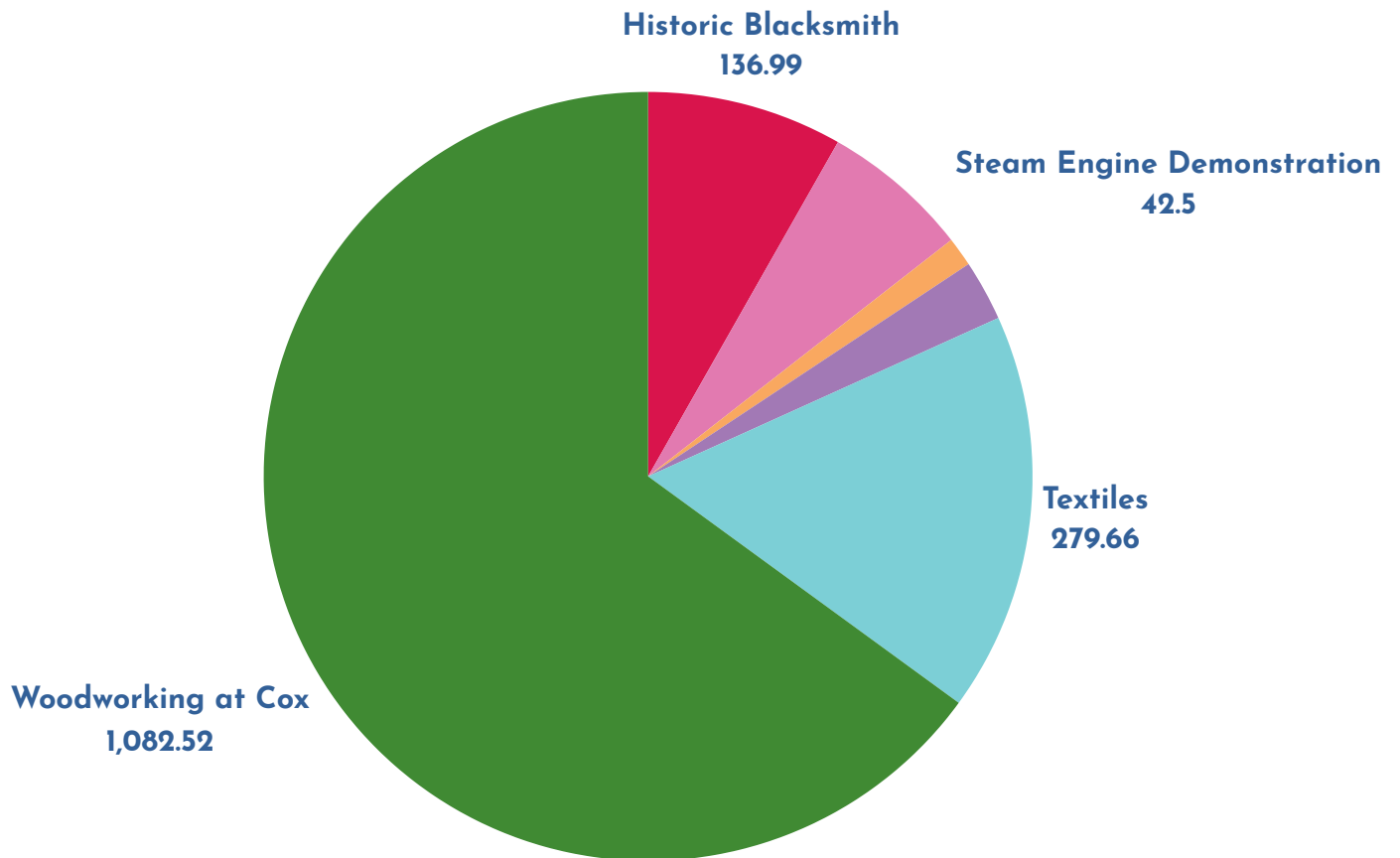
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Skilled Trades Highlights

- 28 Opportunities
- 1,666.07 Hours





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Skilled Trades Highlights

Woodworking at Cox Arboretum

For more than 20 years, woodworking volunteers at Cox Arboretum MetroPark have used their skills to support the work of MetroParks staff. Building anything from bat boxes to benches, these volunteers meet once a week to work on projects, learn from each other and build camaraderie. While each woodworking volunteer must have a basic skill set, they all have a wide range of woodworking experience, from newer hobbyists to life-long contractors. "I've learned a lot since I joined," said volunteer Don Erwine. "Before I joined, I would do some repairs around the house, and I have an old pull barn that's always needing repairs, but I wasn't doing anything near what I'm able to do now." Recently, Erwine and his team of woodworkers - led by MetroParks park technician Uriah Langmeyer - completed their largest project to date: portions of the nature play at Cox Arboretum MetroPark.



Thank you, Woodworkers!

Cox Arboretum MetroPark's nature play opened in fall 2023. The woodworking volunteers constructed two bridges, a sloped climbing wall and the pergola - resulting in considerable time and cost savings. The group spent 850 hours completing these structures, which would have otherwise been built - and billed - by contractors.

Langmeyer is especially proud of MetroParks' staff and the volunteers' accomplishments. Staff spent nearly 3,000 hours on the project, much of it working side-by-side with volunteers. "Teamwork makes the dream work," said Langmeyer, who values the woodworking team's collective learning experiences and process more than simply completing a project. "We're all learning together," he said. "Each person gets the chance to participate in everything that's going on. We problem solve together. We come up with ways do things by talking with everyone about it, and then evaluate the best approach." While building the nature play was, indeed, a challenging project, it also required a very collaborative approach. "On the pergola build for the nature play, volunteer Rex Miller was instrumental in getting the project finished," Erwine said. "The climbing wall was very meticulous, and volunteers Gary Drake and John Baldwin were phenomenal in getting that done because of their woodworking experience." With great challenges come great rewards: The woodworking volunteers and MetroParks staff are thrilled to see the community's reception to the project. "It's a wonderfully unique experience to be able to build a playground," Langmeyer said, "then get to watch kids of all ages enjoy it every day you go to work."

The Nature play features structures created from natural materials that encourage kids to explore nature and connect to the natural world. John Kennedy elementary was the first school group to enjoy this new feature just as it was opening to the public. The students were excited by the new feature, and one was having so much fun, she shared with her teacher that "this is so much better than the playgrounds at school."



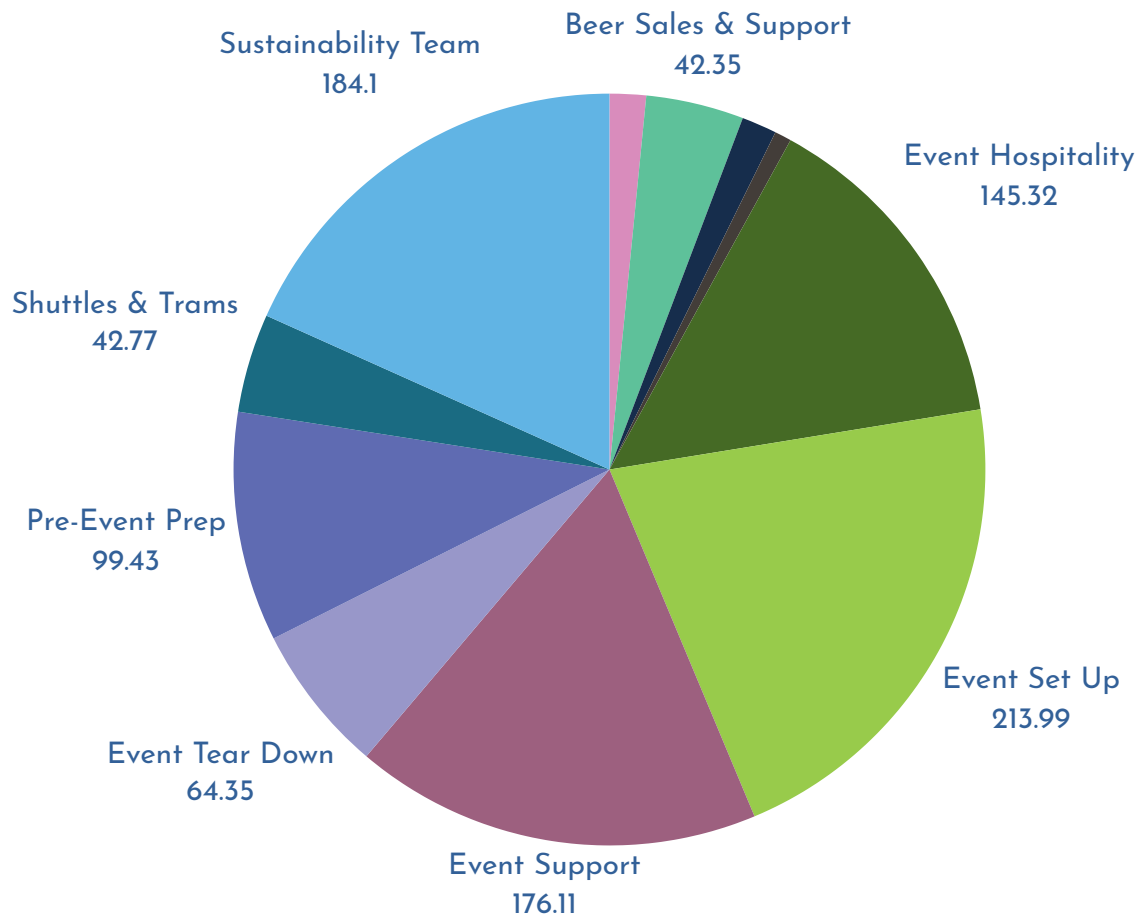
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Special Events Highlights

- 68 Opportunities
- 1,053.92 Hours





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Volunteer Training

Easy, Convenient, Online & In-Person Volunteer Training

Volunteer Services has worked closely with our staff across the agency to develop high-quality, convenient volunteer training for a variety of volunteer opportunities. Many of these trainings are offered virtually and can be accessed anytime from anywhere with an internet connection.

We currently offer the following trainings in our [Volunteer Training Library](#) on Get Connected:

- New Volunteer Orientation and Onboarding
- Get Connected Site Training for Volunteers
- 2nd Street Market Ambassador
- Barn Aide
- Wildlife Ambassador Animal Care
- Bluebird Monitoring
- Cover Mapping Guide
- Cover Mapping Data Processing
- Prescribed Fire
- **NEW in 2023!** Gardening Ambassadors
- Park Maintenance Equipment
- MetroParks Volunteer Patrol (MVP)
- Road and Non-Road Vehicle
- Adventure Central Program Assistant
- Historic Interpreter
- Equestrian Arena Assistant
- Equestrian Trail Guide
- Pony Ride Assistant
- Garden Tour Guide
- Outdoor Recreation Program Support
- Woodworker (Modern-Cox Arboretum)
- Historic Blacksmith
- Historic House Demonstrator
- Historic Woodworker
- **NEW in 2023!** Beer Sales & Support



Trainings are tracked through qualifications in Get Connected. Most qualifications expire annually and need to be renewed. Equipment and vehicle qualifications expire at the end of every calendar year. You can view completed and incomplete qualifications in your Get Connected account under “Qualifications”.



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Volunteer Appreciation

Volunteer Incentive Program

We are proud to recognize our volunteers for ongoing service with us through our VIP, Volunteer Incentive Program! This program offers milestone service pins for volunteers with 25-1000 cumulative hours with us. It also offers volunteer apparel:

- Navy Short-Sleeved Volunteer T-shirt - 25 hours
- Navy Winter Knit Hat or Navy Summer Baseball Style Hat - 50 hours
- NEW! Forest Green, Long-Sleeved Shirt - 75 hours

This new shirt truly represents our conservation mission, and we are proud to provide it for volunteers to wear as they serve with us. Made of sustainably sourced cotton and recycled plastic, a portion of every purchase also goes toward planting trees!



Additionally, this year we provided free ice cream to volunteers during the hot months of July and August and in December we treated volunteers with 25 or more hours to a night of holiday fun, shopping, and food at the 2nd Street Market during Sunset at the Market. At this event, volunteers received \$20 in special VIP Market Money to spend at the 2nd Street Market that evening, as well as any VIP items they earned for 2023.

Volunteers were recognized for outstanding service and commitment to MetroParks throughout the year on our Get Connected Site, in our Volunteer Blog and Newsletter, and in MetroParks Parkways Magazine and on social media.



Each pin recognizes your hours served, helping provide our community with great parks, trails and services. Wear your pin(s) on your lanyard or volunteer gear to show your pride in service.



Collect them all!



CP90 - Port & Company® Knit Cap





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Special Thanks to these 10 Volunteers with the Most Volunteer Hours in 2023

Emma Meyer

Experiential Learning Program

Bill Macek*

Historic Interpreter, Farm Chores at Carriage Hill MetroPark

Anita Kuretsky

Experiential Learning Program

Isaac Fry

Barn Aide, Trail Guide, Arena Assistant at Carriage Hill Riding Center

Neil Mackay*

RiverScape & Urban Garden Stewards, Props Ops, CoverMapping, Invasive Species Removal,
Trail Maintenance

Ed Geller

Cox Arboretum Gardening, Possum Creek Garden Maintenance, MVP, Special Events

Steve McNew

Historic Interpreter, Historic Woodworker, Textile and Fiber Arts at Carriage Hill MetroPark

Ed Stevenson

MVP, Trail Maintenance, TRAM Driver

Frank Beitel

Historic Woodworker at Carriage Hill, MVP, and Woodworking at Cox Arboretum

Tamia Miles

J.E.T. Job Experience and Training, Camp Counselors in Training at Adventure Central

*Volunteers were spotlighted in
our monthly volunteer
newsletter and on the Get
Connected site.

Thank You





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Special Thanks to these Volunteers with the Most Opportunity Responses in 2023

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Steve McNew | 23. Sarah Locker | 43. Chris Vagedes |
| 2. Neil MacKay | 24. Monika Evans | 44. Susan Sandro |
| 3. Isaac Fry | 25. William J Masterson | 45. Joyce Berchtold |
| 4. Bill Macek* | 26. Terry Kutter* | 46. Kristy Zechiel |
| 5. Jan Mazza | 27. Ellen Evans | 47. Teri Schmidt |
| 6. Susan Witherspoon | 28. Cherie Kuhn | 48. Jo Seiter |
| 7. Ginny Wood* | 29. Ed Stevenson | 49. Trayce Thalheimer |
| 8. David Saelens | 30. Rex Miller* | 50. Dan Darragh |
| 9. Ed Geller | 31. Michael McCarty | |
| 10. Helen Schmenck* | 32. Carol Williamson | |
| 11. Henry Holbrook* | 33. Linda Gough | |
| 12. Tamilee Holbrook* | 34. Ellen Eveland | |
| 13. Frank Beitel* | 35. Winnie Granson | |
| 14. Sue Steinke | 36. Courtney Van Winkle | |
| 15. Ellenmarie Wahlrab | 37. Erin Leuhrs | |
| 16. Richard White* | 38. Steve Schwenker | |
| 17. Don Erwine* | 39. Barbara Czystochowa | |
| 18. Maya Holbrook* | 40. Dori Dick* | |
| 19. Colleen Girard | 41. Eileen Roberts | |
| 20. Don Porter* | 42. Mindy Claggett | |

Thank You



*Volunteers were spotlighted in our monthly volunteer newsletter and on the Get Connected site in 2023.





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Thank You to these 2023 Active Volunteers

with 1 or more hours of service to Five Rivers MetroParks this year and a Get Connected account.

- Seth Abernethy
- Wynn Adam
- Christine Adams
- Beth Adelman
- Carson Adkins
- Gilbert Aguilar
- Robert Akers
- Kenny Albers
- Angie Albers
- Eugene Alcorn
- Emma Alexander
- Bryan Alfred
- John Allen
- Don Allen
- Violet Allen
- My'Asia Allen
- Emma Allington
- Jenny Andary
- Tom Andel
- Katherine Andersen
- David Anderson
- Quinn Anderson
- OakleyAnslinger
- Amy Anslinger
- Ron Anslinger
- Ella Anspach
- Dami Ape
- Brian Arbogast
- Nate Arnett
- Elisabeth Arnold
- Lillian Arnold
- Lynn Arrigoni
- Amanda Arrington
- Tera Arthur
- Rick Asamoto
- Danya Asbury
- Alejandro Aviles
- Kristin Ayres
- Makynzie Ayres
- Marie Azbill
- Alexander Baals Kall
- Aubrey Baden
- Allison Bair
- Karyn Baker
- Jessica Baker
- Sydney Baker
- John Baldwin
- Shawna Balog
- Lewis Balog
- Stephanie Bange
- Cal Banks
- Samantha Barga
- Jeffrey Barger
- Jeff Bartosik
- Andrew Bartsch
- Lisa Batten
- Douglas Batty
- Chris Baumann
- Lesley Baumann
- Alex Baumann
- Mindy Baxter
- Dennis Bayham
- Mason Bayor
- Dana Beane
- Leanne Beane
- Adam Beane
- Dave Beane
- Judy Bede
- Rob Beglin
- Lily Behm
- Gregory Behrens
- Frank Beitel
- Stephen Belew
- Laura Belle
- Karen Bentley
- Daryl Bentley
- Joyce M Berchtold
- Katherine Berg
- Amberly Berger
- Esme Berger
- Lauren Berry
- Peter Bertolini
- Robert Jason Best
- Aniya Beverly
- Bobbi Beyer
- Kishore Bhageshpur
- Jeremy Billetter
- Harley Billhimer
- Claire Billock
- Adam Blakley
- Anita Blazak
- Maren Blevins
- Melissa Blevins
- Dessa Blevins
- Liam Blickensderfer
- Zarriah Blumenstock
- Teriana Boddie
- Jeanne Boeke
- Maura Boesch
- Cortnee Boettcher
- Henry Bolmida
- Ethan Bolt
- Terri Bond
- Eric Boruszewski
- Barbi Bouch
- Casey Bower
- Henry Bowman
- Stephanie Brackett
- Olsen Bradley
- Joshua Bradley
- Shelly Bramer
- Jason Branden
- Jessica Brasov
- Michelle Brauchler
- Cam Brewer
- Doug Bright
- Dan Brodbeck
- Brian Brown
- Jordan Brown
- Tony Brown
- Sandra Brown
- Ronald Brown
- Ken Brumbaugh
- Zoe Brunner





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Thank You to these 2023 Active Volunteers

with 1 or more hours of service to Five Rivers MetroParks this year and a Get Connected account.

- Ashleigh Brunney
- Olivia Brunney
- Vincent Brzozowski
- Gina Buggs
- Lexi Bumah
- Lesley Burke
- Randy Burkett
- Donna Burkholder
- Phillip Bush
- Brian Butcher
- Jason Caldwell
- Peter Camm
- Mica Campbell
- Lucas Campbell
- Rodney Campbell
- Julia Capasso
- Ryan Cappel
- Kathleen Carlson
- Ryan Carmen
- Ivory Carpenter
- Jacob Carsner
- Ernest Carter
- Emily Carter
- James Carter
- Tim Carter
- Matthew Case
- Nancy R Casper
- Steven Catalano
- Michael Catalano
- Linda Catlin
- Peggy Cecil
- MacKenzie Chafin
- Lester Charlton
- Angela Chavez
- Michelle Chavez
- Davis Cheatham
- Mindy Claggett
- Gannon Claggett
- Shawn Clark
- Tania Clark
- Monica Clark
- Nancy Clark
- Karen Claude
- Maya Claude
- Jalyn Clayton
- Kurt Clericus
- Donovan Coble
- Alexis Coffey
- Robin Coleman
- Kevin Coley
- Tracy Collier
- Rachel Combs
- Jerry Connally
- Maddie Coomer
- Maggie Cooper
- Eric Coots
- Ron Corbett
- Chanie Corbitt
- Ray Corder
- Zoe Cormier
- Shasta Cornett
- Claudia Cossermelli
- Charles Couch
- Jeffrey Coyle
- Joshua Cramer
- Cameron Craycraft
- Christine Cromes
- Kenzie Cron
- Holly Cross
- Joanna Cross
- Meaghan Crowley
- Taylor Curley
- Tom Cvitkovich
- Barbara Czestochowa
- Norah Dabambalire
- Ashley Dale
- Rachel Dale
- Dan Darragh
- Emily Davis
- Amanda Davis
- Susan Davis
- Kenneth Davy
- Mike Dawes
- Diane Dawson
- Robin Dawson
- Mya Day
- Judy Day
- April DeBrosse
- Julie DeDomenic
- Kathrine Deedon
- Ethel DeLeon
- Logan Delk
- Wendy DelRe
- Mary DeMattei
- Barbie Demmy-Scheidler
- River Demmy-Stover
- Brent Devitt
- Alli Deyhle
- Dori Dick
- Hannah Dickerson
- Shelli DiFranco
- Ethan Dill
- Philip Dix
- Anne Dobmeyer
- Jon Doerflein
- Cory Donald
- Millette Donald
- Kristina Donaldson
- Celia Douglas
- Brandon Douglas
- Brent Douglas
- Mark Douglas
- Brenda Dowdy
- Gary Drake
- Ronald Duckett
- Brenda Duggins
- Tristan Dukes
- Tristan Dukes
- John Dunn
- Vicki Dursch
- Mary Dye
- Roy Dyer
- Nancy Dyer
- Scott Edgar





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Thank You to these 2023 Active Volunteers

with 1 or more hours of service to Five Rivers MetroParks this year and a Get Connected account.

- Adam Edgington
- Dan Egbers
- Kristina Egbert
- Kellie Egbert
- Kevin Eggers
- Sam Elder
- Jacob Elder
- Madelyn
- Elling Isabelle England
- Larry Erbaugh
- Patricia Erbaugh
- Don Erwine
- Carolyn Esswein
- Jeremy Estes
- Ken Evanchuck
- Monika Evans
- Olivia Evans
- Ellen Evans
- AnnMarie Evans
- Ellen Eveland
- Mike Fanelli
- Billy Farley
- Barbie L Farris
- Desiree Faulkner
- Ashlynn Favors
- Madison Fentress
- Sofia Fernandez
- Josh Ferry
- Zane Fessler
- Brenda Fields
- James Fiene
- Susan Fike
- Stacey Finnessy
- Nathaniel Fisher
- Renee Fite
- Meredith Florkey
- Carmella Ford
- Alexandria Ford
- Dale Fornshell
- Val Fornshell
- Amy Forsthoefel
- Bruce Foster
- Carlton Fox
- Christy Fox
- Heidi Fox
- Carla Fox
- Peter Francisco-Matthews
- Josephine Freccero
- Steve Freeze
- Nicole Freshour
- Josh Frew
- Dianne Frimel
- Isaac Fry
- Mia Fry
- Yuming Fu
- Kevin Fugate
- Seth Fugate
- Sherry Fugate
- Jadyn Funkhouser
- Ian Galbraith
- Nick Galford
- Allison Galford
- Eoin Gallagher
- Lexi Gallion
- Enoe Garcia
- Jorge Garcia Roman
- Mike Gardner
- Warren Gardner
- Noah Garrick
- Layla Garrison
- Edward Geller
- Heidi Gentis
- Hannah Gerhart
- Joe Gerstle
- Lindsay Gibbs
- Rachel Gibson
- Dakota Gierus
- Zada Gillenwater
- Oscar Gilman
- Colleen Girard
- Daryl Glenn
- Rebecca Goerling
- Ryan Goettemoeller
- Quintin Goffe
- Judy Goins
- Michael Goldstein
- Anna Goodin
- Edwin Goodin
- Zach Goodrich
- John Gordon
- Tom Gorman
- Linda Gough
- Winnie Granson
- Katie Grant
- Jess Greeby
- Niki Green
- Janet Green
- Skyler Greggerson
- Norman Grell
- Gregory Grewe
- Harry Grieselhuber
- Jonathan Griffin
- Laurie Griffin
- Brittany Griffith
- Desiree Guinto
- Frank Gulczynski
- Jill Gulczynski
- Brad Gust
- Shannon Hairston
- Marilyn Hairston
- Cynthia Hale
- Georgette Hall
- David Hall
- Claire Hand
- Donna Hangen
- Alison Hardie
- Emily Hardie
- Lindsay Harlow
- Payton Harris
- Ronald Hart
- Debra Hart
- Alex Harter
- Carrie Hartley
- Christian Hartman





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Thank You to these 2023 Active Volunteers

with 1 or more hours of service to Five Rivers MetroParks this year and a Get Connected account.

- John Harvey
- Lana Harvey
- Crystal Harvey
- Brennen Harvey
- Evan Hatfield
- Meryl Hattenbach
- Joshua Hauser
- Heather Hawkins
- Cori Hawkins
- Parke Hayford
- Karisma Haynes
- William Hayslett
- Jon Hayward
- Alicia Heeter
- Jim Heikes
- Bonnie Heikes
- Brooklynn Heilgeist
- Kellie Heironimus
- Aaron Heller
- Brian Henderson
- Carl Henderson
- Shannon Hendricks
- Ryan Hendricks
- Gretchen Henrich
- Liam Henry
- Christopher Henry
- Pamela Henry
- Ariel Herdeman
- Darshan Hernaiz
- Shannon Heroux
- Missy Herrmann
- Joe Herzog
- Karen Hesser
- Bob Hetzer
- David Hetzer
- April Hickey
- Quan Hines
- Shawn Hitchcock
- Tracy Hoagland-Clark
- Christopher Hoaglin
- Joseph Hoeing
- Maya Holbrook
- Jeremy Holbrook
- Henry Holbrook
- Tamilee Holbrook
- Megan Homan
- Deb Honeycutt
- Sharyl Hopton
- Kathleen Horgan
- Maureen Horwath
- Carl Hoskins
- Gustavo Hotta
- Diane Householder
- Steve Houston
- Robert Houston
- Jay Howard
- Tori Howard
- Kenneth Howe
- Casey Hubbell
- Ken Hudak
- Crichton Hughes
- Bruce Hughes
- Jessica Hughes
- Sincere Hunter
- Tracy Hunter
- Kaukab Husain
- Michele Huscher
- Amelie Hymans
- James Hymans
- Candace Ingram
- Kendra Ingram
- William Jackson
- Becke Jackson
- Aaron Jackson
- Ethan Jackson
- Jessica Jackson
- Trey Jackson
- Justine Jackson
- Sheena Jackson
- Ron Jackson
- Cronicle Ann Jackson
- Ronnie Jackson III
- Ritu Jain
- Sara Janszen
- Barbara Jasper
- Whitney Jenkins
- Roxanne Jennings
- Brian Johns
- Latasha Johnson
- Russell Johnson
- Royal Johnson
- Elaine Johnson
- Jasmine Johnson
- Amina Johnson
- Judy Johnston
- Benjamin Jones
- Cindy Jones
- Owen Jones
- Justin Jordan
- Christina Joseph
- Marcia Jurcsis
- Uriy Kabanov
- Mary Ann Kabel
- Anna Kahut
- Krista Kaleps
- Darren Kall
- Jack Kargl
- Saravanan Karuppiah
- Jane Katsuyama
- Elizabeth Katwyk
- Jeanne Keffer
- Rachael Keihl
- Mary Keller
- Hailey Keller
- Andrew Keller
- Gabriel Kelley
- Sherry Kendall
- Patrick Kennedy
- Rachel Ketterman
- Avery Ketterman
- Robert Key
- Caitlynn Killmeyer
- Joshua Kimberlin
- Rebecca Kincaid





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Thank You to these 2023 Active Volunteers

with 1 or more hours of service to Five Rivers MetroParks this year and a Get Connected account.

- Ethan King
- Andrew Knapke
- Judith Knight
- Anne Kohls
- Ken Kohrs
- Gale Kookan
- Mark Koons
- Jill Koorndyk
- Amy Korpieski
- Hiral Kotecha
- Debra Kozar
- Michael Kramer
- Nikki Krebs
- Jessee Kreider
- Kiernan Kreider
- Trish Kremer
- Michael Kreutzer
- Brayden Krizan
- Maggie Krohn
- Bailey Krueger
- Ronald Kuckuck
- Cherie Kuhn
- Jacob Kulig
- Annika Kuretsky
- Sally Kurtz
- Travis Kutter
- Terry Kutter
- Brian Lakes
- Mark Lamantia
- Gerald Lamb
- Rachel Lamb
- Rebecca Lamb
- Piper Lamp
- Michael Lane
- Julian Laredo
- Jannice Larkin
- Madyson Larson
- Scott Lazor
- Tabitha Lee
- Ryan Lee
- Vakerie Lee
- Kameron Lee
- Kelly Lehman
- Larry Lehman
- Mike Lehner
- Jim Lewis
- Qanequa Lewis
- Howard Lewis
- Hailey Lightcap
- Fanny Lim
- Lea Linderman
- Elaine Lindstrom
- Carly Lindstrom
- Nakia Lipscomb
- Robyn Livesay
- Sarah Locker
- Anthony Lococo
- Steve Lokai
- Rachel Lovano
- Barry Lucas
- Erin Luehrs
- Susan Luken
- Joan Lumpkin
- Carol Lutz
- Anthony Lutz
- Michael Lybrand
- Kathryn MacDonald
- Bill Macek
- Demica Mack
- Neil Mackay
- Stephanie Madden
- Victoria Madera
- Carole Madera
- Marjorie Mahle
- Kelly Mahon
- Nichole Makrides
- Kaylee Malarky
- Tom Maleike
- Bridget Malone
- Faith Manley
- Jeremiah Manley
- Robin Mann
- Vanessa Mann
- Trevor Martin
- Deb Martin
- Scott Mason
- Janice Mason
- William Masterson
- Daniel Matousch
- Alma Matthews
- Cat Mauser
- Areli Maya
- Vanessa Maya
- Jan Mazza
- James Mazza
- Bill McCamey
- Celeste McCarty
- Karen McCarty
- Michael McCarty
- Kate McClain
- A McCleskey
- Angela McCord
- Robert McCreedy
- Earl McDaniel
- Ryan McFarland
- Brenden McGarry
- Linda McGuire
- Madison McGuire
- Sally McIntyre
- McKinley McKeehan
- Tim McKenzie
- Amanda McKibben
- Logan Mckown
- Melinda McNabb
- Steve McNew
- Brian McNicholl
- Jeff McPherson
- Kathryn McQueen
- Buck McReynolds
- Dottie Meade
- Jennifer Melton
- Karen Melvin
- Mary Ann Merrill
- George Merus





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Thank You to these 2023 Active Volunteers

with 1 or more hours of service to Five Rivers MetroParks this year and a Get Connected account.

- Lori Metivier
- Emma Meyer
- Annie Meyer
- Jonathan Meyer
- Scott Michaelson
- Timothy Miles
- Tamia Miles
- Trisha Miller
- Brad Miller
- Rex Miller
- Christopher Miller
- Flavia Miller
- Kelly Millhouse
- Laxmi Mishra
- Courtney Mitchell
- Justin Mitra
- Madeline Mobarrry
- Ella Moler
- Josh Moll
- John Monnig
- Andy Monnig
- A.J. Montgomery
- Sarah Moon
- Mary Mooney
- Maddie Moore
- Madelyn Moore
- Matt Moore
- Kenny Moore
- Kellye Moore-Texter
- Ariyah Morehead
- Shawn Morgan
- Marty Moseman
- John Mowry
- Justin Mudryk
- Bryan Mullins
- Shauna Mullins
- Joseph Murcia
- Kalei Murphy
- Joyce Murr
- Ayva Myers
- Mark Mysonhimer
- Bahjat Nassar
- Coy Neeley
- Addy Nelson
- Robert Nelson
- Carey Nelson
- Tabitha Neth
- Gabriella Neuerer
- Judy Niday
- Deric Nischwitz
- Steve Northcutt
- Wonderboy Ntuli
- Thomas Nugent
- Suchrita Nunekoppula
- Andres Ocariz
- Serin Oh
- Pete Ohmer
- Heather Olmstead
- Todd O'Neal
- Jill O'Rear
- Nana Yaw Osei-Obeng
- Tod Ostrander
- Joe Oswald
- Brian Overfield
- Walter Overholser
- John Overturf
- Gwen Owen
- Frank Paesler
- David palmieri
- Tiyah Parker
- Anthony Parker
- Darl PARVIN
- Nikki Patak
- Darryl Patak
- Shaunetta Patrick
- Sarah Paul
- Hilary Pederson
- Leo Penrod
- Rachele Perrin
- Tonya Perry
- Jackie Perseghetti
- Douglas Perseghetti
- Lily Pestorius
- Mary Peterman
- Kayla Petty
- Jimmy Phelps
- Treva Pickenpaugh
- Diane Pieratt
- Lori Pierce
- Lou Pierce
- Ronnie Pilkington
- Chris Pion
- Christy Piskiewicz
- Stephen Pitrof
- Vickie Pitrof
- Alan Pittman
- Craig Pleiman
- Anthony Poly
- Donald A Porter
- Erin Porter
- Melissa Posey
- Gina Pottkotter
- Arthur Powell
- Hunter Price
- John Prikkel
- Abbey Prochaska
- David A Pryor
- James Pugh
- Shanon Queen
- Lisa Quinn
- Victor Rae
- Cassie Rafter
- Devin Rakestraw
- S Ramsey
- Nicole Reading
- Shanna Ream
- Shanthi Reddy
- Olivia Reed
- Thomas Reed
- Jon Reed
- Sha'Myah Reid
- Brody Renegado
- Bob Renegado





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Thank You to these 2023 Active Volunteers

with 1 or more hours of service to Five Rivers MetroParks this year and a Get Connected account.

- Heather Repik
- Diego Resendiz
- Lisa Rhoden
- Ellen Rice
- Maria Rice
- Lee Richardson
- Dan Richardson
- JoAnn Richardson
- Miyah Richey
- Rick Riepenhoff
- Pat Ries
- Heidi Riffle
- Callahan Riley
- Jennifer Riley
- Debbi Riley
- Dylan Roberts
- Eileen Roberts
- A Robinson
- Julia Robinson
- Mary Robinson
- Theresa Robinson-Pringle
- Gabriella Rodriguez
- Jessica Ross
- Clayton Rosso
- Ann Rougier
- Shauna Rowlett
- Rebecca Rowley
- Natalia Rubin-Alvarez
- Kevin Ruhlman
- Calisse Russell
- Maria Russell
- Patti Russell-Campbell
- Adao Russo
- Callen Ryan
- Tim Ryan
- David A. Saelens
- Aurelio Salas
- Edrees Saleem
- Natalie Salisbury
- Kathy J Salyers
- Jay'Auna Sampson
- Susan Sandro
- Therese Santo
- Naomi Sauro
- James Saylor
- Carrie Scarff
- Beth Schaeffer
- Paul Scheidler
- Rebecca Schenking
- Charlie Schinaman
- Christopher Schmalhofer
- Anita Schmaltz
- Barb Schmenk
- Helen Schmenk
- David Schmenk
- Andrea Schmidt
- Teri Schmidt
- Dave Schmitz
- Robyn Schmitz
- Lacey Schooler
- Barry Schroeder
- Paul Schubert
- Kendra Schultz
- Nicholas Schulz
- Steve Schwenker
- Erik Scorelle
- K Scott
- Tammy Scott
- Christina Seas
- David Sederstrand
- Jo Seiter
- Bill Seiter
- Kayt Senn-Grilliot
- Michael Shade
- Ethan Shade
- Kathleen Shanahan-Aughe
- Michael Sheidler
- Amanda Sheidler
- Anna Shelton
- Rob Shema
- Crystal Sheppard
- Tedd Shimp
- Victoria Shimp
- Josiah Shoemaker
- Madilyn Shuler
- Robbie Shull
- Barbara Shykoff
- Melissa Siefke
- Charles Sigler
- Christina Silvati
- Sharon Simon
- John Simons
- Connie Sink
- Linda Sipe
- Aidan Sizemore
- Joyce Skinner
- Christopher Skomrock
- Teresa Sloan
- Candice Slough
- Margaret Smith
- Jaina Smith
- Holly Smith
- Shelly Smith
- Amanda Smith
- Corinne Smith
- Mary Ellen Smith
- Aviraj Soin
- Yasmeen Soin
- Colleen Sollinger
- Anna Sollinger
- Steven Solomon
- Elaine Sorah
- Luke Spagnola
- Amari Spears
- Natalie Specht
- Amanda Spence
- Lori Spencer
- Jeannie Spicer
- Suellen Sprinkle
- Ethan Stacey
- Alyssa Stang
- Alan Starnes
- Anthony Starr
- Eric Staudt





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Thank You to these 2023 Active Volunteers

with 1 or more hours of service to Five Rivers MetroParks this year and a Get Connected account.

- Sue Steinke
- Anna Stelzer
- Edward Stevenson
- Tobie Stevenson
- Olivia Stewart
- Gabriel Stewart
- Jamalee Stone
- LaToya Stove
- Gavin Strayer
- Erik Streed
- Karyn Sullivan
- Matt Swartz
- Riley Swenson
- Caroline Swenson
- Melanie Swiderek
- Jennifer Sycks
- Jeffrey Sypeck
- Rich Sypeck
- Charlie Szabo
- Martie Szelog
- John Szelog
- Jericca Taste
- Jeyonna Taste
- Scott Taylor
- Donyell Taylor
- Martha Taylor
- Scott Teeters
- Norah Tempus
- Nikki Tempus
- Gary Tempus
- Caroline Tempus
- Kristen TenWolde
- Alyssia TenWolde
- Deona Terry
- Riley Tew
- Kyle Texter
- Trayce Thalheimer
- Megha Thapar
- Gary Thigpen
- Eric Thompson
- Randy Thomson
- Karin Thue
- Keith Thue
- Dan Tieman
- Christine Tieman
- Samuel Tobias
- Gina Tolliver-Pate
- Tricia Toussaint
- Michael Trauntvein
- Theresa Trent
- Gregory Trick
- Rick Trimbach
- Bill Tschirhart
- Aaron Tucker
- Nadja Turek
- Hans Turek
- Lee Turner
- Frances Tyleshevski
- Gail Ulrich
- Joe Untener
- Chris Vagedes
- Indira Valdez
- Wilfred Van Breukelen
- Donna Van Oss
- Andrea Van Sickle
- Jackie-Lynn Van Tilburgh
- Courtney Van Winkle
- Sharon VanAusdal
- Bella Vangel
- Mark Ventura
- Kevin Vest
- Nathan Via
- Jennifer Vogel
- Kathy VonderBrink
- Lily Votta
- Jim Wafzig
- Dean Waggenspack
- Terry Wahl
- Ellenmarie Wahlrab
- Patrick Walgren
- Mike Walker
- Andrea Wall
- Ann Wallace
- Tom Walter
- Kathleen Walter
- Ethan Warburton
- Jeff Warden
- Jaden Ware
- Jessica Warnecke
- Alyssa Watkins
- Tonia Watkins
- Ryan Watson
- Andrew Watt
- Jean Weaver
- Kaitrin Weber
- Warren Webster
- Shaylynn Weeber
- Donna Weeber
- Ncikolas Weed
- Jim Wellman
- Alex Wertheimer
- Eric Wesolowski
- Kevin Westbrook
- Paul Westhafer
- Kimberly Weyrich
- Amanda Wheatley
- Kiersten Wheeler
- Nancy White
- Wonda White
- Richard White
- Jim White
- Dan White
- Allen White
- Christopher Whitt
- Melissa Wilcox
- Eva Wiley
- Sarah Willhelm
- Kathy Williams
- Cheryl Williams
- Imani Williams
- Taylor Williams
- Kayla Williams
- Carol Williamson
- Dave Williamson





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Thank You to these 2023 Active Volunteers

with 1 or more hours of service to Five Rivers MetroParks this year and a Get Connected account.

- Ellis Willis
- Kim Wilson
- Michael Wilson
- Richard Wilson
- Charlie Wilttrout
- Hunter Wiltshire
- Roshawn Winburn
- Alana Winn
- Sawyer Wintrow
- Leah Wintrow
- Susan Witherspoon
- Michael Witters
- Russell Wolf
- Shannon Wolfe
- Adam Wolking
- Vickie Wong
- Ginny Wood
- Ashley Wood
- Alan Woods
- Trevor Woods
- Patrick Woodworth
- Sandra Worley
- Margaret Worth
- Rebekah Wright
- Morganne Wright
- Ping Yang
- Mark Yoder
- Jerome Young
- Nanette Zanowick
- Paul Zanowick
- Kristy Zechiel
- Sarah Zeigler
- Becky Zimmerman
- Allie Zimmerman
- Donna Zobrist

Board Members

Karen Davis

Bear Molina

Jessica Saunders





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The place where volunteers make a difference.



Staff Lead Appreciation

Volunteer engagement would be impossible without the support of our agency's many dedicated Staff Leads. A Staff Lead's role is to support, supervise, and lead volunteers in high-quality, meaningful volunteer engagement that drives our agency mission forward. Staff Leads complete a staff-lead training series, and work closely with a Volunteer Coordinator to plan volunteer opportunities and training. Thank you to all the staff who served as Staff Leads in 2023:

Mary Andrick
Brent Anslinger
Nate Arnett
Katrina Arnold
Susan Arnold
Elisabeth Bacon
Stephanie Baker
Rachel Baney
Tyler Beaty
Brittany Belcher
Katherine Berg
Ron Bicknell
Alex Boeckman
Sarah Browning
Christopher Buck
Allison Bush
Amelia Carothers
James Carter
Michael Chase
Meredith Cobb
Angela Collie*
Justin Conley
Sandra Coomer*
Michael Cooper
Brenda Cox
Jacob Cradic
Ben Crusoe

Samantha Dalton
Jennifer Davit
Avery DeCamp
Alberta Dempsey
Grace Dietsch
Adam Dietsch*
James Earick
Sheila Edwards
Ira Feltz
Megan Ferrari
Nicole Freshour
David Gibbs
Jonathan Gray
Tarronda Harris
Jordan Hart
Margaret Hobson
Betty Hoevel
Doug Horvath
Alex Huber
Joseph Joyce
Derrick Keating
Amy Kennedy*
Tyler Kessler
Kelly Kingery*
Franz Kirchner
Jessica Knowles-Thomas
Suzy Kroeger

Beth Langford
Dan Kuebler*
Uriah Langmeyer
Austin Lathrop
Sally Leatherman*
Lauren Lemons
Kaitlyn Lowry
Joann Lusk
Pam Lyons Gromen
Jami McGarry
MyKaelah Mercer
Angela Moore*
Joe Morrison
Rick Musselman
Sue Nevins
JT Niswonger
Christina Northrup*
Tim Pritchard
JoAnn Pennington
Connor Perry
Michael Pitts
Kevin Reichling
Rick Renner
Tearlinda Rhoton
Erin Rowekamp
Josie Rowley
Megan Rude*

Randy Ryberg
Shane Sheldon
Shelby Shaw
Crystal Sheppard
Derik Sloan
Christopher Snyder
Daniel Spaugy
Deborah Spencer*
Matt Stevens
Lynda Suda*
Andrew Tarter
Brandon Thompson
Mary Towell
Houston Ward
Ramon Watson
Bernadette Whitworth
Hannah Wiest
Brandon Wilson
Allison Wilson
Taylor Williams
Lois Woods
Reagen Wylie
Joshua York
Lisa Zoromski

Staff Leads names in **bold** received positive mentions for great staff lead support in Volunteer Opportunity Feedback forms this year.

Staff with * were featured in Staff Lead Spotlights in our Volunteer and Staff Lead Newsletters.

**Thank you for
supporting
volunteers!**





www.metroparks.org/volunteer

Your Volunteer Services Team

volunteer.services@metroparks.org; #937-275-7275.

Allie Zimmerman - Parks & Conservation

#937- 274-3176

Amanda Wheatley - Ambassador & Special Events

#937- 277-4109

Janelle Leonard - Administration & Animal Care

#937-277-5445

Yvonne Dunphe - Outdoor Connections Programming

#937-277-4147

Jenny Hymans - Human Resources Manager, Volunteer Services #937-

567-1413

