

# Pond Patrol Volunteer Program

## -Protocol -

*Updated February 2022*



Improperly discarded fishing line, tackle, and trash is an ongoing issue at many of our parks. It causes numerous issues including being harmful to the wildlife inhabiting our parks. Staff will often receive notifications from patrons observing wildlife being entangled in discarded fishing line and tackle. Often it is not possible to assist injured animals as they can be situated in an inaccessible area and rarely allow staff to get close enough to help. Improperly discarded line is also detrimental to park aesthetics and can become entangled in mowers, string trimmers, and other equipment causing maintenance issues. The most effective means to solve this problem is through prevention. Volunteers are needed to increase the capacity of Parks and Conservation staff by monitoring popular fishing area shorelines for discarded line, tackle, and trash.

**Role:** MetroPark Volunteer Patrol (MVP): Pond Patrol (see *MVP Handbook for more information*)

**Date:** Continuous. Year-round. Varies depending on volunteer's availability.

**Shift:** Anytime during normal park hours. Duration will vary seasonally and from site to site.

**Locations:** Volunteer's preferred assigned location. Some parks may have multiple monitoring sites. *Locations with an identified need for volunteers include: Eastwood MetroPark, Englewood MetroPark, Germantown MetroPark, Spring Run Conservation Area, Possum Creek MetroPark, and Twin Creek MetroPark*

**Current Project Leads:** Ben Crusoe – Conservation Technician  
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Allison Zimmerman – Volunteer Coordinator  
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## Procedure:

1. In case of emergency while conducting site visits, always call 9-1-1. For non-emergencies, contact Montgomery County Sheriff's dispatch at 937-225-4357 and tell them you are in a MetroPark and need Ranger assistance.
2. **It is important that you check in for your MVP shift by calling or texting the Ranger Supervisor on Duty phone number: 937-313-8770.** Checking in at this number will let the Rangers know you are on duty. When contacting, please identify yourself as an MVP with your last name and MVP number, as well as the park and trail you will be patrolling.
3. The primary goal is to check higher use sites once per week and other sites twice per month. This will vary based on location and season. Some sites will have more than one volunteer to meet this need. Frequency of visits are flexible and can change as needed.
4. Maps have been created indicating the high use fishing areas and location of the line recycling bins within each park. Please pay special attention to the high use areas. As you continue to visit your site, the high use areas will become more evident, and you may even notice additional areas that aren't indicated on the map.
5. Intently walk the area monitoring for discarded fishing line, tackle, and trash. Caution should be taken as hooks and lures are often still attached to line. Gloves and pickers will be provided to aid in and promote safety. Many people will often set or prepare their spools and tackle at their vehicle. As such, parking lots of the fishing areas are an additional great place to check for discarded line. Please exercise caution while checking parking lots and do so only if you feel comfortable. Line can be easily overlooked so please take your time.
6. Consider engaging people fishing or other park patrons to inform them of what you are doing and educate them on why you are doing it. This could help promote the use of our fishing line recycling bins.
7. In order for the fishing line to be recycled, it needs to be processed (separated from any attached tackle, trash, or vegetation.) Consider processing the collected line prior to adding it to your collection container. This may help prevent entanglement and lessen the chances of being "hooked." The separated tackle is then placed in your tackle collection container. Again, please use caution during this task. We will provide gloves and scissors to assist and promote safety as well as provide collection containers for both line and tackle.
8. After line has been collected and processed, please place it in a fishing line recycling bin. If you notice the bins are full or nearly full, please communicate that information with the Project Leads so they can work to see that they are emptied. Parks and Conservation Staff will empty the bins when necessary.
9. As you collect and accumulate tackle you may communicate with the Staff Lead to coordinate pick-up or drop-off details.
10. Please fill out the data collection sheet and email it to both the Staff Lead (Ben.Crusoe@metroparks.org) and the MVP email address (MVP@metroparks.org)

# Pond Patrol Volunteer Program

## Data Sheet

Name of person(s) conducting patrol:

Date of Visit				
Park Location And Section				
Time Begin				
Time End				
Total Time				
Amount Compressed Line Collected per Bucket -1/4 -1/2 -3/4 -Full				
Condition of Bin(s) (poor, fair, good)				
Is The Recycle Bin Nearly Full?				

*Additional Comments (interactions with patrons, condition of site, reason for condition of bin above, etc.):*

### Provided Supplies for Volunteers

- Printed copy of the protocol (provided upon request)
- Printed Map(s) of assigned location (provided upon request)
- Pickers to assist with line and trash collection
- Gloves for removing hooks, vegetation, lures, trash, etc. from line
- Scissors for removing line from vegetation and separating line from tackle
- "Sharps" container for processed tackle
- 5-gallon bucket for volunteers to collect line in as they monitor their site

## Fishing Areas and Recycle Bin Locations

*This list is accurate as of January 2018 – Some sites and bin locations may be added or removed.*

Maps of fishing areas and recycle bin locations are available upon request or to volunteers upon entering the program

- 1.) Carriage Hill MetroPark (5 bins total)
  - A.) Cedar Lake (5 bins) - **HIGH USE AREA**
  - B.) Northwoods Pond
  
- 2.) Eastwood MetroPark (7 bins total)
  - A.) Park Side: Mad River Access – Canoe / Kayak Takeout
  - B.) Park Side: East End of Lagoon
  - C.) Park Side: West End of Lagoon (2 bins) - **HIGH USE AREA**
  - D.) Eastwood Lake – Boat Launch/ Trailer Parking Area (1 bin)
  - E.) Eastwood Lake – East End (1 bin)
  - F.) Eastwood Lake – West End Near Blue Lake (3 bins) - **HIGH USE AREA**
  
- 3.) Englewood MetroPark (3 bins total)
  - A.) East Park -Main Lake
  - B.) North Park (2 bins) - **HIGH USE AREA**
  - C.) Martindale Rd. - Stillwater River Access (1 bin)
  - D.) AULLWOOD parking lot on Stillwater Rd. Access
  
- 4.) Germantown MetroPark (2 bins total)
  - A.) Sunfish Pond (1 bin)
  - B.) Twin Creek Access (south of the dam) (1 Bin)
  
- 5.) Island MetroPark (2 bins total)
  - A.) Southeast Section (1 bin)
  - B.) Southwest Section (1 bin)
  
- 6.) Spring Run Conservation Area (1 bin total)
  - A.) Ponds on corner of Post Town and Snyder Rd. (1 bin)
  
- 7.) Possum Creek MetroPark (4 bins total)
  - A.) Argonne Lake
  - B.) Fishing Ponds (4 bins) - **HIGH USE AREA**
  
- 8.) Taylorsville MetroPark (3 bins total)
  - A.) South Park- Boat Launch Near the Dam (1 bin)
  - B.) West Park -Bottom of Sled Hill
  - C.) Poplar Creek Ponds (2 bins)
  
- 9.) Twin Creek MetroPark (2 bins total)
  - A.) Lake George (1 bin)
  - B.) Dogwood Pond (1 bin)