



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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The Impact of a Volunteer

Volunteers are an important supporting component in many areas of park operations. Volunteers support our efforts in offering events and programs to the community; they play a part in educating and engaging our local community, and ultimately increasing support for our parks. Volunteers make a vital contribution to both Mill Creek MetroParks and to Mahoning County!

▪ Three Types of Volunteers Defined

- **Active Volunteer:** Volunteers participating 1 or more hours in a calendar year.
- **Inactive Volunteer:** Volunteers participating in 0 hours in a calendar year or no longer wishes to volunteer.
- **Group Volunteers:** Scouts, YSU, Schools, Jr. Fair, etc.



Volunteer Opportunities

STEWARDSHIP

Litter Removal - land and water
Invasive Vegetation Removal
Trail Maintenance
Bluebird Trail Monitor

SPECIALTY

Accounting/Finance Volunteer
Marketing Assistant
Fundraiser Assistant
MetroParks Police Auxiliary Officer
Bikeway Patrol
MetroMutts Volunteer
MetroParks Farm Work Assistant
Library Assistant
Museum & Exhibit Areas
Retail Assistant - Shop in the Gardens
Special Events
Special Projects

EDUCATION

Program Activities Assistant (camps, workshops/farm, nature, history programs)
Community Outreach Information Tables
Do Not Feed Wildlife Campaign
Trolley Guide

RECREATION

Recreational Hike/Bike Leader
Kayak Tour Assistant
Special Events (planning, preparation, staffing)

HORTICULTURE

Garden Guide
Veggie Gardens Mentor
Gardens Planting & Maintenance (main garden areas, Family Garden, Dahlia Garden)
Floral Designer & Interior Plant Maintenance
Volunteer Program Attendant
Program Activities Assistant (school programs: on-site & outreach, Family Fun Fridays, Sprout Club, Kids Gardening programs, event outreach)

Volunteer Program

- **Process**
 - Application/Background Check
 - Volunteer approved or not approved notification
- **Communication**
 - Volunteer needs communicated by staff
 - Volunteer opportunities sent to volunteers via email – beginning of each month
 - Communicated to ALL park volunteers
 - Includes dates needed, shifts, duties, attire, how to sign up, etc.
- **Management**
 - Raisor's Edge Software
 - Volunteer Module – managing and reporting capabilities, linking donors & volunteers
- **Recognition**
 - Volunteer Appreciation Picnic (20+ hours from July 1 – June 30)
 - 202 volunteers invited in 2017
 - Volunteer t-shirt (10+ hours per calendar year)
 - 185 volunteers qualified in 2017
 - Name Badge – multiple volunteer participation
- **Recruitment**
 - Youngstown State University Volunteer Fair
 - Youngstown State University Welcome Week
 - Cardinal Mooney High School YES Fest
 - Boardman High School YES Fest
 - Existing volunteers – referrals
 - Marketing efforts - website, programs & events calendar, TV, social media



Statistics

- **Two Types of Volunteers Defined**

- **Active Volunteer:** Volunteers participating 1 or more hours in a calendar year.
- **Inactive Volunteer:** Volunteers participating in 0 hours in a calendar year or no longer wishes to volunteer.
- **Groups:** Scouts, YSU, Schools, Jr. Fair, etc. Not included in numbers below.

2015	2016	2017	2018*
491 Total Volunteers	457 Total Volunteers	555 Total Volunteers	577 Total Volunteers
339 Active	291 Active	329 Active	84 Active
152 Inactive	166 Inactive	226 Inactive	493 Inactive

*Effective dates: January 1, 2018 – March 31, 2018

Highlights

- ❖ 98 new volunteers added in 2017
- ❖ January 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017: added 55 new volunteers; 49 Standing Committee volunteers, 6 regular volunteers
- ❖ January 1, 2018 – March 31, 2018: added 22 regular volunteers (almost 4x the amount compared to this time last year!)

Hours

A total of 14,837 hours were accrued from park wide volunteers and groups in 2017. Below are some of the specific events, exhibits and activities where these hours were accrued.

Nature Photography Exhibit
Jewels of Winter Orchid Exhibit
Twice Loved Book Sale
Andrews Horticulture Certificate Program
Trolley Tours
Star Party
Farm Animal Baby Shower
Plant the Seed to Read Book Festival
Father's Day Fun at the Mill
Spring Plant Sale
Family Fun Fridays
Family Camp in the Park
Camps & Clinics
Reptile Day
Shop in the Gardens
Veggie Gardens
Garden Maintenance

Green Cathedral Half Marathon
Sunset at the Farm
Pumpkin Carving
Pumpkin Walk at Twilight
Family Halloween Bash
Old Fashion Christmas at the Mill
Santa's Winter Barn
Winter Celebration
Old McDonald's Barn – Canfield Fair
Hikes
Kayak
Conservation/Preservation
Standing Committees
Garden District Kids
Auxiliary
Garden Guide
Kiosk Stocking

Questions or Comments?



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millcreekmetroparks.org

