

All New GrapeVINE

Hey! What's up with the GrapeVINE?

If you'll recall, we posed a few questions to you about the GrapeVINE at a volunteer meeting last year. Both small and large group discussions took place and this is what we heard:

- Most of you don't read the articles
- The majority of you find great value in the volunteer opportunities.
- Many of you find it hard to sign up for activities that are so far out in the future.
- Everyone enjoys pictures.

We listened and took your comments to heart. Based on your feedback, here are some of the changes we've implemented:

- We've eliminated most articles and pared down the GrapeVINE to reduce paper usage and printing costs.
- We've included a link to the Great Parks blog for those that like to read articles.
- The newsletter will now be sent monthly, not quarterly, which we hope will provide more up-to-date news and volunteer opportunities.
- We're also going to start including volunteer spotlights so that you can learn more about your fellow Great Parks Volunteers.

More changes may be coming as we tweak the new format. Input is always appreciated. Thanks for all you do and we hope you enjoy the new GrapeVINE!

Kris and Niki

Message from the Executive Director Jack Sutton

I'm pleased to report that Great Parks recently had five land acquisition projects approved for funding assistance through the Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program.

The Clean Ohio Fund Program was established by the State of Ohio in 2000 and is dedicated to environmental conservation, including the acquisition of greenspace and the protection and enhancement of river and stream corridors. Grant recipients agree to maintain the properties in perpetuity so they can be enjoyed and cherished for generations to come. Our projects include:

47.2 Acre Mullins Tract | Mitchell Memorial Forest

55.5 Acre Reid Tract | Mitchell Memorial Forest

7.7 Acre Curnett Tract | Whitewater River Corridor

50 Acre Weber Tract | Whitewater River Corridor

62 Acre Roell Tract | Whitewater River Corridor

These are critical acquisitions that will further protect and enhance the bottomland forests and hillsides adjacent to Jordan Creek and the Whitewater River in Western Hamilton County.

What's equally significant is how these projects are being funded. The total estimated cost for all five acquisition projects is \$3,786,050. Of that total, approximately 75% will be funded through the Clean Ohio grants; 16% through private contributions from four of the land owners; 8% from the Mitchell Fund and approximately 1% from Great Parks' General Fund. This is an excellent example of how Great Parks leverages outside funding with its 1 mill levy. Congratulations to Tim Zelek and Sean Creighton from our Planning Division for preparing these successful grant applications!






Below is a sneak peek at the next volunteer meeting, taking place on March 21. A complete schedule may be found on page 4 of the GrapeVINE.

Great Parks Executive Director Jack Sutton will take a look back at 2016 and also provide some insight on what lies ahead for 2017. Stay in tune with what's going on in the park district. Jack's annual state-of-the-park address is something you won't want to miss.

THIS MONTH'S BLOG

Wintertime at Woodland Mound
Read more at
blog/greatparks.org

CONNECT WITH GREAT PARKS

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

Welcome Volunteers



Volunteer Richard Amable heron watching with his spotting scope and park guests.

Welcome to these new volunteers that joined us 10/1/2016–2/15/2017:

David Andersen
Lindsey Beasler
Janet Canning
Nicole Carlson
Jim Ernst
Kathy Ernst
Barbara Fleckenstein
Brian Goubeaux
Tina Hookes
Kirk Kavanaugh
Erin Lowery
Elise Mercer
Heather Nichols
Lesa Postel
Robert Riccardi
Amanda Schutte
Joseph Shea
Stephen Smookler
James Spencer
Cathy Springfield
Megumi Takeuchi
Veronica Uetrecht
Jay Ulrich
Angela Wagers



Mother-daughter volunteer duo Phyllis Flick and Tracie Sergent helping out at the 2017 Winter Hikes Series.

Get Involved

Try something new! Please review the list of programs below. If you are able to assist with the activity, phone or email the event supervisor to volunteer. Don't forget to record your service hours in VIC or on a paper time sheet, using the assignment category found highlighted at the end of each opportunity.

FARBACH WERNER

Mon, Wed & Fri 3/15–11/8, 8:30 a.m.

Walk Club Hosts Needed

If you like to walk for exercise and want to make a healthy impact on people's lives, then we need your help! Walk Club Hosts will lead hikes for guests 50 years of age and up. Arrive 10 minutes early, engage walkers and report attendance by email or phone. These are fitness walks so no natural history knowledge is needed. Whether you host one time a week or once a month, you're sure to meet new friends, have fun and stay fit. If you are interested in becoming a Walk Club Host, or you are a returning host, contact Jen Hilbert at jhilbert@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-2345. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Walk Club Host [ADVENTURE OUTPOST\All Locations].**

FERNBANK

Mon, Wed & Fri 3/15–11/8, 8:30 a.m.

Walk Club Hosts Needed

If you like to walk for exercise and want to make a healthy impact on people's lives, then we need your help! Walk Club Hosts will lead hikes for guests 50 years of age and up. Arrive 10 minutes early, engage walkers and report attendance by email or phone. These are fitness walks so no natural history knowledge is needed. Whether you host one time a week or once a month, you're sure to meet new friends, have fun and stay fit. If you are interested in becoming a Walk Club Host, or you are a returning host, contact Jen Hilbert at jhilbert@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-2345. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Walk Club Host [ADVENTURE OUTPOST\All Locations].**

MIAMI WHITEWATER FOREST

Mon, Wed & Fri 3/15–11/8, 8:30 a.m.

Walk Club Hosts Needed

If you like to walk for exercise and want to make a healthy impact on people's lives, then we need your help! Walk Club Hosts will lead hikes for guests 50 years of age and up. Arrive 10 minutes early, engage walkers and report attendance by email or phone. These are fitness walks so no natural history knowledge is needed. Whether you host one time a week or once a month, you're sure to meet new friends, have fun and stay fit. If you are interested in becoming a Walk Club Host, or you are a returning host, contact Jen Hilbert at jhilbert@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-2345. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Walk Club Host [ADVENTURE OUTPOST\All Locations].**

Tue 3/15, 10 a.m.–noon

Range Ball Popping Party

Lots of volunteers are needed to pop balls out of the soft turf at Miami Whitewater Forest Golf Course. A ball popping tool will be provided to help eliminate much of the bending and stooping. Bring work gloves and be prepared to get dirty. Doughnuts and coffee are on the house! For more information or to volunteer, contact Mike Uffman at muffman@greatparks.org or phone 513-367-4627. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Golf Ball Popping [GOLF\ Miami Whitewater].**

SHARON WOODS

Ongoing

Crayon Recycling

The Sharon Woods Naturalist staff collects old crayons to recycle into new ones to give away as prizes. We are looking for a few volunteers that are willing to peel crayons, separate crayons by color and melt/mold crayons into fun

shapes. You can help with one task or all three. This can be done in the comfort of your own home or during open hours at Sharon Centre. We will provide all materials needed. For more information or to volunteer, contact Julie Robinson at jrobinson@greatparks.org or phone 513-563-4513. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALIST\Sharon Woods].**

Mon, Wed & Fri 3/15–11/8, 8:30 a.m.

Walk Club Hosts Needed

If you like to walk for exercise and want to make a healthy impact on people's lives, then we need your help! Walk Club Hosts will lead hikes for guests 50 years of age and up. Arrive 10 minutes early, engage walkers and report attendance by email or phone. These are fitness walks so no natural history knowledge is needed. Whether you host one time a week or once a month, you're sure to meet new friends, have fun and stay fit. If you are interested in becoming a Walk Club Host, or you are a returning host, contact Jen Hilbert at jhilbert@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-2345. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Walk Club Host [ADVENTURE OUTPOST\All Locations].**

WINTON WOODS

Ongoing

Gardener & Farmer Wannabes

Parky's Farm has unique orchard, vegetable, herb, and flower gardens used for educational programs and public display. Multiple volunteers are needed to help maintain and interpret the gardens spring through fall with flexible scheduling available. Gardening experience is not necessary. If you have a green thumb (or are willing to obtain one) and want to help others have fun in the garden, contact Luke Ogonek at logonek@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-3276, ext. 100. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Parky's Farm Gardening [PARKY'S FARM\Winton Woods].**

Wed 3/1, 11 a.m.

Little Tykes

It's migration time and animals and birds are on the move. Winged critters move to warmer homes and amphibian creatures move to lay eggs. Join 3-6

year olds as they learn how spring is jump-starting nature during this seasonal exploration time. Volunteers will engage guests in various learning activities. For more information and to volunteer, contact Susan Sumner at ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275, ext. 243. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALIST\Winton Woods].**

Mon 3/6, 11 a.m.

Homeschool Science (Central): Women in History

Home-schooled students ages 5-12 will explore interactive learning stations and take part in women in history lessons. Volunteers will help to guide guests through the stations. For more information and to volunteer, contact Susan Sumner ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275, ext. 243. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALIST\Winton Woods].**

Mon 3/13–Sat 5/27

Mon 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Wed 6:15–7:15 p.m.

Sat 10:15–11:15 a.m.

Special Riders Program

Volunteers are needed to lead or walk beside horses ridden by Special Rider students. Training is provided at the Riding Center. For more information or to volunteer, contact Margie Rennie at mrennie1@icloud.com or phone 513-931-3057. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **WWRC All Activities [RIDING CENTER\Winton Woods].**

Tues 3/14 & Wed 3/15, 1–3 p.m.

Sat 3/18 & Sun 3/19, 1–4 p.m.

Tues 3/28 & Wed 3/29, 1–3 p.m.

Great Blue Heron Days

Get a bird's eye view of a great blue heron nesting spot. Guests will travel along the West Branch Trail at their own pace to view these feathered marvels in their tree-top homes. Spotting scopes will be provided. Volunteers will assist guests with spotting scopes. For more information or to volunteer contact Susan Sumner at ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275, ext. 243. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALIST\Winton Woods].**

Mon, Wed & Fri 3/15–11/8, 8:30 a.m.

Walk Club Hosts Needed

If you like to walk for exercise and want to make a healthy impact on people's lives, then we need your help! Walk Club Hosts will lead hikes for guests 50 years of age and up. Arrive 10 minutes early, engage walkers and report attendance by email or phone. These are fitness walks so no natural history knowledge is needed. Whether you host one time a week or once a month, you're sure to meet new friends, have fun and stay fit. If you are interested in becoming a Walk Club Host, or you are a returning host, contact Jen Hilbert at jhilbert@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-2345. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Walk Club Host [ADVENTURE OUTPOST\All Locations].**

Tue 3/28, 11 a.m.

Homeschool Science (Central): Heron Rookery Day

Home-schooled students ages 5-12 will explore interactive learning stations, take part in lessons and hike to view a heron rookery. Volunteers will help to guide guests through the stations. For more information or to volunteer, contact Susan Sumner at ssumner@greatparks.org or phone 513-521-7275, ext. 243. For volunteers ages 18 and up. **Naturalist Programs Miscellaneous [NATURALIST\Winton Woods].**

Tue 3/28, 8–10 a.m.

Range Ball Popping Party

Lots of volunteers are needed to pop balls out of the soft turf at Meadow Links and Golf Academy. A ball-popping tool will be provided to eliminate much of the bending and stooping. Bring work gloves and be prepared to get dirty. Doughnuts and coffee are on the house! For more information or to volunteer, contact Matt Starr at mstarr@greatparks.org or phone 513-825-3701. For volunteers ages 14 and up. **Golf Ball Popping [GOLF\ Meadow Links].**

Volunteer Spotlight

Phyllis and Jim Doerger

How long have you volunteered with Great Parks? (Jim) 15 years. (Phyllis) I began volunteering in 2015.

What is your favorite volunteer activity? (Jim) My favorite volunteer activity is working at the Shaker Trace Nursery. I also enjoy stream and boundary monitoring and help with other projects when needed. (Phyllis) I haven't picked a favorite yet but I've helped at Paddle Fest and with guest surveys, ball popping, a junior golf tournament and goose management. I'm currently volunteering at the Winton Woods Naturalist Desk. We may have found an activity we can together—herpetology.

What's your favorite outdoor activity? (Jim) I like canoeing, camping and fishing at the Boundary Waters in Minnesota. (Phyllis) My favorite is golf but I love birds, wildlife and spectacular scenery.

What is your favorite Great Park? (Jim) I golf, hike, fish and explore the wooded trails and streams at Miami Whitewater Forest. (Phyllis) I'm an equal opportunity user and like Winton Woods Golf Course, but won't pass up a round at any of the other courses. The wet playground, trails and children's garden at Miami Whitewater and Glenwood Gardens are great fun for our grandchildren. The views at Shawnee Lookout are a special treat.

What is your life motto? (Jim) Treat others as I would want to be treated. (Phyllis) Live life with passion.

Do you have any hobbies that you are passionate about? (Jim) I am most passionate about flint-knapping, a process of creating knives and projectile points by flaking off small chips from a piece of flint, obsidian or other stone. I've made arrowheads and a knife from a lump of crystal I was given by an artisan at the Waterford Manufactory in Ireland! (Phyllis) Travel is my number one hobby but I also belong to two book clubs, sing in the church choir and I love to cook and try different wines. Our entire family goes on a yearly adventure. We've rafted down the Colorado River, visited Machu Picchu, Iguazu Falls in Argentina and explored Yellowstone with a one year old! We've met wonderful people and Jim has taken some amazing pictures in Alaska, Italy, Iceland, France, Scandinavia and the Galapagos.



First Aid CPR Training

Sign up for National Safety Council First Aid/CPR classes. All programs will be from 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at Sharon Woods in the Employee Training Center. Trainings are free and open to all Great Parks volunteers and employees. Certification cards will be mailed to you approximately four weeks after you complete the training.

If you are interested in getting your First Aid/CPR certification, please register on line at <https://volunteers-greatparks.bridgeapp.com/login>.

Wed 3/15/17	Wed 9/13/17
Wed 4/12/17	Wed 10/11/17
Wed 5/10/17	Wed 11/15/17
Wed 6/14/17	Tue 11/21/17
Wed 7/12/17	Wed 12/13/17
Wed 8/9/17	Tue 12/19/17

If you register for this training and can no longer attend, you can cancel or reschedule your training by logging into your Bridge account using the link above.

Please record these training hours under **Training First Aid CPR [RISK MANAGEMENT/All Locations]**. Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.

Meeting Schedule

Volunteer meetings are a great way to meet new people, learn about upcoming volunteer opportunities, talk with Great Parks' team members and learn something interesting from an exciting lineup of guest speakers. Meetings take place at 7 p.m. and are held in the Winton Centre Auditorium unless otherwise noted. Coffee and tea are provided. Baked goods to share are always welcome!

March 21, 2017—Great Parks Executive Director Jack Sutton will take a look back at 2016 and also give us a sneak peek at what lies ahead in 2017. Stay in tune with what's going on in the park district. Jack's annual state-of-the-park address is something you won't want to miss.

May 16, 2017—Ron Wilson, better known as the "Yard Boy", will join us once again to share his expertise on trees, shrubs, bugs and whatever is new in the world of gardening. Ron, Marketing Director for Natorp's and popular Saturday morning radio personality, will bring the fun. You bring the questions!

When recording your hours in VIC for volunteer meetings, log them under **VIP Meeting [Volunteer Services\Winton Woods]**. Training hours may be doubled. Drive time to and from the training may be included but not doubled.