

2024 Organizational Learning Opportunities for Volunteers



Open to current volunteers only, age 18+

CAMERA TRAPPING PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 9:00 to 10:30 AM
FOC TRAINING CENTER, FRENCH REGIONAL PARK

Three Rivers has had a volunteer project in many of our parks where we have been collecting photographs of wildlife on trail cameras. Thousands of photos have turned up some interesting animals and behaviors. In this session, we will highlight a number of the findings.

LEGISLATION 101

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 9:00 AM to NOON
CARPOOL FROM ADMIN CENTER OR MEET AT CAPITOL

The Minnesota Legislature meets every year, and Three Rivers Park District takes an active role at the Capitol from start to finish of each session. But what really happens at the Legislature, and why does it matter for Three Rivers? Why are government shutdowns sometimes a possibility, what's a special session, and why should the Park District care about what happens in Saint Paul when we primarily serve suburban Hennepin County? These are among the questions this course will answer. If you've ever been curious about what happens at the Legislature or wanted to make sense out of the news coverage from the Capitol, then this course is for you. This class will take place at the Capitol complex in Saint Paul and will include a tour of the renovated Capitol and the new Senate building. Transportation will be available from the Three Rivers Administration Office in Plymouth or you can meet in Saint Paul if that's more convenient. Lunch: We'll plan to stop around 12:30 p.m. at the Capitol or MN Senate Building cafeteria for those who would like to purchase lunch, or you are welcome to bring your own.

LEAP DAY SNOWSHOE HIKE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 3:00 to 4:30 PM
FRENCH REGIONAL PARK

Join Outdoor Recreation School staff to explore the trails at French Regional Park on snowshoes. Enjoy this Minnesota winter sport with a scenic, guided adventure. We will hike if no snow. Equipment provided.

HISTORY OF HABITAT RESTORATION AT THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 9:00 to 10:30 AM
FOC, TRAINING CENTER, FRENCH REGIONAL PARK

Three Rivers has been a leader in habitat restoration since planting its first prairie in 1969. We have restored (created) prairies, woodlands, and wetlands. We have learned along the way and still are trying to enhance those areas. We will discuss the successes, failures, and potential roadblocks.

FARM BABIES

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2:30 to 4:30 PM
GALE WOODS FARM

The most exciting time of the year at Gale Woods is upon us – spring babies! Come for a visit to see and pet the babies.

KARNER BLUE BUTTERFLY INTRO TOUR (BIG YEAR of BUGS)

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 9:00 to 10:30 AM
RIVER BEND GROUP CAMP AT CROW HASSAN

See the area at Crow-Hassan where we are introducing Karner Blue Butterflies (KBB) to the prairie and savanna. We will see habitat enhancement activities, University of Minnesota KBB research area, and hopefully see some butterflies. The tour will take a 1 to 2 mile hike on turf and sand trails.

MIGRATING WATERFOWL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 9:00 to 10:30 AM
MEDICINE LAKE (MEET AT FRENCH VISITOR CENTER)

Fall migration brings a lot of birds to the Twin Cities, especially waterfowl. Medicine Lake is known for large flocks of ducks, swans, and loons. Rare species of ducks including scoters and long-tailed ducks regularly show up. We will have spotting scopes and binoculars at the French Regional Park beach for people to see and learn about the birds.

WILDLIFE TELEMETRY & ELM CREEK DEER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 9:00 to 10:30 AM
EASTMAN NATURE CENTER

Three Rivers has been using radio telemetry to track wildlife ranging from snakes and turtles to deer and swans since the 1990's. Telemetry allows us to learn where and when different animals move inside and outside of the parks. This program will highlight the equipment and species tracked by us and outside researchers. The facilitator will lead a tracking demo after the program to locate some of Eastman's collared deer.

Questions? Want to register for a session?
Contact the Volunteer Resources Office:

Volunteer@ThreeRiversParks.org
(763) 559-6706