

Volunteer Updates

Volunteer Fun Pass Award

Volunteer Fun Pass Award letters and coupons will be mailed in November to ongoing volunteers with service hours during the 12-month period from Oct. 1, 2015 through Sept. 30, 2016. Privileges increase with hours of service. Be sure your volunteer hours are reported by Oct. 10.

Volunteer Forest Tree Planting

Sun. Oct. 30, 1 PM, Volunteer Forest, Hyland Lake Park Reserve

Join us for a tree planting to recognize volunteers for their significant service. A native tree is planted for each 250-hour milestone over 4,000 hours.

Audrey Friedman: 6,000 hours

Bob Iverson: 4,750 hours

Roger Johnson: 4,500 hours

Gene Lau: 8,250 hours & 8,500 hours

Sue Leizinger: 4,750 hours

New Signature Event

Big Woods Classic Mountain Bike Races
Sat. Sept. 24, Lake Rebecca Park Reserve
Check out the latest addition to the Signature Race Series. Volunteer or bike it!
See back cover.

Award Nomination: R²ED Team

The Three Rivers volunteer Rapid Response and Early Detection "R²ED" Team has been nominated for the Carol Mortensen Invasive Species Management Award. This award is presented to both an individual and a group/team who has made significant contributions to the prevention, management, and increased awareness of invasive species in the state of Minnesota.

The R²ED team, led by Three Rivers Forestry staff, is a dedicated, passionate group of volunteers who have been extremely important in augmenting staff efforts to step up efforts and combat new threats to our forests and natural areas. The Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISAC) will select recipients and present awards this fall.



Building Relationships: Park Partners

Connecting with residents living in the first-tier communities of suburban Hennepin County was made a high priority by Three Rivers Park District in recent years. Why? Three Rivers historically hasn't had park land in these communities and community members are often underrepresented in Three Rivers Parks.

The first-tier communities — the ring of suburbs that borders Minneapolis — were developed before the Park District existed so parks were developed further out from Minneapolis, in cities that still were mostly undeveloped in the 1950s and 1960s.

A new unique way Three Rivers is working to reach these residents is through a program called Park Partners, an internal grant program funded by the Board of Commissioners. The intention is for Three Rivers to partner with non-profit organizations, schools and community groups that serve at least one of the following populations that have been identified as underrepresented in the parks: people of color; cultural communities; youth; people ages 45 or older, especially seniors; adults with a high school education or less; household incomes under \$50,000; and residents of Bloomington (east), Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Edina, Golden Valley, Hopkins, New Hope, Richfield, Robbinsdale and St. Louis Park.

So who are our Park Partners?

- Brooklyn Center School District - Farm Educators from Gale Woods Farm visit middle and high school classrooms multiple times during the year to teach gardening and cooking classes with students taking a field trip to the farm in the fall and the spring.

Getting Started



Three Rivers **WELCOMES** community members to share their talents, passion and energy to help carry out its mission.

Ongoing volunteers earn District-wide **BENEFITS** such as a Volunteer Fun Pass (which gives access to many park facilities at reduced rates or for free and provides greater rewards the more you volunteer) and hour-milestone awards such as pins, clothing, photos and tree plantings. Special training sessions and social gatherings may be offered by site or work group.

Volunteers must be 16 years or older or accompanied by a responsible adult unless stated otherwise. Family volunteering is encouraged. Volunteer selection for each position is based on current needs, requirements of the position and successful completion of training. Most positions also require a background check.

Review this newsletter for current needs. Call or email the contact person listed to find out more.

CONTACT US

Three Rivers Volunteer Resources Office

12615 Rockford Road, Plymouth, MN 55441

E-mail: volunteer@threeriversparks.org

Main Phone: 763.559.6706 (Text Telephone: 763.559.6719)

Deb Vosler, Volunteer Resources Coordinator: 763.559.6704

Becca Conser, Volunteer Resources Specialist: 763.694.2070

Michelle Frank, Volunteer Resources Assistant: 763.694.7724

General Three Rivers Information:

763.559.9000, www.ThreeRiversParks.org

EXPLORE VOLUNTEERING AT THREE RIVERS

Explore opportunities, meet staff and get started!

Sat. Sept. 17, 11 AM-5 PM, Silverwood Park, St. Anthony

Sat. Nov. 5, noon-2 PM, Lowry Nature Center

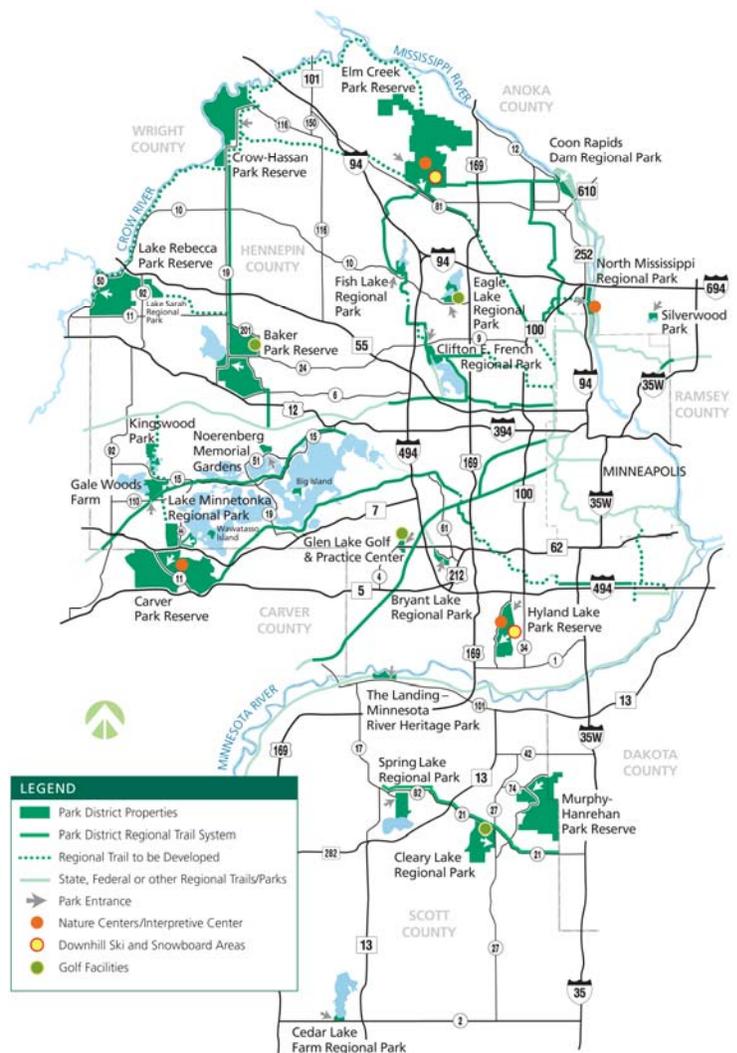
Sat. Jan. 28, 11 AM-3 PM, Richardson Nature Center

Sun. Feb. 19, 1-3:30 PM, Eastman Nature Center

No need to register. Just drop in. For more information contact Three Rivers Volunteer Resources staff or the staff listed for each site/work group.

Three Rivers Park District is a natural resources-based park system that manages park reserves, regional parks, regional trails, and special-use facilities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Three Rivers offers activities for every season, as well as programs for nature, recreation, history, art and farm education.

Three Rivers' mission is to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system. Three Rivers owns and operates over 27,000 acres of parks and trails and serves 10 million visitors a year.



Volunteer Needs

Three Rivers volunteer opportunities are located across the Twin Cities metro area. The following listings show current recruitment needs and are arranged by sites/work groups. **For more information or to sign up, contact the designated staff member listed.**

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Most positions require an ongoing commitment. Openings vary.

Animal Care Assistant & Specialist

- **Assistant:** Feeds, handles and monitors animals; cleans equipment and cages/pens; prepares food; records data and performs other basic care duties as needed. Animals vary.
- **Specialist:** Requires higher skill level, training, responsibilities and time commitment.

Natural Resources Monitor & Surveyor

- **Monitor:** Observes and records data on numbers, health and behavior of wildlife or plant populations on a pre-set trail or area. May include cleaning and repairing of nesting boxes.
- **Surveyor:** Searches for wildlife or plant populations, nests, etc. May involve mapping, use of GPS or tracking devices, cameras, and ability to accurately identify targeted species. Prior knowledge and advanced skill level required.
- **Specialist:** Requires higher skill level, training and responsibilities.

Patroller

- **Park Patroller:** Provides information and basic level first aid care to guests year-round at designated facilities, trails, programs and events. Annual recertification required.
- **Ski Patroller:** Provides information and advanced level first aid care to guests at alpine ski areas (including a tubing hill and cross-country ski activities in immediate proximity to the hill). National Ski Patrol training, membership and annual recertification is required.

Program Assistant & Interpreter

- **Assistant:** Provides customer service assistance at programs, events and facilities.
- **Interpreter:** Provides presentation/ teaching assistance at programs, events and facilities.
- **Specialist, Instructor:** Requires higher skill level, training and responsibilities.

Project Assistant & Specialist

- **Assistant:** Helps with various projects such as gardening, seed collection, invasive species removal, minor maintenance, displays, program materials prep, sewing, mailings, cataloging and whatever else may come up.
- **Specialist:** Requires higher skill level, training and responsibilities.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Three Rivers welcomes participation from community groups, students and scouts. Go to www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer.

Possibilities include: Global Youth Service Day, Garlic Mustard & Buckthorn Removal Events, Adopt-a-Woodlot, Adopt-a-Garden, Adopt-a-Trail, Prairie Seed Collection, Scouting Award Projects, Service Learning, and more.

Alpine Ski Areas

Jeannine Mogan, 763.694.7802,
Jeannine.Mogan@threeriversparks.org

Ski Patrollers (Alpine, Snowboard, XC Ski)

- Hyland Hills Ski Area, Elm Creek Winter Recreation Area
Three Rivers Alpine Ski Patrol is a highly trained, regionally and nationally recognized group of volunteers. The demands of the position are high and so are the rewards. Highly motivated, enthusiastic skiers and boarders are encouraged to apply.

Patrollers must successfully complete and pass extensive emergency care training and maintain membership and current certifications with National Ski Patrol. The rewards are helping guests in need; gaining new skills through advanced level continuing education, hands-on experience and leadership opportunities; as well as earning alpine area privileges, Three Rivers volunteer privileges and discounts.
- Minimum commitment: 50 hours each winter season for Elm Creek or 60 hours for Hyland Hills.

Park Patrollers: Mountain Host Unit

- Hyland Hills Ski Area
Outgoing and helpful individuals assist skiers and boarders with customer service and assist ski patrollers with customer care. Park Patrol training is required.

Community Engagement

Amanda Larson, 763.694.2054,
Amanda.Larson@threeriversparks.org

Program Assistants

- Community Festivals • Events • Partner Organizations
Weekdays and weekends, various locations, May-October

Work alongside community engagement staff and share your enthusiasm for the outdoors as we provide outreach programming and promotion outside of our park locations.

Recreation Areas and Trails

Volunteer Office, 763.559.6706,
volunteer@threeriversparks.org

Park Patrollers

- Park Trails • Regional Trails • Events
Help park guests while enjoying parks and trails by bike, foot, skates, horse, cross-country skis or snowshoes.
- Required training starts Wed. Oct. 26 and Sat. Mar. 25

Program Assistants

- Site Events
- Festival of Lights, Sat. Sept. 17, noon-9 PM in shifts, Baker
- Spooks and Ladders, Sat. Oct. 8, 1:30-5 PM, Hyland
- Fat Bike Fun Race, Sat. Jan. 28, 12-4:30 PM, Cleary
- Ice Fishing Community Day, Sat. Feb. 18, 9 AM-3 PM in shifts, Cedar Lake Farm in New Prague

Volunteer Needs

Outdoor Education

Help support nature, recreation, history, farm and arts programming. Join a volunteer work group at an education site or one that travels around the Park District. Check out this listing to get started. More opportunities are available to active work group members.



BAKER NEAR-WILDERNESS SETTLEMENT

in Baker Park Reserve; Sara Harcey, 763.694.7727,
Sara.Harcey@threeriversparks.org

Program Assistants

*New volunteers: contact Sara for interview and training.

- Camp Hosts*
Scheduled groups, times vary
- Site Events
 - 3D Archery Festival, Sun. Sept. 11, 2-6 PM
 - Progressive Campfire Cookout, Sun. Sept. 25, 2:30-7 PM
 - Valentine's Day Event, Sun. Feb. 14, 4-10 PM
 - Maple Syrup Festival, Sun. Mar. 12, 1:30-6 PM

Project Assistants

- Kitchen work, miscellaneous projects as needed

CULTURAL RESOURCES

District-wide; Bill Walker, 763.694.2059,
Bill.Walker@threeriversparks.org

Program Assistants

- Historic Building Hosts (not in costume)
 - The Landing: Wednesday-Sunday in summer, weekends in fall (Contact: Richard Williams, 763.694.7786, Richard.Williams@threeriversparks.org)
 - Pierre Bottineau House, Elm Creek: Saturdays, June-August, Training provided, to be arranged
 - Grimm Farm Open House, Carver: Saturdays, June-August (Contact: Kirk Mona, 763.694.7650, Kirk.Mona@threeriversparks.org)

Project Assistants & Specialists

- Historical research as projects occur
- Help create brochures, publications, etc.

COON RAPIDS DAM

On the west side of the Mississippi River; Adam Barnett,
763.694.7794, Adam.Barnett@threeriversparks.org

Animal Care Assistants

Weekdays, 2 hours/week, (14 years and older), as needed

Program Assistants & Interpreters

*New volunteers: contact Adam for interview.

- Public Programs*
Year-round
 - Axes, Sat. Nov. 26, 1-3 PM
 - Elves Workshop, Sat. Dec. 17, 12:30-4:30 PM
 - Solstice, Wed. Dec. 21, 5:30-9 PM
- School Programs*
Weekdays, school year
 - NatureFest, Tue.-Thu. Sept. 20-22, 9 AM-3 PM
- Site Events
 - Baker Boo, Sat. Oct. 22, 12:30-4:30 PM

EASTMAN NATURE CENTER

in Elm Creek Park Reserve; Vicky Wachtler, 763.694.7702,
Vicky.Wachtler@threeriversparks.org

Natural Resources Monitors

- FeederWatch, November-March, flexible

Program Assistants & Interpreters

*New volunteers: contact Vicky for interview and training.

- Public Programs*
 - Apple Cidering, Sun. Sept. 25 & Oct. 9, 1-4 PM
 - Snowshoeing, Sun. Jan. 15, 29 & Feb. 19, 1:30-3 PM
 - Maple Syruping, Sundays, March, 12, 19 & 26 1-4 PM
- Scout Programs*
 - Webelos: Earth Rocks Badge, Tue. Oct. 18, 6-8 PM
 - All Scouts: Nature Crime Scene When the Moon is Full, Mon. Nov. 14, 6-7:30 PM
 - Girl Scouts: Candle Making and Pioneer Crafts, Fri. Nov. 18, 6:30-8 PM
 - All Scouts: Knot Tying and Make Your Own Survival Bracelet, Sat. Dec. 17, 1-4 PM
 - All Scouts: Astronomy, Tue. Jan. 17, 6-8 PM
 - All Scouts: Fires and Food, Sat. Jan. 21, 10 AM-noon & 1:30-3:30 PM
 - All Scouts: Snowshoe Under the Full Moon, Fri. Feb. 10, 6-8 PM
 - Girl Scouts: Juniors, Flower Badge, Sat. Apr. 29, 1-3 PM
 - Tigers: In the Wild Adventure, Thu. May 4, 6:30-8 PM, Sat. May 6, 10-11:30 AM
 - Brownies: Outdoor Adventure Badge, Tue. May 16, 6-8 PM
- Site Events
 - Family Fun Day, Sat. Sept. 24, 1-4 PM
 - Big Woods Halloween, Sat. Oct. 29, 10 AM-3 PM
 - Winter Beach Party, Fri. Jan. 27 & Sat. Jan. 28, 10 AM-1 PM
 - Maple Syrup Festival, Sat. Mar. 18, 1-4 PM

GALE WOODS FARM

Andi Anderson, 763.694.2003,
Andi.Anderson@threeriversparks.org

Program Assistants & Interpreters

*New volunteers: contact Andi for interview and training.

- Preschool Programs*
Mondays, as scheduled, 9 AM-noon
- Site Events*
 - Saturday Mornings on the Farm, May-September, 9:30 AM-noon
 - Star of The North Shepherding Trial & Festival of Working Animals, Sat. Oct. 1, 9:30 AM-3:30 PM
 - Harvest Hoedown, Sat. Oct. 8, 5-8:30 PM
 - Fall Fun on the Farm, Thu. Oct. 20, 9 AM-2:30 PM
 - Winter Sunrise on the Farm, Sat. Jan. 21, 7 AM-12:30 PM
 - Lovebirds' Local Foods Dinner, Sat. Feb. 11, 4-10:30 PM
 - Sheep Shearing, Sat. Mar. TBD, 10 AM-2 PM
- School Programs*
Tuesdays-Fridays, school year
- Homeschool Programs*
Monday & Tuesdays, as scheduled, noon-4:30 PM

LOWRY NATURE CENTER

in Carver Park Reserve; Kirk Mona, 763.694.7650,
Kirk.Mona@threeriversparks.org

Program Assistants & Interpreters

*New volunteers: contact Kirk for interview and training.

- Preschool Programs*
Mondays, year-round
- Site Events
 - Monarch Tagging Event, Sun. Aug. 28, 1-3 PM
 - Fall Wagon Rides, Sat. Oct. 8, 10 AM-1 PM
 - Enchanted Forest Halloween, Sat. Oct. 29, 4-10 PM
 - Polar Bear Picnic, Sat. Feb. 4, 11:30 AM-4:30 PM
 - Valentine's Dinner, Sat. Feb. 11, 6-9 PM
 - Maple Syrup Festival, TBD

Project Assistants

- Maple syrup processing, March, call to arrange

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Naturalist & Volunteer Training Events:

Minnesota Naturalists' Association

For details on future events and registration, visit:

<http://mnnaturalists.org/TRAININGS>

- Bee-Come a Bee Monitor, Sept. 12, location TBD
- 2016 Annual Conference, Nov. 11-13, Wolf Ridge ELC

Volunteer Needs

OUTDOOR RECREATION SCHOOL

District-wide; Heather Gordon, 763.694.2052,
Heather.Gordon@threeriversparks.org

Program Assistants & Interpreters

*New volunteers: contact Heather for interview and training.

- Programs*
 - Adaptive Programs, ongoing opportunities
 - Archery Programs, ongoing opportunities
 - Climbing Wall Programs, ongoing opportunities
 - Cross-country Ski Programs, ongoing opportunities
 - Fishing & Ice Fishing Programs, ongoing opportunities
 - Geocaching Programs, ongoing opportunities
 - Maple Syruping, March as scheduled, French, training TBD
 - Orienteering Programs, ongoing opportunities
 - Scout Programs, ongoing opportunities
 - Snowshoeing Programs, ongoing opportunities
 - Water Sports Programs*
 - ♦ Paddle Programs (canoe, kayak, stand-up paddleboard)
May-October, weekdays & weekends, various parks (ages 18+)
Required paddle volunteer training: May TBD
 - ♦ Log Rolling Programs, June-August
- Races
 - Mountain Bike Races:
 - ♦ Big Woods Classic, Sat. Sept. 24, 7 AM-5 PM in shifts, Lake Rebecca
(Rain date, Sun. Sept. 25)
 - ♦ Nocturnal Races:
 - Murphy, Wed. Oct. 12, 5-9 PM
 - Elm Creek, Wed. Oct. 19, 5-9 PM
 - Lake Rebecca, Sat. Oct. 29, 5-9 PM
(Rain date, Wed. Nov. 2, 5-9 PM, location TBD)
 - ♦ The Frozen Frolic Races:
 - Elm Creek, Sat. Dec. 10, 7:30 AM-2 PM & Wed. Feb. 1, 5-9 PM
 - Murphy, Wed. Dec. 21, 5-9 PM
 - Rebecca, Wed. Jan. 11, 5-9 PM
(Rain date, Wed. Feb. 22, 5-9 PM, location TBD)
 - Running/Walking/Cross-country Skiing Events:
(763.559.6706, volunteer@threeriversparks.org)
 - ♦ Autumn Woods Classic, Sat. Oct. 15, 7 AM-12:30 PM, Elm Creek
 - ♦ Ski Rennet, Sat. Jan. 21, 7 AM-1 PM in shifts, Hyland
 - ♦ Fat Bike Rennet, Sat. Jan. 21, 2-10 PM in shifts, Hyland
 - ♦ Trail Mix Race MN, Sat. Apr. 22, 7 AM-4 PM in shifts, Lake Rebecca
- Site Events
 - Candy Cane Hunt, Sat. Dec. 17, 1-4 PM, Silverwood

Project Assistants

- Maple syrup processing, March, French



RICHARDSON NATURE CENTER

in Hyland Lake Park Reserve; Kimi Aisawa Romportl,
763.694.7679, Kimi.AisawaRomportl@threeriversparks.org

Program Assistants & Interpreters

*New program volunteers: contact Kimi for interview and training.

- Greeter/Snowshoe/Kicksled Rentals
Weekends, December-February, depending on conditions
- Public Programs*
 - Apple Cidering, Sat. Oct. 22 & 29, 1-4 PM
- Site Events
 - Party in the Prairie, Sat. Sept. 24, 2:30-9 PM
 - Chair Lift Rides, Hyland Hills Ski Area,
Fri. Oct. 7, 4:30-9 PM, Sat. Oct. 8, 3:30-9 PM
 - Ice Harvest Festival, Sat. Jan. 28, 10 AM-3:30 PM
 - Candlelight & Chocolate, Sat. Feb. 11, 5-9:30 PM
- School Programs*
Weekdays, school year, training TBD

SILVERWOOD PARK

Linda Dobosenski, 763.694.1118,
Linda.Dobosenski@threeriversparks.org

Program Assistants

*New volunteers: contact Linda for interview and training.

- Public Programs*
 - Pumpkin Carving, Wed. Oct. 26, 5:30-7:30 PM
 - Snowman Making Contest, Mon. Jan. 16, 1-3 PM
- Site Events
 - Field Trip!, Sat. Sept. 17, 11 AM-5 PM
 - Candy Cane Hunt, Sat. Dec. 17, 1-4 PM
 - New Year's Eve Celebration, Dec. 31, 5:30-7:30 PM
 - Valentine's Day Dinner, Fri. Feb. 11, 6-10 PM

THE LANDING-MN RIVER HERITAGE PARK

Richard Williams, 763.694.7786,
Richard.Williams@threeriversparks.org

Site Orientation

A site orientation is required for all positions and includes a site tour, basic volunteer training and overview of 19th century Minnesota history, volunteer opportunities and requirements.

- Sat. Nov. 19, 9 AM-noon (Pre-registration is preferred.)

Program Assistants & Interpreters

*New volunteers: contact Richard for interview and training.

- Historic Building Hosts
Weekends in fall (not in costume)
- Living History Interpretation*
Year-round, flexible schedule
- Musician*
Year-round, flexible schedule
- School Programs*
Weekdays, school year
- Site Events
 - Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 3-5, Saturday & Monday, 9 AM-5 PM; Sunday, 11 AM-5 PM
 - Apfelfest, Sat. Oct. 8, 9 AM-5 PM & Sun. Oct. 9, 11 AM-5 PM
 - Old Fashioned Trick-or-Treat, Sat. Oct. 15, 3-8 PM
 - Folkways of the Holidays, Dec. 3-18, Saturdays, 9 AM-4 PM & Sundays, 11 AM-4 PM (training: Sat. Nov. 19, 9 AM-noon)
 - Folkways by Candlelight, Fri. Dec. 16, 4-8:30 PM
 - Maple Syrup through History, Sat. Mar. 18, 9 AM-4 PM
 - Victorian Easter Egg Roll, Sat. Apr. 15, 11 AM-3 PM

Project Assistants

- Office work, gardening, mucking the animal barn and projects



Natural Resources FORESTRY

Missy Anderson, 763.694.7817,
Missy.Anderson@threeriversparks.org

Surveyors

- Rapid Response & Early Detection (R²ED) team
Year-round, 4-6 hours/month minimum, locations/schedule flexible
Identify and map new infestations of targeted plants. Targeted species vary. Some species may require removal. Use of a personal GPS unit or smartphone is encouraged.

Project Assistants

- Buckthorn Removal
Oct. 7, 8 & 29, see poster insert for times & locations
- Adopt-a-Woodlot
Spring-late fall, ongoing invasive species removal (garlic mustard, buckthorn, exotic honeysuckle, etc.) on adopted woodlot.

HORTICULTURE

Arla Carmichiel, 763.694.7845,
Arla.Carmichiel@threeriversparks.org

Project Assistants

- Adopt-a-Garden
Spring-fall, two days/month, several parks
Weed and clean up rain gardens and landscape plantings. A sponsor recognition sign is provided for a two-year commitment.

WILDLIFE

Steven Hogg, 763.694.7848, Steven.Hogg@threeriversparks.org
Angela Isackson, 763.694.7851, Angela.Isackson@threeriversparks.org

Monitors & Surveyors

- Bluebirds
April-August, weekly, full season commitment, as openings occur (Angela)
- Osprey Nests
April-August, 2-4 nest checks, metro-wide (Steven)
- Wildlife Camera Trapping
Year around, various parks
Set up trail cameras and survey wildlife species and occurrences.
Mammal ID skill required. (Steven)

Project Assistants

- Prairie Seed Collection
August-October, see poster insert and website for dates & locations (Angela)
- Independent Seed Collection
Advanced skill required (Angela)

Volunteer Office

12615 Rockford Road
Plymouth, MN 55441

Contact Us

Phone: 763.559.6706

Text Telephone: 763.559.6719

E-mail: volunteer@threeriversparks.org

Visit www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer

Find us on

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/volunteer3riversparks

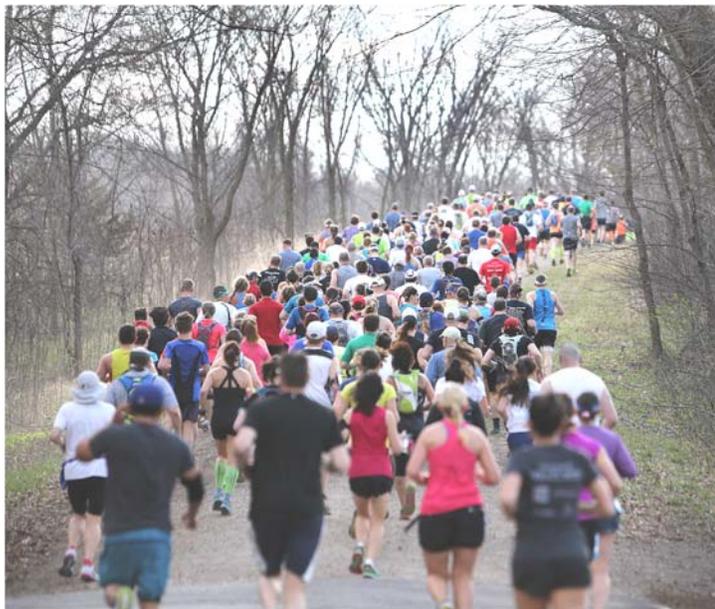
- Twitter: twitter.com/threeriverspark

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Compost

To help reduce consumption of our natural resources, only one copy of this publication is mailed per household. Contact us if you prefer to opt out of this mailing. This publication may be viewed at www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer.

Races and Events

Many volunteers are needed! Short-term volunteers are welcome. Visit www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer, call 763.559.6706, or email volunteer@threeriversparks.org to sign up. Help with start/finish line, food, set-up, clean-up, water stops, course sweeping, zero-waste education, kids' activities, face painting, planning, prep work, greeting, registration, and more.



SIGNATURE RACE SERIES

Big Woods Classic: Mountain Bike Race

Sat. Sept. 24, 2016, 7 AM-5 PM in shifts
Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, Rockford
(Rain date, Sun. Sept. 25)

Autumn Woods Classic: Run/Walk

Sat. Oct. 15, 2016, 7 AM-12:30 PM
Elm Creek Park Reserve, Maple Grove

Rennet Festival: Nordic Ski and Fat Bike Races

Sat. Jan. 21, 2017, 7 AM-10 PM in shifts
Hyland Lake Park Reserve, Bloomington

Trail Mix: Ultra Marathon

Sat. Apr. 22, 2017, 7 AM-4 PM in shifts
Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, Rockford

SITE EVENTS

Field Trip, Party on the Prairie, Festival of Lights, Fall on the Farm, Halloween, Folkways of the Holidays, Ice Harvest, Valentine's Day, Maple Syrup, Mountain Bike Races, and many more site events need volunteers. See pages 3-7 for listings.



Three Rivers

PARK DISTRICT

FALL 2016 Service Project Events

MULTIPLE PARK LOCATIONS



PRAIRIE SEED COLLECTION

Help restore prairie by collecting native wildflower seed. All collections start at 10:30 AM and end at approximately 1:30 PM. Ages: 12+. Youth must be accompanied by an adult (1 adult/8 youth 12-14 years). Registration is required.

Saturdays:

Crow-Hassan: Aug. 20, 27, Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24, Oct. 8 & 22
Murphy: Oct. 1 & 15

Tuesdays:

Crow-Hassan: Aug. 23, 30, Oct. 11 & 18
Elm Creek: Sept. 13
Murphy: Sept. 6, 27 & Oct. 4

Thursdays:

Carver: Sept. 22

Groups of 10 or more may inquire about arranging a separate seed collection on a different date than listed.

ADOPT-A-WOODLOT

Spring-Fall, ongoing, 2-year commitment

Enlist your group in the war against invasive species like garlic mustard, buckthorn, and exotic honeysuckle. Make a difference one small woodlot at a time.

BEAT BACK THE BUCKTHORN

**Fri. Oct. 7, Sat. Oct. 8 & 29, 9 AM-noon,
Tierney's Woods**

Help keep this invasive species at bay! With no "natural controls" to limit its growth, buckthorn is a threat to the future of native natural habitats. Ages: 8+. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required.

Tierney's Woods is located in Hyland/Bush/Anderson Lakes Park Reserve.

SUSTAINING HABITAT

Sun. Oct. 16, 2-5 PM, Spring Lake Regional Park

Help reestablish native habitat by dragging brush, pulling buckthorn, and assisting with other restoration activities (seeding, planting, erosion control fabric, etc.) as conditions allow. Ages: 8+. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required.

BUCKTHORN BUST AND BONFIRE

Sat. Nov. 5, 1-3 PM, Lowry Nature Center

Learn about buckthorn and help improve the habitat in Carver Park Reserve by removing this pesky plant. Cut a buckthorn stick and roast a marshmallow at a bonfire. Age: 10+. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required.

www.ThreeRiversParks.org

Registrations required

For more information or to register, visit www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer and click on Service Projects, or email volunteer@threeriversparks.org or call 763.559.6706

Story continued from front cover.

- Office of Educational Equity (OEE) of the Bloomington School District - Richardson Nature Center staff are attending OEE community events and youth leadership meetings. Programs are offered at parent group meetings in the Bloomington schools as well as at park locations, and staff host youth leadership meetings at the nature center.
- Hennepin County libraries in Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center is partnering with Eastman Nature Center to host monthly programs for kids and their parents that link books with nature topics.
- Hopkins School District's Community Education Department - Lowry Nature Center is providing nature education and access to park activities for students and their families from the Hopkins Camp Royals, Booster and SMARTS programs.
- The Somali Girls Group is partnering with the Outdoor Recreation School to give Somali girls ages 10-16 opportunities to experience a variety of outdoor recreation activities including archery, fishing, disc golf, geocaching, survival skills and canoeing.
- Senior living facilities - Silverwood is offering arts-based nature programming to adults in senior assisted living facilities and memory care units.

Some of these projects are new for 2016, while others began in 2015 and build upon the relationships that started last year. The Gale Woods-Brooklyn Center Schools partnership is doing exactly that. Last fall 120 students learned about farming and harvested Swiss chard, made chard muffins, tasted farm-fresh apple cider, and brought back 100 pounds of carrots to their school and prepped them for the cafeteria salad bar during the knife skills unit of their culinary arts program. This year, the partnership includes development of a garden at the students' school.

How successful are these efforts? One of the Brooklyn Center teachers offered this perspective on the partnership following their visit to the farm last fall:

Thank you so much for such a wonderful, life-changing experience out at Gale Woods this week. We can't stop talking about it!!!

All of the kids who went made such fun connections to the world around them by visiting your beautiful farm. I heard them say things like, "I loved meeting the cow because it reminded me of my family's farm in Mexico!" and "He's not scared of the chickens because his family had a big farm in their country!" and watching them fight over carrots was truly a highlight of my life so far. :)

Thank you for working with us. I absolutely cannot wait for all the fun in the future!

Donations

DONATE TO YOUR PARKS



Tax-deductible contributions benefit our entire community by supporting opportunities for everyone to enjoy nature education and outdoor recreation activities as well as enhancing open spaces.

Gifts can be made to Three Rivers Park District or the Three Rivers Park District Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works closely with the Park District. Visit ThreeRiversParksFdn.org or ThreeRiversParks.org to learn more about these and other ways to give:

- **Give where your financial support is needed most.** We direct philanthropic funding to initiatives that fall outside the established tax-based budget. When you provide an unrestricted contribution, we can use your gift immediately to help Three Rivers better serve our community.
- **Direct your gift to something meaningful to you.** Do you have a favorite park, trail, facility or activity? Would you like to mark a special occasion or honor a loved one? We can work with you to ensure that your gift reflects your values. For example:
 - *Protect wildlife habitat and native plant communities with a gift directed to natural resources initiatives.*
 - *Provide scholarship support through a gift to the Wonder Fund, which awards mini-grants to school groups and individuals with financial need to experience our parks and programs.*
 - *Support adapted recreation programming and provide special equipment to improve access for persons with disabilities.*
- **Leave a legacy.** Make a lasting gift for generations to come by remembering us in your will, estate or trust. Please contact us so we can be of assistance and recognize you now for your future generosity.
- **Expand your support through employer volunteer grants or awards.** Sometimes known as "Dollars for Doers," many corporations coordinate programs to recognize and encourage employee volunteerism. Check with your Human Resources department to see if your company has a program. Three Rivers Park District or the Three Rivers Park District Foundation will be happy to provide any necessary documentation.
- **Watch for Give to the Max Day 2016 on November 17.** During this annual celebration of philanthropy in Minnesota, your gift to the Three Rivers Park District Foundation may be eligible for a dollar-for-dollar matching gift through the generosity of an anonymous donor. Details will be posted at www.ThreeRiversParks.org.

Questions?

Call 763.559.9000 or email Giving@threeriversparks.org or Info@threeriversparksfdn.org.