

## Volunteer Updates

### Annual Volunteer Fun Pass

Annual Volunteer Fun Pass letters will be mailed Nov. 15 to volunteers active during the 12-month period from Oct. 1, 2010 through Sep. 30, 2011. Watch your mail box. For details about this volunteer award, a fact sheet is available online in the Resource Center. Go to: [www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer](http://www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer)

### Give Via Cell Phone

Three Rivers Park District Foundation is launching two mobile giving campaigns benefiting trails and play areas. Now donors can text "TRAIL" to 20222 to make a \$10 donation and "PLAYTIME" to 20222 to make a \$5 donation to support enhancements to recreation features within the Park District. Watch for signs popping up in parks.

### Nature Center Closed

Eastman Nature Center is closed for reconstruction and will re-open late summer, 2012. Eastman programming staff may be found at French Park in the Field Operations Center. Programs are being held at various park locations.

### Events Volunteers Needed

All hands are needed for fall events, especially Halloween. See site/work group listings and back cover for details.

### Beat Back the Buckthorn

Fri. Oct. 21, 9 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m., Silverwood

Help remove European buckthorn, a non-native, invasive shrub. All, middle school age and older, are welcome! Watch the web site for registration information or contact the Volunteer Office at [volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org), 763.559.6706.



*Youth leaders help Three Rivers while developing life skills and environmental awareness.*

## Raising The Next Generation of Environmental Stewards

On a warm sunny day, we pay a visit to two of our parks where summer camps are in full swing. Surrounded by sheep and a dozen or so 6-8 year-olds, we find teen volunteers Megan and Charlie helping Farmer Tim and Farmer Andi teach summer campers about agriculture, food production and land stewardship at Gale Woods Farm.

Starting in the barn, the teens help "herd" the campers and sheep to the pasture, stopping to meet Delilah, a Great Pyrenees guard dog. From there they move on to meet other farm residents including two cows (one raised for milking and the other for meat), lots of chickens, pigs plowing a field, and rams browsing on buckthorn along the lane. Right before lunch we stop to explore a garden and sample some sweet strawberries.

On this outing, Megan and Charlie are welcome helping-hands. They organize and help participants, assist with demonstrations, make sure all hands are washed after handling the animals and before entering the garden or eating, watch so no one is left behind, and lead games after lunch.

At the farm, youth volunteers help with summer camps, weekend programs and farm chores. Megan, Charlie and several other youth applied to be a youth volunteer following participation in youth leadership programs such as Farmers In Training (FIT), Jr. Farmers In Training, and Hooves and Halters. Each were interviewed by Park District staff before being accepted.

While eating lunch, Megan, Charlie and Emma (another teen volunteer) talk about being youth volunteers and all agree that volunteering and helping younger

*Story continued on page 10 (insert).*

# Navigating the System



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

**EXPLORE** opportunities, meet work group staff members and get started by attending a Park District Volunteer Opportunities Open House. Review this newsletter for current volunteer needs. Call or email the contact person listed to find out more.

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 project basis.

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 each position and successful completion of training. Certain positions also require a background check.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES OPEN HOUSE

### *Explore opportunities, meet staff and get started!*

Tue. Sep. 6: 6:30-8 p.m., North Mississippi (Kroening Interpretive Center)

Sat. Oct. 22: 10:30 a.m.-noon, Hyland (Richardson Nature Center)

Tue. Mar. 6: 6:30-8 p.m., Hyland (Richardson Nature Center)

Sat. Apr. 21: 10:30 a.m.-noon, Baker (Golf Course)

### **SIGN UP TODAY!**

Register online! Go to [www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer](http://www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer), and click on Volunteer Opportunities Open Houses. You may also call or email Three Rivers Volunteer Resources staff.

### **CONTACT US**

Three Rivers Volunteer Resources Section

Main Phone: 763.559.6706 (Text Telephone: 763.559.6719)

E-mail: [volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org)

- Noreen Buhmann, Volunteer Resources Manager: 763.694.2042
- Deb Vosler, Volunteer Resources Coordinator: 763.559.6704
- Brad Blackett, Volunteer Resources Assistant: 763.694.1104
- Andrea Breitung, Volunteer Resources Secretary: 763.694.7724

*Find the position that's right for you. Most positions require an ongoing commitment. Openings vary for each work group/site based on current needs.*

## VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

### **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 from reptiles and amphibians to farm animals depending on site.
- **Specialist:** Requires higher skill level, training and responsibilities.

### **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, and ability to accurately identify targeted species. Prior knowledge and advanced skill level required.

### **Patroller**

- **Park Patroller:** Provides information and basic level first aid care and rescue to guests year-round at designated facilities, park trails, programs and events. Annual recertification is required.
- **Ski Patroller:** Provides information and advanced level first aid care and rescue 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**

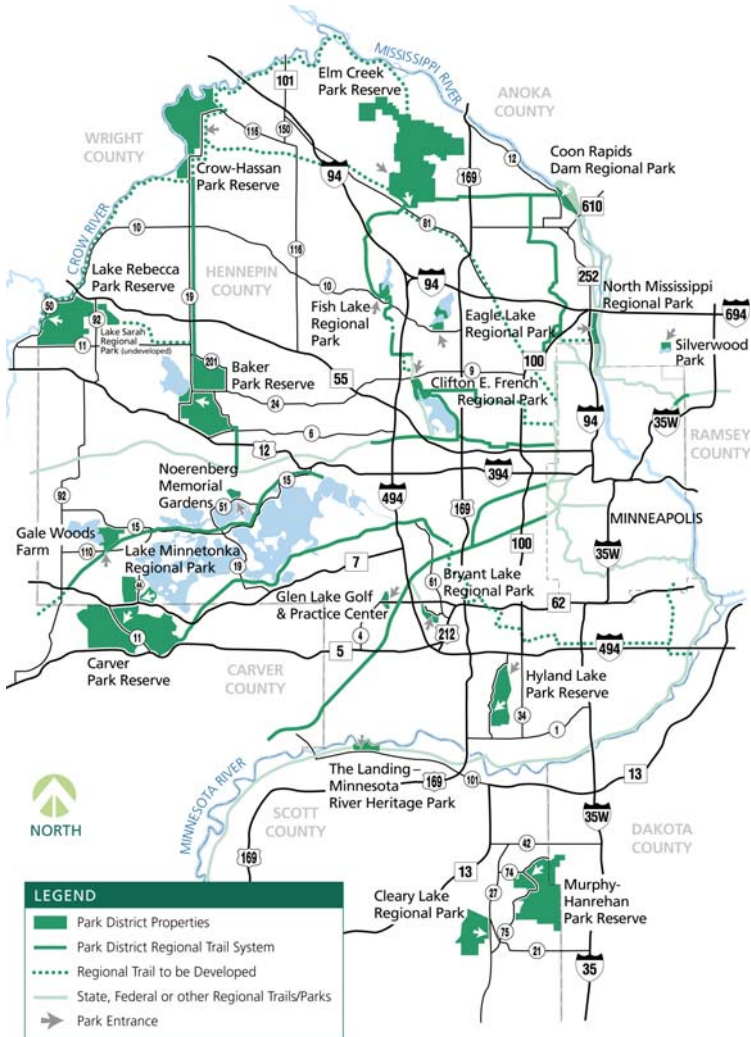
- **Assistant:** Provides customer service assistance at programs, events and facilities.
- **Interpreter:** Provides presentation/teaching assistance at programs and events.

### **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. (Short-term commitment may be possible.)
- **Specialist:** Requires higher skill level, training and responsibilities.

# 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 work groups/sites. **For more information or to sign up, contact the designated staff member listed.**



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 and serves 8 million visitors a year.

## SERVICE PROJECTS

Three Rivers welcomes participation from community groups, students and scouts. Go to [www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer](http://www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer).

Possibilities include: Global Youth Service Day, Garlic Mustard & Buckthorn Removal Events, Adopt-a-Garden, Adopt-a-Trail, Park Clean-up, Scouting Award Projects, Service Learning, and more.

## Alpine Ski Areas

Jeannine Mogan, 763.694.7815,  
[jmogan@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:jmogan@threeriversparkdistrict.org)

### Ski Patrol (Alpine, Snowboard, XC Ski)

Elm Creek Winter Recreation Area, Hyland Ski & Snowboard 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. Patrollers must commit to a minimum of 60 hours each winter season, successfully complete and pass extensive initial training in emergency care and patrol skills as well as annual refreshers, 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 through National Ski Patrol.

- The current candidate class is full; however, highly motivated, enthusiastic skiers and boarders are encouraged to apply and participate in the annual "Tryout Day" in March.

### Park Patrol: Mountain Host Unit

Hyland Ski & Snowboard Area

Outgoing and helpful individuals are needed to assist skiers and snowboarders with customer service and assist ski patrollers with customer first aid needs in an outside winter environment. Park Patrol training is required.

### Program Assistants: Ski Corral Crew

Elm Creek Winter Recreation Area

Weekends and holidays, December-March. Minimum age is 14 years. Volunteers will be outside during their shift. (763.694.2018, [jmatzek@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:jmatzek@threeriversparkdistrict.org) or 763.694.2069, [jswanson@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:jswanson@threeriversparkdistrict.org))

## Facilities/Recreation Areas

### Park Patrol

District-wide; Volunteer Office, 763.559.6706,  
[volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org)

Park Trails • Regional Trails • Events

Enjoy the parks by bike, foot, skates, horse\*, cross-country skis or snowshoes while helping park guests with information and basic level first aid care. A one-year commitment is requested. Required annual training is offered in Spring and Fall. \*Horse patrollers must own a horse.

### Program Assistants

#### • Site Events

- Autumn Woods Classic run/walk, Sat. Oct. 8, 7 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Elm Creek (763.559.6706, [volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org))
- Haunted Halloween Adventures, Sat. Oct. 15, 3-7 p.m., Hyland (763.694.7690, [awilliams@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:awilliams@threeriversparkdistrict.org))

# Volunteer Needs

## Outdoor Education

Help support nature, recreation, history, farm and arts education programs. Join a volunteer work group at a program 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, [sharcey@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:sharcey@threeriversparkdistrict.org)

#### Program Assistants

\*New volunteers: contact Sara for interview and training.

- Camp Hosts\*  
Scheduled groups, times vary
- Site Events
  - 3-D Archery Festival, Sun. Sep. 11, 1-6 p.m.
  - Progressive Campfire Cookout, Sun. Sep. 18, 2:30-7 p.m.
  - Tram Rides, Thu. Sep. 29 & Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in shifts
  - Maple Syrup Festival, Sun. Mar. (call for date), 1:30-6 p.m.

#### Project Assistants

- Kitchen work, miscellaneous projects as needed

### COON RAPIDS DAM

On the west side of the Mississippi River; Michelle Anderson, 763.694.7793, [manderson@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:manderson@threeriversparkdistrict.org)

#### Program Assistants & Interpreters

\*New volunteers: contact Michelle for interview and training.

- Site Events
  - Evening School Program for 3rd Graders, Fri. Nov. 18, 6-9 p.m.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

District-wide; Bill Walker, 763.694.2059,  
bwalker@threeriversparkdistrict.org

### Project Assistants & Specialists

- Historical research as projects occur.

#### Cultural History Opportunity

The Pierre Bottineau House, located in Elm Creek Park Reserve has been restored and open houses are scheduled for the public to tour the building and learn about this early Minnesota hunter, trader, entrepreneur, and founder of cities. For information and to register, go to:  
www.ThreeRiversParks.org and enter keyword Bottineau.

- Sat. Aug. 20 & Sep. 10, 1-4 p.m.

## EASTMAN NATURE CENTER

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

NOTE: Eastman Nature Center is now closed for reconstruction and will be re-opening late summer of 2012. Programming will still occur; however programs will be conducted at various sites and staff is relocated to French Regional Park. If you are not receiving the Eastman Volunteer Newsletter "Trackings" and would like to be put on the mailing list, contact Vicky Wachtler at vwachtler@threeriversparkdistrict.org.

### Program Assistants & Interpreters

\*New volunteers: contact Vicky for interview and training.

- Public Programs\*
  - Snowshoeing, Jan. 1, 15 & 28, Feb. 4 & 7 (times vary), Eagle Lake
- Scout Programs\*
  - Fall Tram Tour, Sat. Oct. 1, 10:30 a.m.-noon & 12:30-2 p.m., Elm Creek
  - Naturalist Badge, Sat. Nov. 19, 10:30 a.m.-noon & 1-2:30 p.m., Coon Rapids Dam
  - Wildlife Badge, Sat. Jan. 21, 10:30 a.m.-noon & 1-2:30 p.m., Coon Rapids Dam
  - Full Moon Snowshoe Hike, Tue. Feb. 7, 6-7:30 p.m., Eagle Lake
- Site Events
  - Family Fun, Sat. Sep. 24, 1-4 p.m., Fish Lake
  - Little Folks Halloween, Sat. Oct. 22, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Fish Lake
  - A Big Woods Halloween, Sat. Oct. 22, 6-9 p.m., Fish Lake

## KROENING INTERPRETIVE CENTER

in North Mississippi Regional Park; Colleen Sweeney,  
763.694.7693, csweeney@threeriversparkdistrict.org

### Animal Care Assistants

Weekdays, 1-2 hours/week (14 years and older), as needed\*

### Program Assistants & Interpreters

\*New volunteers: contact Colleen for interview and training.

- Site Events
  - Family Fun Days, Sundays, year-round, 1-3 p.m.
  - Heritage Festival, Sat. Sep. 17, noon-5 p.m.
  - Baker Boo, Sat. Oct. 22, noon-5 p.m., campground
  - Winter Solstice, Sat. Dec. 17, 2:30-5 p.m.
- School Programs\*  
Weekdays as needed, school year

## GALE WOODS FARM

Andi Anderson, 763.694.2003,  
aanderson@threeriversparkdistrict.org

Thanks to overwhelming interest in volunteering for the farm, Gale Woods is currently not recruiting new volunteers. The following positions are open to current Gale Woods' volunteers.

### Program Assistants & Interpreters

- Site Events
  - Breakfast on the Farm, Sat. Aug. 20, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
  - Saturday Mornings on the Farm, 9 a.m.-noon (except Oct. 8)
  - Celebrate the Harvest, Oct. 8-9, Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
  - Halloween Farm Fun, Sat. Oct. 29, 4-9:30 p.m.
  - Sheep Shearing, Sat. Mar. 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
  - Farmyard Fun Day, Fri. Mar. 30, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- School Programs\*  
Tuesdays-Fridays, school year

## LOWRY NATURE CENTER

in Carver Park Reserve; Brett Sieberer, 763.694.7650,  
bsieberer@threeriversparkdistrict.org

### Program Assistants & Interpreters

\*New volunteers: contact Brett for interview and training.

- Preschool Programs\*  
Mondays, year-round
- Public Programs\*
  - Kicksled & Snowshoe Demonstrations, weekends, December-February
  - Walk When the Moon is Full, Mon. Sep. 12, 7:30-9 p.m.; Tue. Oct. 11, 6:30-8 p.m.; Thu. Nov. 10, 6:30-8 p.m.; & Sat. Dec. 10, 6:30-8 p.m.
  - Maple Syrup Programs, March, call for schedule
- School Programs\*  
Tuesdays-Fridays, school year
- Scout Programs\*
  - Brownies: Water Everywhere, Thu. Oct. 13, 4:30-6 p.m.
  - Girl Scouts: Maple Syruping, Thu. Mar. 22, 4:30-6 p.m.
  - Boy Scouts: Maple Syruping, Tue. Mar. 20, 4:30-6 p.m.
  - Webelos/Cub Scouts: Geology Rocks, Sat. Apr. 14, 1-2:30 p.m. & 2-3:30 p.m.
- Site Events
  - Fall Colors and Kites Festival, Sat. Oct. 1, noon-4 p.m.
  - Halloween, Sat. Oct. 29, 4-9:30 p.m.
  - Winter Solstice, Sat. Dec. 17, 3-5:30 p.m.
  - Polar Bear Picnic, Sat. Jan. 28, noon-4 p.m.
  - Valentine's Dinner, Sat. Feb. 11, 6-8:30 p.m.
  - Maple Syrup Festival, Sat. Mar. 17, noon-4 p.m.

### Project Assistants

- Maple Syrup Processing, March, call to arrange

# Volunteer Needs



## OUTDOOR RECREATION SCHOOL

District-wide; Katie Andersen, 763.694.7723, [kandersen@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:kandersen@threeriversparkdistrict.org); or Alex McKinney, 763.694.7720, [amckinney@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:amckinney@threeriversparkdistrict.org)

### Program Assistants & Interpreters

\*New volunteers: contact Katie or Alex for interview and training.

- Public Programs and Events
  - Archery Programs, call for schedule and information
  - Women's Yoga and Cooking Retreat, 5 p.m. Fri. Nov. 4-1 p.m. Sun. Nov. 6, Baker
  - Candy Cane Hunt, Sat. Dec. 17, 1-4 p.m., Silverwood
  - Maple Syrup Programs, March, scheduled groups, French
- Races
  - Elm Creek Sprint Race, Thu. Sep. 1, 5-8 p.m.
  - Autumn Woods Classic run/walk, Sat. Oct. 8, 7 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Elm Creek (763.559.6706, [volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org))
  - Trail Mix, Sat. Apr. 2012, 5:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in shifts, Hyland, call for date (763.694.7690, [awilliams@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:awilliams@threeriversparkdistrict.org))
- Scout Programs
  - Girl Scouts Ice Fishing Festival, Sat. Feb. 25, 10 a.m.—2 p.m., Fish

### Project Assistants

- Maple Syrup Processing, March, French



## RICHARDSON NATURE CENTER

in Hyland Lake Park Reserve; Stacey Sigurdson, 763.694.7676, [RichardsonNC@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:RichardsonNC@threeriversparkdistrict.org)

### Program Assistants & Interpreters

\*New program volunteers: contact Stacey for interview and training.

- Greeter/Snowshoe Rentals\*  
Weekends, late December-February
- Public Programs and Site Events\*
  - Marvelous Monarchs, Sun. Sep. 4, 1:45-4:15 p.m.
  - Apple Cidering, Sun. Sep. 18 & 25, 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
Training: Sun. Sep. 18, 1:30-3 p.m.
  - Full Moon Walks, Sun. Sep. 11 & Fri. Nov. 11, call for time
  - Chair Lift Rides, Oct. 7-8, Fri. 4:30-9:30 p.m., Sat. 3:30-9:30 p.m., Hyland Ski & Snowboard Area
  - Family Fun Night, Fri. Oct. 28
  - Old-Fashioned Ice Harvest Festival, Sat. Jan. 28, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
  - Candlelight and Chocolate, Fri. & Sat. Feb. 10 & 11, 5:30-10 p.m.
- School Programs\*  
Weekdays, school year, training to be arranged



## TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

**Naturalist & Volunteer Trainings** are professional development and networking opportunities provided by members and partners of the Minnesota Naturalists' Association. Trainings are always free and are especially welcoming to interns and volunteers. (8:30 a.m.-noon)

- "Using the Arts to Teach about Nature and the Environment", Mon. Sep. 12, Silverwood Park. To register: 763.694.7707
  - January and June 2012 to be announced.
- Go to: <http://mnnaturalists.org/events/training/>

## SILVERWOOD PARK

Alyssa Baguss, 763.694.2084,  
abaguss@threeriversparkdistrict.org

### Program Assistants

\*New volunteers: contact Alyssa for interview and training.

- Group Programs\*
- Public Programs\*
  - Doodlebugs (preschool art program), Tuesdays, September-May, 9:30-11:30 a.m. & 1-3 p.m.
  - Get St**ART**ed (drop-in art activity), Sun. Sep. 11, Oct. 23 & Nov. 13, 1-3 p.m. and Jan. 22 & Feb. 12, 1-3 p.m.
  - Pumpkin Carving Program, Wed. Oct. 26, 5-7 p.m.
  - Snowman Making Contest, Mon. Jan. 16, 1-4 p.m.
  - Gallery Exhibition, ongoing
  - Green Fit Club, Mondays-Thursdays, seasonally, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- Site Events
  - Field Trip!, Sat. Sep. 24, noon-9:00 p.m.
  - Candy Cane Hunt, Sat. Dec. 17, 1-4 p.m.
  - Valentine's Day Dinner, Sat. Feb. 11, 6-9 p.m.

### Project Assistants

- Office assistance, weekdays, year-round, flexible
- Art program material preparation, weekdays, year-round, flexible
- Sewing, year-round, flexible

## THE LANDING-MN RIVER HERITAGE PARK

Richard Williams, 763.694.7786,  
rwilliams@threeriversparkdistrict.org

### Program Assistants & Interpreters

\*New volunteers: contact Richard for interview and training.

- Living History Interpretation\*  
Year-round, flexible schedule
- Musician\*  
Year-round, flexible schedule
- School Programs\*  
Weekdays, school year
- Site Events
  - Eagle Creek Fair, Sep. 3-5, Sat. & Mon. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m.
  - Apple Fest and Minnesota Trades, Oct. 1-2, Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
  - Ghost Walk, Fri. Oct. 21, 5-9 p.m.
  - Old Fashioned Trick or Treat, Sat. Oct. 22, 3-8 p.m.
  - Veterans Remembrance Day, Sat. Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
  - Victorian Thanksgiving, Sun. Nov. 20, noon-4 p.m.
  - Folkways of the Holidays, Dec. 3-18, Saturdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. (training: Sat. Nov. 25, 10 a.m.-noon)
  - Folkways By Candlelight, Fri. Dec. 16, 5-9 p.m.
  - Victorian Valentines Day, Sat. Feb., call for date and time
  - Maple Syrup Through History, Sat., Mar., call for date and time
  - Victorian Easter Egg Roll, Sat. Apr., call for date and time

### Project Assistants

- Miscellaneous project and maintenance needs



## Natural Resources

volnrm@threeriversparkdistrict.org

### WILDLIFE

District-wide; Steven Hogg, 763.694.7848; or Madeleine Linck, 763.694.7851

### Monitors & Surveyors

- Bluebirds, April-August, weekly, full season commitment, as openings occur (Steven)

### Project Assistants

- Prairie Seed Collection
    - Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, 12:30-2:30 p.m. or 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (noon lunch break)
    - Crow-Hassan Park Reserve, Sep. 10, Oct. 15
    - Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, Aug. 27, Sep. 24
    - Carver Park Reserve, Oct. 1
  - Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. start until at least 1:30 p.m. (3- to 4-hour commitment)
    - Crow-Hassan Park Reserve, Aug. 23, 30, Sep. 20, Oct. 4, 18
    - Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, Oct. 11
    - Hyland Lake Park Reserve, Sep. 6
    - Baker Park Reserve, Sep. 13
- Registration and info packet available online: [ThreeRiversParks.org](http://ThreeRiversParks.org).  
General Information: 763.559.6706, [volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org).  
Training and collection bags are provided at the start of each session. Groups of 10 or more adults or youth accompanied by adults may contact Steven directly to arrange a special collection date. (1 adult/2 youths under 13; 1 adult/8 youths 13 and over)

## HORTICULTURE

District-wide; Arla Carmichiel, 763.694.7845

### Project Assistants

- Adopt-a-Garden, Spring-Fall, two work days/month, full growing season commitment preferred, several parks  
Weed and clean up rain gardens and landscape plantings. A sponsor recognition sign is provided for a 2-year commitment.

**Volunteer Office**

12615 County Road 9  
Plymouth, MN 55441

## Contact Us

Phone: 763.559.6706  
Text Telephone: 763.559.6719  
E-mail: [volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org)  
Visit [www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer](http://www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer)



### **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Compost**

To help reduce consumption of our natural resources, one copy of this publication is being mailed to each household. This publication is also available at [www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer](http://www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer).



Printed on recycled paper containing at least 30% post-consumer paper fibers.

# Volunteer Needs

## RESEARCH

District-wide; Jon Nauman, 763.559.6742  
[jnauman@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:jnauman@threeriversparkdistrict.org)

### **Project Assistants**

- Visitor Research/Data Collection  
Year-round, flexible schedule averaging one two-hour shift per week. Training to be arranged. Document park visitor activity through observation and/or brief surveys at various park locations.

## WASTE REDUCTION AND EDUCATION

Judy McDowell, 763.694.7633  
[jmcdowell@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:jmcdowell@threeriversparkdistrict.org)

### **Program Assistants**

- Waste Watchers  
Help educate guests about waste reduction by monitoring waste stations at programs and events and helping guests sort garbage into trash, recycling, and compost bins.
  - Target Book Festival, Sat. Sep. 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Hyland
  - Autumn Woods Classic run/walk, Sat. Oct. 8, 8 a.m.-noon, Elm Creek

## EVENTS

Many volunteers are needed. Ongoing and one time volunteers are welcome. To sign up, contact the site/work group listed below.

### **Autumn Woods Classic Run/Walk Event**

- Sat. Oct. 8, 7 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Elm Creek (763.559.6706, [volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:volunteer@threeriversparkdistrict.org))

### **Site Events**

- See listings by site/work groups on pages 3-7.

### **Halloween Events**

- Haunted Halloween Adventures, Sat. Oct. 15, 3-7 p.m., Hyland (763.694.7690, [awilliams@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:awilliams@threeriversparkdistrict.org))
- Ghost Walk, Fri. Oct. 21, 5-9 p.m.; Old Fashioned Trick or Treat, Sat. Oct. 22, 3-8 p.m., The Landing (763.694.7786, [rwilliams@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:rwilliams@threeriversparkdistrict.org))
- Little Folks Halloween, Sat. Oct. 22, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; A Big Woods Halloween, 6-9 p.m., Fish Lake (763.694.7700, [vwachtler@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:vwachtler@threeriversparkdistrict.org))
- Baker Boo, Sat. Oct. 22, noon-5 p.m. (763.694.7693, [csweney@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:csweney@threeriversparkdistrict.org))
- Halloween Farm Fun, Sat. Oct. 29, 4-9:30 p.m., Gale Woods Farm, (Lowry staff, 763.694.7650, [bsieberer@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:bsieberer@threeriversparkdistrict.org))

# Three Rivers News



## Invasive Species: What are they and what's the big deal?

Zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, buckthorn, garlic mustard, emerald ash borer, and gypsy moths are invasive species that have become household names these days as the media pleads with the public to help stop their spread. What are invasive species and what's the big deal?

When non-native species spread rapidly into native communities causing ecological or economic harm, they are termed invasive species.

Three Rivers Natural Resources Management (NRM) staff and volunteers have been working hard for years to meet the challenges of invasive species. Approaches differ by department section and species.

Steven Hogg, Wildlife Specialist for Three Rivers Parks, says that invasive species are being transported faster than ever before because of the increased recreational use within our parks. Early detection is the key to controlling invasive species. Smaller infestations take less time and money to manage or control. Staff and volunteers skilled in plant identification have been searching for invasives in the hope of stopping their spread before they become established.

Plants that are just beginning to appear in our parks include narrow-leaved bittercress, cut-leaved teasel, Japanese barberry, Japanese knotweed, multiflora rose, musk thistle, oriental bittersweet, wayfaring bush, and autumn olive.

Steven is asking all staff and volunteers to keep an eye out for these plants and has prepared informational flyers providing background information, distribution and range, and key characteristics of each plant to help in proper identification. If you don't see them posted at your site, ask staff. If you find something that may be of concern, please take pictures and a sample if possible, and report the plant and its location to someone in NRM.

Paul Kortebein, Senior Manager of Forestry for Three Rivers Parks, says that his staff works to suppress or eradicate exotic plant pests, as budgets and staffing allow, particularly more aggressive species such as European buckthorn, black locust and oriental bittersweet. Paul, with the help of Minnesota GreenCorps member Charly Kearns, organized youth and adult

volunteers to pull buckthorn in October and Garlic Mustard in May at two park locations.

To protect the ecological diversity of water resources, Rich Brasch, Senior Manager of Water Resources and his staff are involved in efforts to control the spread of Aquatic Invasive species within and between Park District lakes. Water Resources Management coordinates with lake homeowner associations, the Department of Natural Resources and the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District to prevent the introduction of exotic species into Minnesota lakes and develop cost-effective control methods for lakes that are already impacted. Rich, along with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is leading a group of volunteers and staff to help educate boaters about stopping aquatic invasive "hitchhikers" like zebra mussels.

## What can you do?

*Help stop the spread: Follow these six easy guidelines prepared by The Nature Conservancy:*

- Verify that the plants you are buying for your yard or garden are not invasive. Replace invasive plants in your garden with non-invasive alternatives. Ask your local nursery staff for help in identifying invasive plants!
- When boating, clean your boat thoroughly before transporting it to a different body of water.
- Clean your boots before you hike in a new area to get rid of hitchhiking weed seeds and pathogens.
- Don't "pack a pest" when traveling. Fruits and vegetables, plants, insects and animals can carry pests or become invasive themselves. Don't move firewood (it can harbor forest pests), clean your bags and boots after each hike, and throw out food before you travel from place to place.
- Don't release aquarium fish and plants, live bait or other exotic animals into the wild. If you plan to own an exotic pet, do your research and plan ahead to make sure you can commit to looking after it.
- Volunteer at your local park, refuge or other wildlife area to help remove invasive species. Help educate others about the threat.

## Volunteer at Three Rivers:

- Global Youth Service Day, April
- Garlic mustard pull events, May
- Invasive Plant Surveyors, May-August
- Watercraft inspections at public boat launches, summer
- Buckthorn removal events, October
- Nature education programs, year-round

## Learn More:

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html>
- The Nature Conservancy, <http://www.nature.org/initiatives/invasivespecies>

## Contact:

Three Rivers Natural Resources Department - Forestry, Wildlife and Water Resources Management 763.694.7840

Story continued from front cover.

kids is rewarding and good experience which will help them when they apply to college or pursue other interests. When asked what they like about being a youth leader, they enthusiastically respond: teaching people, working with animals, showing people what a carrot really looks like (not the little ones from the bag), having younger kids look up to you, seeing a kid's reaction to seeing a lamb up close, and seeing the results of what was planted in the garden.

Later in the afternoon we meet two more youth volunteers, Cody and Riley, at the Baker Near-Wilderness Settlement. Cody and Riley are participants in the Counselor in Training (CIT) program which offers leadership development for teens looking to work as a camp counselor or youth worker in the future. Cody and Riley applied and were interviewed before being accepted into the program. CITs attend training along with camp staff in CPR, First Aid and sessions on leadership and camp counseling. Following training, CITs then have the opportunity to gain experience by volunteering. Both Cody and Riley have been long time participants in summer camps. CIT allows them to share their knowledge with younger kids while developing communication and teamwork skills.

Teens are also active in other areas of the Park District. At Eastman Nature Center, the Naturalist Youth Leader (NYL) in Training Program offers youth an opportunity to foster leadership, personal growth, and development through volunteerism, group activities and program participation. The program provides an opportunity for youth like Jessica to experience working as an assistant naturalist and receive hands-on training in nature education. Jessica said, "I love working with all of the kids and learning about not only nature but [the kids] as well." She added, "I think it's important to help build up our community and tell others that youth can do something good for the community too." We agree!

Teens have been active for many years with The First Tee of Three Rivers (golf) Youth Leadership Team and the Leadership and Activities Club through our Outdoor Recreation School. In 2010 one active member of the Leadership and Activities Club, Quin Simmons, was one of two youth to receive the Award for Excellence in Youth Volunteerism from Minnesota Association for Volunteer Administration.

Megan, Charlie, Emma, Cody, Riley, Jessica and Quin are part of a Youth Leadership initiative in Three Rivers Park District. Nature Deficit Disorder and the lack of youth engaged in the out-of-doors became a real concern several years ago. Three Rivers staff members have been working on ways to address the issue by creating innovative programs that target teens and help nurture the next generation of environmental stewards.

In addition to Youth Leadership programs, youth 16 years and older are welcome to apply for most ongoing volunteer positions in Three Rivers. Younger youth may apply to volunteer with a parent unless otherwise specified. Throughout the year, youth also participate in group service projects. Watch your email and the Park District website for upcoming events, or call 763.559.6706 for more information.

## Donations

All contributions to Three Rivers will be used for public purposes and are fully tax-deductible as allowable by law.

### INVEST IN YOUR PARK DISTRICT



Contributions from people like you benefit our entire community. Donations support natural resources, parks, trails, and activities, as well as provide assistance to those who could otherwise not participate in park programs. Call 763.559.9000 or email [Giving@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:Giving@threeriversparkdistrict.org) to learn more about these and other ways to give:

- ***Give where your financial support is needed most***  
*We establish priorities for philanthropic funding for special initiatives that fall outside of our established tax-based budget. Providing an undesignated contribution allows us to use your gift immediately to help the Park District reach its full potential, exceed expectations and better serve our community.*
- ***Direct your gift to something meaningful to you***  
*Do you frequent a special park, trail or facility? Is there a certain activity you enjoy? We will gladly work with you to ensure that your dollars are invested in what you value most. Consider these sample designations:*
  - ***Open a child's eyes through the Wonder Fund***  
*We award mini-grants to school groups with demonstrated financial need to allow youth to experience our parks and programs. You can fund a memory-packed, curiosity-filled field trip for as little as \$3.50 per student.*
  - ***Support local reforestation through Forests Forever***  
*Starting at just \$25, you can plant a 6- to 12-foot native tree. Our commemorative tree plantings allow you to help the environment while also marking a special occasion or honoring a loved one.*
  - ***Make a difference through The First Tee***  
*The First Tee of Three Rivers Park District combines golf instruction with life skills education. Contributions fund scholarships, equipment and much more.*
- ***What kind of legacy do you want to leave? Explore Planned Giving Opportunities***  
*Make a lasting gift that will be enjoyed by generations to come by remembering Three Rivers Park District in your will, estate or trust. Please contact us so we can be of assistance and recognize you now for your future generosity.*
- ***Do you prefer to give to a 501(c)(3) organization? Choose Three Rivers Park District Foundation***  
*Three Rivers Park District Foundation is a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status that works closely with the Park District. Call 763.559.6707 or email [Foundation@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:Foundation@threeriversparkdistrict.org).*

## Employment

### **Regular and Seasonal Job Openings**

Go to [www.ThreeRiversParks.org](http://www.ThreeRiversParks.org) and click on employment.

### **College Work Study**

Contact: Volunteer Resources Manager, Noreen Buhmann, 763.694.2042, [nbuhmann@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:nbuhmann@threeriversparkdistrict.org)