Volunteer Updates

Changes in the Volunteer Resources Office

The Volunteer Resources Office has hired on a new Volunteer Resources Coordinator, Katie Brom, and Seasonal Office Support Assistant, Lisa Santoski. Katie is a native Minnesotan with eight years of experience in environmental non-profits in both Texas and Minnesota, where she supported natural resources and recreational programs. She’s managed volunteer programs for five years and enjoys hiking and botanizing. Lisa is of multi-country upbringing, with a lot of years growing up in the Twin Cities. She previously worked in Constituent Operations at the largest private, non-profit conservation education and advocacy organization, located in Reston, Virginia. She enjoys hiking, kayaking, and traveling.

Volunteer Forest Tree Planting

Sat, Nov 23, 1 PM, Volunteer Forest, Hyland Lake Park Reserve

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

Kathy Glynn: 4,250 hours
Louise Holden: 4,500 hours
Bob Iverson: 5,500 hours
Gene Lau: 9,500 hours
Deb Lewis: 4,250 hours
Paul Schlick: 6,500 hours

These volunteers will likely reach these milestones and be included as well:
Louise Holden: 4,750 hours
Sue Leizinger: 5,250 hours
Brad Pierson: 4,500 hours

Volunteer Fun Pass Award

Volunteer Fun Pass Award letters and cards will be mailed in November to ongoing volunteers with service hours during the 12-month period from Oct. 1, 2018 through Sept. 30, 2019. Privileges increase with hours of service. Be sure your hours are reported by Oct. 10. Make sure you keep your plastic cards!

A New Way to Survey in Three Rivers

By Alyssa Schauer

Camera trapping, a newer volunteer project within Three Rivers Park District led by Wildlife Biologist Steven Hogg, started with a question: Where are all the skunks? “I really had an interest of why we were not seeing roadkill skunks around our parks as much as we used to and it begged the question, ‘Do we have skunks in our parks anymore?’” Steven said. And that observation got him thinking how the natural resources department at Three Rivers can actively monitor fur-bearing populations in the parks. Steven said the department had tried wildlife surveys in the past using carnivore scent stations, which is part of a state DNR survey project. “But we haven’t had the best of luck with that because you have to be able to come in and read tracks from the night. And something could go wrong really quickly in one night, like a mower comes by and mows over your survey point or if it happened to rain that night and you can’t identify the tracks,” Steven explained.

“Camera trapping has been something I’ve been thinking about for quite some time. It finally came to fruition due to the fact we were able to get another biologist on site to help with other projects like prairie seed collection. I was able to pass those kinds of projects along to someone else and carve out some time to start more wildlife surveys,” Steven said.

What is Camera Trapping?

A camera trap is a remotely activated camera equipped with a motion sensor used to capture wild animals on film when no one is present. The camera trapper volunteers in Three Rivers set up the cameras off-trail in the parks for three weeks at a time before moving the camera to a different location in the park. After three weeks, the volunteers come back to the camera, switch out the digital memory cards, and move the camera somewhere else in the park. The volunteers then take the memory card home, look through the photos and tally how many of each critter they are seeing. They repeat this process for the entire year and submit their tallies to Steven, who keeps a master document of the wildlife counts from each park reserve.

“The volunteers also keep track of the location where they’re putting the camera and the habitat type it’s in — an open area, a wooded area, early successional area, etc., which gives us a good idea of the kind of wildlife to expect,” Steven said.

Story continued on page 10 (insert).
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. New ongoing volunteers must complete 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)
Karl Huemiller, Volunteer and Donor Relations Supervisor: 763.559.6744
Katie Brom, Volunteer Resources Coordinator: 763.559.6704
Becca Conser, Volunteer Resources Coordinator: 763.694.2070
Michelle Hayes, Volunteer Resources Assistant: 763.694.7724
Lisa Santoski, Seasonal Office Support Asst.: 763.694.2042

General Three Rivers Information:
763.559.9000, www.ThreeRiversParks.org

EXPLORE VOLUNTEERING AT THREE RIVERS

Explore opportunities, meet staff and get started!
Sat. Sept. 14, 11 AM-5 PM*, Silverwood Park, St. Anthony
Sat. Sept. 28, 11 AM-3 PM*, Spring Lake Park, Prior Lake
Sat. Jan. 25, 10 AM-3 PM, Richardson Nature Center, Bloomington
Sat. Feb. 15, Noon-4 PM, Coon Rapids Dam, Brooklyn Park

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. [*Outdoors]
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. An interview and training may be required for certain positions.

**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, Specialist**

- **Monitor:** Observes and records data on numbers, health and behavior of wildlife or plant populations on a pre-set trail or area. May also 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, Leader**

- **Assistant:** Provides customer service assistance at programs, events and facilities.

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

- **Specialist, Instructor, Leader:** Requires higher skill level, training and responsibilities.

**Project Assistant, Specialist, Leader**

- **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, Leader:** 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**

**Program Assistants: Hyland Hills Hosts**

Emily Olson, 763.694.7669

Emily.Olson@threeriversparks.org

Hyland Hills Ski Area

Outgoing and helpful individuals welcome guests to the chalet, assist in directing to lessons, rentals, etc.

- Weekdays, assist with school groups
- Weekends, first day of lessons, school breaks, events

**Ski Patrollers (Alpine, Snowboard, XC Ski)**

Ashley O’Rourke, 763.694.7802,

skipatro@threeriversparks.org

- Elm Creek Winter Recreation Area, Hyland Hills Ski Area

Highly motivated, enthusiastic skiers and boarders are encouraged to apply. The demands are high and so are the rewards.

- Requirements: complete and pass extensive emergency care and on-the-hill training; maintain National Ski Patrol membership and certifications; complete a minimum number of hours each season.

**Community Engagement**

Chia Lee, 763.694.1125, Chia.Lee@threeriversparks.org

**Program Assistants**

- Community Festivals ● Events ● Partner Organizations

  Weekdays and weekends, various locations.

  Share your enthusiasm for the outdoors as we provide outreach programming and promotion outside of our park locations.

  - Minneapolis: Minneapolis Monarch Festival, Sat. Sept. 7, 10 AM-4 PM
  - Golden Valley Arts Days, Sat. Sept. 14, 10 AM-6 PM
  - Richfield: Open Streets at Penn Fest, Sun. Sept. 15, 1-5 PM

**Recruitment 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. Sept. 25 and Sat. Mar. 21

**Program Assistants & Leaders**

- Site Events
  - Festival of Lights, Sat. Sept. 21, Noon-9 PM in shifts, Baker
  - Trailgate, Sat. Sept. 28, 10:30 AM-3:30 PM, Spring Lake
  - Nordic Ski Opener, Sat. Dec. 7, 6 AM-5 PM in shifts, Elm Creek
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. For more information or to sign up, contact the designated staff member listed. An interview and training may be required for certain positions.

BAKER NEAR-WILDERNESS SETTLEMENT
in Baker Park Reserve; Jim Bradley, 763.694.7857, James.Bradley@threeriversparks.org

Program Assistants
- Camp Hosts
  Scheduled groups, times vary
- Site Events
  - Progressive Campfire Cookout, Sun. Sept. 29, 3-7 PM
  - Valentine’s Day Event, Fri. Feb. 14, 4-10 PM
  - Maple Syrup Festival, Sun. Mar. 1, 1:30-6 PM

Project Assistants
- Beat Back Invasives, Sun. Sept. 15 3-5 PM, Oct. 13, 2-4 PM
- 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: Year round, flexible schedule (Contact: Zack Mohlis, 763.694.1139, Zachary.Mohlis@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)

- Costumed Living History
  - The Landing: Year round, flexible schedule
    (Contact: Zack Mohlis, 763.694.1139 Zachary.Mohlis@threeriversparks.org)

Project Assistants & Specialists
- Historical research as projects occur
- Help create brochures, publications, etc.
COON RAPIDS DAM becoming MISSISSIPPI GATEWAY REGIONAL PARK

On the west side of the Mississippi River; Ashley Smith, 763.694.7694, Ashley.Smith@threeriversparks.org

Animal Care Assistants
Weekdays, 2 hours/week; (12 years and older), as needed

Program Assistants & Interpreters
- Public Programs
  - Saturdays, 10 AM-Noon, 1-3 PM, year-round
- School Programs
  - Weekdays, school year, as scheduled
    - NatureFest, Tue.-Thu. Oct. 1, 2, & 3, 9 AM-3 PM
- Site Events
  - Baker Boo, Sat. Oct. 19, Noon-5 PM, Baker campground
  - Embrace the North Festival, Sat. Feb. 15, Noon-4 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
- Public Programs
  - Apple Cidering, Sun. Oct. 6 & 13, 1-4 PM
  - Maple Syruping, Sundays, Mar. 8, 15, 22 & 29, 1-4 PM
- Scout Programs
  - All Scouts: New Moon Flashlight Hike, Tue. Oct. 29, 6-8 PM
  - All Scouts: Nature Crime Scene, Sat. Nov. 9, 10 AM-Noon or 1-3 PM
  - All Scouts: Astronomy, Thu. Feb. 27, 6-8 PM
  - All Scouts: Science of Climate Change, Tue. Apr. 28, 6-8 PM
  - Bears: Feathers, Fur and Ferns, Thu. Oct. 10, 6:30-8 PM
  - Webelos: Into the Woods, Sat. Apr. 18, 10 AM-Noon
  - Girl Scouts: Candle Making and Pioneer Crafts, Fri. Nov. 15, 6:30-8 PM
  - Girl Scouts: Sweet Science, Wed. Mar. 11, 6-8 PM
  - Girl Scouts, Cadettes: Night Owl Badge, Tue. Mar. 24, 6-8 PM
  - Girl Scouts, Cadettes: Trees Badge, Sat. Apr. 18, 1-3 PM
  - Girl Scouts, Brownies: Outdoor Adventure Badge, Thu. May 28, 6-8 PM
- Site Events
  - Big Woods Halloween, Sat. Oct. 26, 10 AM-3 PM
  - Winter Beach Party, Fri. Jan. 24 & Sat. Jan. 25, 10 AM-1 PM
  - Maple Syrup Festival, TBD

GALE WOODS FARM
Andi Anderson, 763.694.2003, Andi.Anderson@threeriversparks.org

Program Assistants & Interpreters
A site orientation is required for all positions.

- Site Events
  - Saturday Mornings on the Farm, May-September, 8:45 AM-12:15 PM
  - Harvest Moon Wagon Ride & Local Libations, Fri. Sept. 13, 5:15-9:15 PM (adults 21+ only)
  - Junior Afterschool Farmers, Thursdays, September 19–October 24*, 3:30-6 PM (*No class October 17)
  - Family Pizza Night, Sat. Sept. 21, 3:45-8 PM
  - Celebrate the Harvest, Sat. Oct. 5, 8:45 AM-3:45 PM
  - Winter Sunrise on the Farm, Sat. Jan. 25, 6:15 AM-12:45 PM
  - Lovebirds’ Local Foods Dinner and Sleigh Rides, Fri. Feb. 14, 3:15-10:45 PM
  - Sheep Shearing, Sat. Mar. 7, 9:15 AM-2:15 PM
- School Programs
- Homeschool Programs
  - Mondays & 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
- Greeter
  - Weekends, December–February, 9:30-11:30 AM and Noon–3 PM; times flexible
- Preschool Programs
- School Programs
  - Kicksled crew, weekdays
- Public Programs
  - Walk When the Moon is Full, Fri. Jan. 10, evening
- Site Events
  - Fall Equinox Celebration, Sun. Sept. 22, 2:30-4:30 PM
  - 50th Anniversary Celebration, Sat. Sept. 28, 4-7 PM
  - Enchanted Forest Halloween, Sat. Oct. 26, 4:30-8:30 PM
  - Polar Bear Picnic, Sat. Feb. 1, 11:30 AM-4:30 PM
  - Valentine’s Dinner, Fri. Feb. 14, 6-9 PM
  - Maple Syrup Festival, TBD

Project Assistants
- Maple syrup processing, March, call to arrange

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PICNIC
Join us for a fun filled evening of games, activities and food. Sat. Sept. 7, Baker Near-Wilderness Settlement, Maple Plain
3-4 PM fun, educational programs by program center staff
4-5 PM social hour with activities and games
5-6 PM Dinner (plus vegetarian option)
6-7 PM campfire program and s’mores
Watch your email inbox for your invite or contact us at 763.559.6706, volunteer@threeriversparks.org.

VOLUNTEER SOCIAL EVENTS
We are planning two upcoming social events. The Fall Social Event will be at the Hyland Lake Park Reserve, and the Winter Social Event (location is still to be determined).
Email invitations with details will be sent out closer to the event dates. We look forward to spending time in the parks with you!
Volunteer Newsletter

Volunteer Needs

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

Program Assistants & Interpreters

- 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 and Fat Bike Races
    - Fat Bike Fun Race, Sat. Feb. 15, 9AM-4 PM, Cleary Lake
  - Signature Races
    (763.559.6706, volunteer@threeriversparks.org)
    - Autumn Woods Classic, Sat. Oct. 12, 7 AM-12:30 PM, Elm Creek
    - Ski Rennet, Sat. Jan. 11, 7 AM-2 PM in shifts, Hyland
    - Fat Bike Rennet, Sat. Jan. 11, 2-9 PM in shifts, Hyland
    - Trail Mix Race MN, Sat. Apr. 18, 7 AM-3:30 PM in shifts, Lake Rebecca
- Site Events
  - Candy Cane Hunt, Sat. Dec. 14, 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

- Greeter/Snowshoe & Kicksled Rental Assistant
  Weekends, December-February, depending on conditions

- Public Programs
  - Apple Cidering, Sat. Oct. 5, 19, & 26, 1-4 PM
    Training: Sat. Oct. 5, 12:30-2 PM

- Site Events
  - Chair Lift Rides, Hyland Hills Ski Area,
    Fri. Oct. 11, 4:30-9:30 PM & Sat. Oct. 12, 2:30-8:30 PM
  - Climate Conversations: Trivia & Social Hour, Hyland Hills Ski Area,
    Thur. Nov. 7, 4:30-9 PM
  - Ice Harvest Festival, Sat. Jan. 25, 10 AM-3:30 PM
  - Candlelight & Chocolate, Sat. Feb. 15, 5-9:30 PM

- School Programs

SILVERWOOD PARK
Seth Eberle, 612.508.6217, Seth.Eberle@threeriversparks.org

Program Assistants

- Public Programs
  - Dancing with the Stars, Thur. Oct. 17, 7-9 PM
  - Pumpkin Carving, Wed. Oct. 23, 5:30-7:30 PM
  - Snowman Making Contest, Mon. Jan. 20, 1-3 PM
  - Kite Making & Flying with the MN Kite Flying Association,
    Mon. Jan. 20, 11-3 PM

- Site Events
  - Field Trip!, Sat. Sept. 14, 11 AM-5 PM
  - Make & Mingle, Mon. Sept. 23, Dec. 20, 6-9 PM
  - SPARK! Art and Nature For People Living With Memory Loss and Their Care Partners, Thurs. Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, 10-11 AM
  - Candy Cane Hunt, Sat. Dec. 14, 1-4 PM
  - Valentine’s Day Dinner, Sat. Feb. 8, 6-10 PM

Weekdays, school year, training TBD
THE LANDING-MN RIVER HERITAGE PARK
Zack Mohlis, 763.694.1139, Zachary.Mohlis@threeriversparks.org

Program Assistants & Interpreters
- Historic Building Hosts
  Year round, flexible schedule (not in costume)
- Living History Interpretation
  Year round, flexible schedule
- Musician
  Year-round, flexible schedule

Project Assistants
- Gardening, photography, animal care, office tasks, other projects

RSVP: Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
Free Benefits for Volunteers 55+
RSVP of the Greater Twin Cities is a program of Senior Corps and part of one of the largest volunteer networks in the nation for people 55+. RSVP would like to offer Three Rivers volunteers who are 55 and older the opportunity to enroll in RSVP and access a number of membership benefits including travel reimbursement, free supplemental insurance, recognition and a connection with a national movement of people 55 and older who are giving thousands of hours daily to positively impact their communities. Membership is free of charge.

For more information contact Three Rivers Volunteer Office at 763.559.6706, volunteer@threeriversparks.org, or Kylie Goenner, RSVP West Metro Coordinator, at 612.704.6114, kylie.goenner@voamn.org.

Natural Resources

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

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

Project Assistants
- Beat Back Invasives
  Sept. 15, Oct. 4, 5, & 13, 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 Grill, 763.694.7851, Angela.Grill@threeriversparks.org

Monitors & Surveyors
- Bluebirds
  April-August, weekly, full season commitment, as openings occur (Angela)
- Breeding Birds
  May-June, Lake Rebecca & Baker (Steven)
  Prior knowledge and advanced skill level required. Must be able to ID all local breeding birds by song & sight.
- Osprey Nests
  April-August, 2-4 nest checks, metro-wide (Steven)

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

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Naturalist & Volunteer Workshops:
Minnesota Naturalists’ Association
For details on future events and registration, visit:
http://mnnaturalists.org/WORKSHOPS
- Mushroom Ecology and Identification: Mon. Sept. 16, 9:00 AM-Noon, Wargo Nature Center, Hugo

Minnesota Master Naturalist:
For details on course dates and information on becoming a Master Naturalist visit: https://www.minnesotamasternaturalist.org/

WANT TO SEE MORE CAMERA TRAPPING PHOTOS?
Read more about camera trapping and see more photos on the Three Rivers Blog! Visit http://www.threeriversparks.org/blog.
Contact Us
Phone: 763.559.6706
TTY/Text Phone: 763.559.6719
E-mail: volunteer@threeriversparks.org
Visit www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer
Find us on
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/volunteer3riversparks
- Instagram: trpdvolunteers

Share your images of nature and service! Use hashtag #threeriversparksvolunteer on Facebook and Instagram. (No pics of school or reservation groups please.)

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Compost
To help reduce consumption of our natural resources, 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. Help with start/finish line, food, set-up/clean-up, water stops, course sweeping, zero-waste education, activities for kids, face painting, prep work, greeting, registration, and more. Volunteer leaders are also needed. Visit www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer, call 763.559.6706, or email volunteer@threeriversparks.org to sign up.

SIGATURE RACE SERIES

Autumn Woods Classic: Run/Walk
Sat. Oct. 12, 7 AM-12:30 PM
Elm Creek Creek Park Reserve, Maple Grove

Rennet Festival: Nordic Ski and Fat Bike Races
Sat. Jan. 11, 2020, 7 AM-9 PM in shifts
Hyland Lake Park Reserve, Bloomington

Trail Mix: Ultra Marathon
Sat. Apr. 18, 2020, 7 AM-3:30 PM in shifts
Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, Rockford

Big Woods Classic: Mountain Bike Race
Sat. Jul. TBD, 2020, 8 AM-4 PM in shifts
Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, Rockford

SITE EVENTS
Field Trip, Festival of Lights, Party on the Prairie, Halloween Events, Celebrate the Harvest, Mountain Bike Races, Nordic Ski Opener, Chairlift Rides, Folkways of the Holidays, Polar Bear Picnic, Valentine’s Day, Maple Syrup Festivals, and many more site events need volunteers. See pages 3-7 for listings.
PRAIRIE SEED COLLECTION
Aug. 20–Oct. 19, 10:30 AM–1:30 PM
Help restore prairie by collecting native wildflower seed. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Ages: 12 years+.
www.threeriversparks.org/page/prairie-seed-collection

Crow-Hassan Park Reserve:
- Tue. Aug. 20 & 27, Sept. 10, Oct. 8 & 15
- Sat. Aug. 17 & 24, Sept. 21, Oct. 5 & 19

Elm Creek Park Reserve, Eastman Nature Center:
- Thurs. Aug. 29
- Sat. Sept. 7

Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve:
- Tue. Sept. 3, Oct. 1
- Sat. Sept. 14, Oct. 12

Carver Park Reserve, Lowry Nature Center
- Thurs. Sept. 19

Hyland Park Reserve, Richardson Nature Center
- Thurs. Sept. 26

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.
www.threeriversparks.org/serviceprojects

BEAT BACK INVASIVES
September–October
Help keep invasive species at bay! With no "natural controls" to limit its growth, buckthorn is a threat to the future of native natural habitats. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Ages: 8+.
www.threeriversparks.org/page/invasive-species-removal

Tierney’s Woods in Hyland Lake Park Reserve:
- Fri. Oct. 4, Sat. Oct. 5, 9 AM–Noon,
Baker Near-Wilderness Settlement:
- Sun. Sept. 15, 3–5 PM; Oct. 13, 2–4 PM,
Steven said he modeled the project after North Carolina’s “Candid Critters” citizen science camera trap survey program, which provides best practices and standards for setting up the cameras. “Really it says you can put the cameras out anywhere, but to avoid things like big game trails because you don’t want to get just deer walking by constantly,” Steven said. He said there are also standards for strapping cameras to trees at certain heights and ensuring no brush, logs or other obstructions are in the way of the lens that could potentially set off the camera sensor.

“It’s kind of a neat way to survey and a very easy way to allow citizens to become citizen scientists and to get really good data on what we have using our parks. We’re really interested in what we have out there for mammals, or fur-bearers,” Steven said.

Currently Steven has volunteers set up to help in each park reserve in Three Rivers — Baker, Carver, Crow-Hassan, Elm Creek, Hyland Lake, Lake Rebecca and Murphy-Hanrehan.

“Right now that’s where we are concentrating because those parks have larger scale natural land masses that we have.”

“It’d be interesting to go into our regional parks and we’ll expand to that, but it has been a slow growing project just because we have to buy all the cameras, memory cards, batteries, and we have to do all the training for the volunteers. But it’s been a good start,” Steven said.

Survey Findings
There are currently 10 volunteers on the project who have put in over 400 hours of their time in the last two years and taken nearly 70,000 photos total, finding animals like white-tailed deer, raccoons, coyotes, squirrels, opossums, Sandhill cranes, barred owls, mink and even skunks.

In 2017, 24 striped skunks were counted and in 2018, only 1 skunk was tallied. “You can’t make too many inferences with this, but it’s something for us to watch,” Steven said. He said skunks are known to ebb and flow in their populations as they get a lot of diseases.

“It is something we’ve talked about bringing towards the University of Minnesota to see if they have a graduate student who’s interested in studying skunks and could try to help us determine what’s going on here.”

“One thing we actually found this last year is that we’ve got fishers, largest weasel in MN, at both Elm Creek and Murphy-Hanrehan parks. We’ve had some documentation of fishers in our parks for the last 10 years, but this is for sure perfect documentation that they are using two of our parks. Now we will watch that population and see how they’re doing.”

“All of these fur-bearers are very, very elusive. Birds are easy for us to survey. We can go out and do breeding bird surveys in the spring and identify the birds by song. But to do this is very difficult. There are so many more logistics in surveying for fur-bearers and it has not been an easy task for a very long time,” Steven said.

He said the work the volunteers are doing has given the natural resources department good information for wildlife management and has helped raise questions for research.

MANY WAYS TO GIVE
Our donors and volunteers help us to create a better community by opening up opportunities for everyone to learn and grow in the outdoors and by preserving our open spaces. Your tax-deductible gifts can be given to Three Rivers Park District or to the Three Rivers Park District Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and our philanthropic partner. Visit ThreeRiversParksFdn.org or ThreeRiversParks.org to learn more about these and other ways to give:

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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.

Dollars for Doers
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And, “Give to the Max” on November 15!
During Minnesota’s annual celebration of giving, 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. Watch for details at www.ThreeRiversParks.org.

Questions?
Call 763.559.9000 or email Giving@three riv ersparks.org or Info@three riversparksfdn.org.

Volunteer Newsletter