

Volunteer Opportunities

September 2022

NOTE: Some of the volunteer opportunities listed below may require onboarding and a background check.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

District Wide/Varying Locations

Autumn Woods Classic

Date/Time: Saturday, October 8, roughly 7AM-12:30PM

Location: Elm Creek Park Reserve

Volunteers: Help is needed with start and finish line, water stop, kids' activities (may include face painting), fire tending, racer food, racer registration, greeters, and park patrol (on bike and on foot)

Contact: Katie Brom, katherine.brom@threeiversparks.org for more information.

Photography Assistant

Description: Document activities, events, programs, landscapes, and wildlife around the Park District for promotional and marketing resources. Three Rivers Photo and Video Media Specialist will provide training on brand standards, general composition and layout, expectations for interacting with the public, process to sign up for photo shoots, and how to read shot sheets.

Requirements: Specialized skill in camera knowledge (camera must take at least a 12-megapixel image), photo composition knowledge, attend twice yearly meetings, complete at least six photo shoot shifts (shifts are between 2-4 hours) per year. Application: <https://forms.office.com/r/WPimKAm59V>. Submit a portfolio of 5-10 of your best photos and a short paragraph describing your interest in this position. Note: Not all who apply to be a Photography Assistant will be chosen for this position. Contact: Laura Jarriel, Photo and Video Media Specialist, Laura.Jarriel@threeiversparks.org

Join Park Patrol!

If you actively use the parks and trails and like to interact with park guests, please consider becoming a Park Patrol volunteer! Training will start this fall. For more information, please contact Becca Conser, Rebecca.conser@threeiversparks.org

Baker Outdoor Learning Center (Maple Plain)

Baker Boo - Fall/Halloween Event

Volunteers: (10-15 people) help host and facilitate activities during the festival portion of this event. Activities include pumpkin carving, hatchet throwing, face painting, and art activities

Date: Saturday, October 22, 1-5PM (split into two shifts if desired)

Contact: Mary Morris, Interpretive Naturalist, Outdoor Education, (Mary.Morris@ThreeRiversParks.org)

Campfire Cooking

Cook and eat dishes with an international twist over the fire during this wilderness feast.

Volunteers: (1-3 people) help with fires, cooking and clean up

Date: Sunday, September 25, from 3-7PM

Contact: Sara Harcey, Interpretive Naturalist, Outdoor Education (Sara.Harcey@ThreeRiversParks.org)

Sampler Sunday - Fall Edition

Try archery, make fires with flint and steel, and go on a photo orienteering scavenger hunt. Archery equipment provided.

Volunteers: (1-3 people) help with participant directions, program assistance, and clean up

Date: Sunday, October 16 from 2:30-6PM

Contact: Sara Harcey, Interpretive Naturalist, Outdoor Education (Sara.Harcey@ThreeRiversParks.org)

Carver Regional Park/Lake Minnetonka Regional Park

Contact: Austin Lane - 763-694-2075, Austin.lane@threeriversparks.org

Park Patrol

Volunteers: Patrol Carver and Lake Minnetonka.

Requirements: Must be current on Park Patrol training.

Cleary Lake Regional Park/Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve

Contact: Tom Balk - 763-694-7782, thomas.balk@threeriversparks.org

Park Patrol

Volunteers needed to patrol Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve, Cleary Lake Regional Park and Spring Lake Regional Park.

Requirements: Must be current on Park Patrol training.

Community Events

Share your love for Three Rivers Parks! Assist staff out in the community (may include events outside of Three Rivers Parks) at an event booth. Great for someone who enjoys talking to people and sharing enthusiasm and knowledge about the parks.

Contact: CommunityEvents@threeriversparks.org

Event: Minneapolis Monarch Festival

Volunteers: Event booth assistant

Date/Time: Saturday, September 10, 10AM-4PM

Event: Maple Plain Art in the Park

Volunteers: Event booth assistant

Date/Time: Thursday, September 22, 5-7PM

Event: Minnetonka Farmer's Market

Volunteers: Event booth assistant

Date/Time: Tuesday, September 27, 3-7PM

Event: Living Well Resource Fair - Brooklyn Park

Volunteers: Event booth assistant

Date/Time: Friday, November 4, 10AM-2PM

Event: Midwest Mountaineering Outdoor Adventure Expo

Volunteers: Event booth assistant

Date/Time: Friday, November 18, 2-9PM

Event: Midwest Mountaineering Outdoor Adventure Expo
Volunteers: Event booth assistant
Date/Time: Saturday, November 19, 10AM-6PM

Event: Midwest Mountaineering Outdoor Adventure Expo
Volunteers: Event booth assistant
Date/Time: Sunday, November 20, 10AM-5PM

Historical Interpretation/The Landing MN Regional Park

Contact: Paula Henseler - 763-694-7784, paula.henseler@threeriversparks.org

Park Ambassador (The Landing MN River Heritage Park)

We would love to have more Park Ambassador volunteers to add to our team! Being a Park Ambassador entails going out into the park and engaging with the public, being available to answer general questions, and being a welcoming presence for our visitors. Must be a current Three Rivers volunteer. Must be somewhat familiar with The Landing park. Previous experience as a Park Ambassador at another Three Rivers location is ideal.

Date/Time: Commit to 4 – 6 shifts per month, flexible timing

Mississippi Gateway

Contact: Ashley Smith, Interpretive Naturalist, Outdoor Education, ashley.smith@threeriversparks.org

FeederWatch Community Science Project

This project is a survey of birds that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. Volunteers will sit indoors and watch our feeder station in the courtyard area to record what birds, and how many, visit our feeders during a 2-hour period.

Dates: Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons, November 1–April 30

Requirements: We are asking volunteers to come 1 to 2 times per month (although more is welcome). Training: Saturday October 15, 9:30–11AM.

School River Programs

School is back in session, which means River programs are about to be in full swing!

Volunteers: help get kids in boots, remind them of safety rules and to show enthusiasm for the topic.

Weekend and Evening Program Support

Volunteers: needed for a variety of weekend and evening programs.

Park Ambassador

Volunteer: Being a Park Ambassador entails going out into the park and engaging with the public, being available to answer general questions, and being a welcoming presence for our visitors.

Requirement: Must be a current Three Rivers Park District volunteer.

Natural Resources

Contact: Emily Dunlap, Invasive Species Coordinator, Natural Resources emily.dunlap@threeriversparks.org

Beat Back Invasives

Volunteers: Remove buckthorn from the woods around Baker Outdoor Learning Center to minimize the impacts this invasive species has on natural areas. This program is open to the public, so bring your friends! A more strenuous activity that may require bending, lifting, pulling, and operating small manual tools like pruners. Tasks will take place off trail.

When and Where: Baker Outdoor Learning Center (Sundays, September 11 and October 9) and Tierney's Woods (Hyland; Saturday, October 15)

Registration is required! <https://www.threeriversparks.org/page/invasive-species-removal>

Prairie Seed Collection

Volunteers: Bring your family and friends and come walk in the prairie! Volunteers are needed to help collect seeds from prairie wildflowers and grasses. Seed is then used in prairie restorations across the Park District! Not a strenuous activity but does require being off trail on the uneven ground of the prairie.

Locations: Crow Hassan, Elm Creek, Richardson Nature Center, Murphy Hanrehan

Dates, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays September 6 – October 15

Registration is required! <https://www.threeriversparks.org/page/prairie-seed-collection>

Richardson Nature Center (Hyland Park Reserve)

Please sign up by calling 763-694-7676 or emailing RichardsonNC@ThreeRiversParks.org. Currently, all programs will be held outdoors.

Lantern-Lit Trail Nights

Volunteer: help get fires going and set up the story stroll, keep the fires lit, walk the trails to keep lanterns lit and interact with visitors and help with clean up.

Dates: Thursdays, October 13 & 20, 5:30–8:30 PM

Apple Cider Programs

Volunteer: Engage participants and interpret the use of an old-fashioned cider press to make apple cider. Assist on a walk to learn about pollinators, seeds and fruits. Serve a sample of cider and help with clean up.

Date: Saturday, October 15, 9:30AM-12PM and/or 1:30–4PM

Program time is 10-11:30 AM and 2–3:30PM.

Free Family Fun Days

Volunteer: Every Sunday, naturalist staff will be outdoors providing visitors with a variety of outdoor activities and experiences. Each weekend will have a different theme. Assist with greeting visitors and with an outdoor activity.

Dates: September Sundays, 12:30-3:30PM at Hyland Visitor Center

October Sundays, 12:30-3:30PM at Richardson Nature Center

November Sundays, 2:30-4:30PM at Richardson Nature Center

Project FeederWatch

Volunteer: Join new, novice and expert bird watchers to identify and record birds at the feeders outside the backyard windows. Tally data for this national citizen science project operated by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada. Dates: Starts November 3 & 4, every other Thursday & Friday, 9–11AM
Requirement: Please let us know if you will be joining FeederWatch to get updated information.

Nature Exploration Area Clean Up

Volunteers: we need support in moving building materials from the pond to the exploration area, tidying the mud kitchen (removing woodchips and mud from the sinks, etc.) and watching for hazards.

Contact Monica Rauchwarter, Interpretive Naturalist, Outdoor Education.(monica.rauchwarter@threeriversparks.org)

Silverwood Park (St. Anthony)

Contact: Seth Eberle, Silverwood Educator, Outdoor Education (seth.eberle@threeriversparks.org)

Volunteer Docents

Volunteers: Become an art and nature docent at Silverwood Park's gallery. We are searching for volunteers to be present in the gallery during busy weekend times, primarily Saturdays and Sundays from 1PM-3PM. Docents are meant to invite park guests to talk about and engage with the art in the gallery, relating it to the outdoors and environmental themes. Becoming a docent requires group training with Silverwood staff. Then, docents work independently, signing up for shifts in small groups or on their own. For more information contact Seth Eberle at seth.eberle@threeriversparks.org

Field Trip

Volunteers: Art Assistants (6-10 volunteers). Assist Silverwood staff and artists in engaging the public with art projects. Best for those who enjoy explaining instructions repeatedly and joyfully and like to be around children.
Volunteers: Greeters and Game Players (6-10 volunteers). Assist park guests with knowing where things are during the event and engaging guests with lawn games set up around the park.
Date/Time: Saturday, September 17 from 11:30AM-4:30PM

Make and Mingle

Volunteers: Event Assistants (5-6 Volunteers). Assist with artmaking, being friendly, and helping give folks information during our seasonal Make and Mingle Event. Best for those who enjoy working with adults and a laid-back atmosphere.
Date/Time: Thursday, September 22 from 6-9PM
Requirement: Must be 21+.

Free Family Fun Day: Puppet Adventures and Let's Get StARTed

Volunteers: Art Assistants (2-4 Volunteers). Assist families and children with making art and learning about nature after a puppet show. The program runs from 1PM-3PM with a puppet show promptly at 1PM. This program will take place primarily outdoors as the weather permits and is best for folks who enjoy enthusiastically explaining instructions and are comfortable standing for most of the program.
Date/Time: Sundays, October 9, November 13 from 12:30-3PM

Autumnal Pumpkin/Apple Carving

Volunteers: Art Assistants (2-4 Volunteers). Assist families and children in learning how to carve apples, pumpkins, or another autumn related art-creation to celebrate the season! Best for those who like to get sticky, can enthusiastically explain instructions, and enjoy family fun.
Date/Time: Wednesday, October 19 from 5:30-8PM

Community Science Projects

In addition to Silverwood's events, we have community science and monitoring projects that begin in late fall and run through the winter.

Project Feeder Watch

This is an existing community science project that asks volunteers to collect information on the kinds of birds seen at a feeder for two consecutive days in a row each week. If you participate in this project, we will also ask you to re-fill the bird seed at Silverwood's feeders each time you participate. Best for those who enjoy birds and birding, like to work independently or with a small group, and want to watch something other than Zoom meetings for a while. For more information on what this project looks like, feel free to visit the Project Feeder Watch Website.

Timeline: November – April.

Ice Monitoring on Silver Lake

This is a project being initiated by Silverwood staff. We are attempting to collect general data on the amount of ice on the lake at any given time throughout the cold months as well as when Ice In and when Ice Out occur. We would ask participants to monitor thickness of ice and estimate percentage of ice cover on the lake throughout the winter months.

Timeline: November through April

Stories in the Snow

This is a community science project from the Desert Research Institute (DRI) in Nevada. This project uses an app called Citizen Science Tahoe to photograph and classify different kinds of snowflakes based on their crystal structure. This project requires a training session and would ask that you come to Silverwood to collect data at least twice.

Timeline: November through April

Thank you,

Volunteer Resources Office
3000 Xenium Lane
Plymouth, MN 55441

Volunteer@threeriversparks.org | 763-559-6706
Katie Brom, Volunteer Resources Coordinator
Becca Conser, Volunteer Resources Coordinator
Joan Claude, Volunteer Resources Office Support Assistant
Karl Huemiller, Volunteer and Donor Relations Supervisor

