Volunteer Updates

Congratulations
2020 Recipients

Distinguished Volunteer Service Award

Wendy Andersen
Animal Care Specialist, Program Assistant, Project Assistant, Natural Resources Monitor
Richardson Nature Center and Natural Resources

Sara Anderson
Animal Care Assistant, Program Assistant, Project Assistant
Gale Woods Farm

Cheryl Batson
Natural Resources Surveyor, Project Assistant
Natural Resources and Eastman Nature Center

Seamus Blake
Program Assistant
Silverwood

Barb Gaasedelen
Alpine Ski Patroller
Hyland Hills Ski and Snowboard Area

Anthony van de Ligt
Program Assistant, Project Assistant
Eastman Nature Center

The Distinguished Volunteer Service Award is a district-wide award, the highest award bestowed upon Three Rivers volunteers. Recipients are selected based on individual accomplishments and represent the wide diversity of volunteer positions and facilities throughout the Park District.

Recipients will be honored with a reception and ceremony at the April 16 Board meeting (4:30 PM). For more details contact us at 763.559.6706.

Thank You 2019 Volunteers!

This past year 2,520 volunteers contributed 43,919 hours of service. Ongoing and short-term volunteers make a significant impact! Thank you!!

- Ongoing individuals: 827 volunteers, 38,826 hours
- Ongoing groups: 1,064 volunteers, 2,762 hours
- Short-term individuals: 328 volunteers, 1,371 hours
- Short-term groups: 301 volunteers, 960 hours

Connecting People to the Parks

Three Rivers volunteer Deb Lewis remembers one of her favorite moments from helping out at Tater Daze in Brooklyn Park. They brought a snake to the event but couldn’t convince the teenage boys or the police officers to come near it. “One woman smiled at us until she saw the snake. She jumped back suddenly and came right out of her shoes!”

This is what the Three Rivers Community Engagement team is all about: Introducing people to new experiences and new ways to connect with nature and the outdoors – even if it’s a little outside their comfort zone.

The Three Rivers Community Engagement team was created in 2015 in response to a recognized need to connect with individuals and communities that don’t have easy access to our parks and programming. Our staff is committed to inclusion and facilitating equitable access to the outdoors. In the past three years alone, our Community Engagement team has reached 55,000 people in a variety of ways.

How We Reach People

Recognizing that different communities connect to the parks in different ways, we have a number of tools and resources to reach new and existing audiences.

Parks on the Go Vans. Not everyone has access to Three Rivers Parks. Whether due to finances, time, location or something else, getting to the parks is not always possible. Our two Parks on the Go Vans bring nature and recreation programs from the parks to the places where people work, live and play. They allow us to take art projects, farm education, nature activities, recreation and more directly to the communities we serve.

Group Camping Trainings and Gear Library. Camping is the ultimate way to connect to the outdoors, and community leaders are often best equipped to lead and organize a trip for their community members. To help these leaders learn the skills they need to guide a camping outing, we provide a training session each year that covers the basic skills for leading a group camping experience. Those who complete the training are eligible to host their own camping trip at a group campsite at Baker Park Reserve utilizing necessary camping gear from Three Rivers.

Community Events and Festivals. Our Community Engagement team attends around 40 events each year. In addition to providing general information about Three Rivers, they also give visitors the option to try nature activities, learn outdoor skills or take pictures in a photo booth.

Engaging Teens. Teens are some of the most passionate stewards of the environment, and connecting them with the mission of Three Rivers is a priority. In 2018, we established the Teen Council to provide an opportunity for young leaders to have a say in how we engage other teens and increase access to all of our park visitors. The Pathways Internship Program also provides teens and young adults,
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
Becca Conser, Volunteer Resources Coordinator: 763.694.2070
Katie Brom, Volunteer Resources Coordinator: 763.559.6704

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

EXPLORE VOLUNTEERING AT THREE RIVERS

Explore opportunities, meet staff and get started!
Sat. Mar. 21, 1-4 PM, Eastman Nature Center, Maple Grove
Fri. Apr. 10, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM, Gale Woods Farm, Minnetrista
Wed. Jun. 24, 5-8 PM, Silverwood Park, St. Anthony

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 millions of visitors.
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. 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, Beat Back Invasives Removal Events, Adopt-a-Woodlot, Adopt-a-Garden, Adopt-a-Trail, Prairie Seed Collection, Scouting Award Projects, Service Learning, and more.

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**Community Engagement**

Chia Xiong, 763.694.1125, Chia.Xiong@threeriversparks.org

**Program Assistants**
- **Community Festivals**
- **Events**
- **Partner Organizations**

May-October, weekdays/weekends, morning/afternoon/some evening, various locations in the Twin Cities metro area

Share your enthusiasm for the outdoors and Three Rivers Park District in the community! Help build awareness of our parks and regional trails system, answer questions from event visitors, or assist with a nature activity. Work alongside staff as we engage with people in places outside of our park locations and in their neighborhoods.

- Brooklyn Center Earle Brown Days, June TBD
- Brooklyn Park Tater Daze, June TBD
- Crystal Father’s Day Fly-In, June TBD
- Crystal Frolics, July TBD
- New Hope Duk Duk Daze, July TBD
- Shakopee International Festival TBD
- Golden Valley Arts and Music Fest, Sept TBD
- Richfield Open Streets at Penn Fest, Sept. TBD

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**Golf**

Laura Patrick, 763.694.7671, Laura.Patrick@threeriversparks.org

**Program Assistants & Interpreters**
- **Golf Volunteer Sign-up Day**
  - **The First Tee**
    May-August, weekdays/weekends, morning & afternoon, Baker National Golf Course, Eagle Lake Youth Golf Center, Glen Lake Golf & Practice Center, Cleary Lake Golf Course (weekdays only)
    May include assisting with events; league/lesson check-in; staging teaching areas; rule and etiquette instruction; accompanying juniors on the golf course; monitoring lesson area for child safety; mentoring on golf tradition and life values.

- **Facilities**
  April-October, 7 days/week, especially afternoons, Eagle Lake Youth Golf Center (Contact: Troy Nygaard, 763.694.7697, Troy.Nygaard@threeriversparks.org)
  May include assisting with driving range and being a starter.
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 staff member listed. An interview and training may be required for certain positions.

**BAKER OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER**

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

**Program Assistants**

*New volunteers: contact Sara for interview and training.*
- Maple Syrup, Sun. Mar. 8, 15 & 29, 3-5 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: Friday-Sunday in summer, weekends in fall  
    (Contact: Zachary Mohlis, 763.694.1139, Zachary.Mohlis@threeriversparks.org)
  - Pierre Bottineau House, Elm Creek: Saturdays, June-August, Training provided, to be arranged. (Contact: Bill Walker, 763.694.2059, Bill.Walker@threeriversparks.org)
  - 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

**EASTMAN NATURE CENTER**

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

**Natural Resources Monitors**

- Dragonflies, May-September
- Monarch Larvae, June-August

**Program Assistants & Interpreters**

*New volunteers: contact Vicky for interview and training.*
- Public Programs*
- Scout Programs*
  - Cadette Girl Scouts, Trees Badge, Sat. Apr. 18, 1-3 PM
  - Webelos Cub Scouts, In the Woods, Sat. Apr. 18, 10 AM-noon
  - Brownies, Outdoor Adventure Badge, Thu. May 28, 6-8 PM
- Site Events
  - Maple Syrup Festival, Sat. Mar. 21, Noon-5 PM
  - Eggstravaganza, Thu. Apr. 9 & Fri. Apr. 10, 9 AM-3 PM
  - Firefly Festival, Sat. Jun. 27, 6:30-10:30 PM
  - Dragonfly Festival, Sat. Jul 18, 9 AM-2 PM
**GAL WOODS FARM**
Andi Anderson, 763.694.2003, Andi.Anderson@threeriversparks.org

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

- Site Events (ongoing volunteers only)
  - Sheep Shearing, Sat. Mar. 7, 8:45 AM-12:15 PM
  - Maple Syrup Fun, Sat. Mar. 14, 12:15-3:45 PM
  - Saturday Mornings on the Farm, Sat. Apr. 4-May 30, 8:45 AM-1 PM
  - Spring Into Farming, Fri. Apr. 10, 8:45 AM-2:45 PM
  - Local Libations: Farm Babies, Fri. Apr. 17, 5:15-9:15 PM
  - Breakfast on the Farm, Sat. Aug. 15, 7:15 AM-12:15 PM

**Project Assistants**
- Fiber projects & garden work

**MISSISSIPPI GATEWAY REGIONAL PARK**
Ashley Smith, 763.694.7694, Ashley.Smith@threeriversparks.org

**Animal Care Assistants**
Weekdays, 2 hours/week, as needed (reptiles, amphibians, fish)

**Program Assistants & Interpreters**
*New volunteers: contact Ashley for interview and training.

- Public Programs*
  - Sunset Celebration, Sat. May 9 6:30-9:30 PM
    Help us celebrate the sun and sunset! We need help with hikes, fires, art, science, animals and more!
- School Programs*
  - Summer Camps*
    Weekdays, school year
    - Summer Camps* Weekdays, June-August

**LOWRY NATURE CENTER**
in Carver Park Reserve; Kirk Mona, 763.694.7650, Kirk.Mona@threeriversparks.org

**Natural Resources Monitors**
- Monarch Larvae, June-September

**Program Assistants & Interpreters**
*New volunteers: contact Kirk for interview and training.

- Public Programs*
  - Moon Walks, Sat. May 18, 8-9:30 PM
  - Grimm Farm Open House, Saturdays, June-August, 1-4 PM
- Site Events
  - Maple Syrup Festival, Sat. Mar. 14, 1-4 PM
  - Spring Extravaganza: Rock Hunt, Fri. Apr. 10 & Sat. Apr. 11, 10 AM-2:30 PM
- Summer Camps*
  - Weekdays, June-August

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

**Program Assistants & Interpreters**
Most volunteer opportunities do not require previous experience. Training is provided. Come out and play in the outdoors with us! Try something new!
*New volunteers: contact Heather for interview and training.

- Programs*
  - Adapted Programs, ongoing opportunities
  - Archery Programs, ongoing opportunities
  - Fishing Programs, ongoing opportunities
  - Geocaching Programs, ongoing opportunities
  - Maple Syruping, March as scheduled, French, Training: Sat. Mar. 7, 9-11 AM
  - Water Sports Programs*
    - Paddle Programs (canoe, kayak, stand-up paddleboard)
      May-October, weekdays & weekends, various parks (ages 18+)
      Required Paddle Volunteer Training: Sat. May 2, 9 AM-3 PM, Brooklyn Center Community Pool
- Site Events*
  - Maple Syrup Event, Sat. Mar. 28, 10 AM-4 PM, French
  - Maple Syrup: Tapping Into Nature, Sat. Mar. 21, 10 AM-1 PM, Cleary Lake
  - Family Fishing on the Opener, Sat. May 9, 1:30-3:30 PM, Bryant
- Summer Camps*
  - Outdoor Youth Crew, ages 12-18, locations & times vary, district-wide, weekdays, June-August

**SIGNATURE EVENT—HELP NEEDED**
Get ready for the 4th Annual Minnesota Nordic Ski Opener taking place on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 at Elm Creek Park Reserve. Stay tuned for details.

**TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Naturalist & Volunteer Workshops:**
Minnesota Naturalists’ Association sponsors several free or low-cost professional development opportunities at venues around the Minneapolis and St. Paul Metro Area. Registration is required.

For details on future events and registration, visit: [http://mnnaturalists.org/WORKSHOPS](http://mnnaturalists.org/WORKSHOPS)

MN Naturalist Assoc. Workshop: Reptiles and Amphibians of MN., Mon. June 8, Noon-4 PM, Eastman Nature Center

**3RD ANNUAL DISTRICT-WIDE VOLUNTEER PICNIC**
Join us on Sunday, September 13 from noon to 4 PM for a fun filled afternoon of games, activities, and food at the Elm Creek Chalet in Maple Grove! Programs last year included: canoeing, wet felting, legislative advocacy, a nature walk, and more. Watch your e-mail inbox for this year’s program and formal invitation!
**Volunteer Needs**

**THE LANDING-MN RIVER HERITAGE PARK**

Zachary Mohlis, 763.694.1139, Zachary.Mohlis@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.

**Program Assistants & Interpreters**

*New volunteers: contact Zachary for interview and training.*

- Historic Building Hosts
  - Year-round, flexible
- Living History Interpretation*
  - Year-round, flexible
- Musician*
  - Year-round, flexible
- School Programs*
  - Weekdays, school year

**Program Assistants & Interpreters**

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

- Public Programs*
- School Programs*
  - Weekdays, September-June
- Site Events
  - Maple Sugaring through History, Sat. Mar. 21, 10 AM-2 PM, The Landing
  - Egg Trail & Rabbit Habits, Fri. Apr. 10 & Sat. Apr. 11, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM
  - Chairlift Rides, Fri. Oct. 9, 4:30-9:30 PM & Sat. Oct. 10, 2:30-8:30 PM
- Summer Camps*
  - Weekdays, June-August

**SILVERWOOD PARK**

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

**Program Assistants**

*New volunteers: contact Seth for interview and training.*

- Public Programs*
  - Puppet Adventures of Ned the Naturalist (free drop-in puppet show/art activity), Sundays: Mar. 8, Apr. 19, May 17, Jun. 14, Jul. 12, Aug. 9, 1-3 PM
- Site Events
  - Eco-logy: Tech and Gaming Event, Sat. July 25, 6-10 PM
  - Field Trip, Sat. Sept. 26, 11 AM-5 PM
- Summer Camps*
  - Camp Doodlebugs:
    - Fantasy Creatures of MN, June 8-11, 10 AM-noon
    - Birds of a Feather, July 6-9, 10 AM-noon
    - Digging In Clay:
      - What in the World? June 8-11, 9 AM-noon
      - Wheel Throwing, July 6-9, 9 AM-noon; Jul. 20-23, 1-4 PM
    - Full STEAM Ahead, June 22-25, 9 AM-noon
    - Nature’s Protectors Camp, June 22-25, 1-4 PM
    - Zoom in on Nature Photo Camp, July 20-23, 9 AM-noon
    - The Art of Survival, Aug. 3-6, 1-4 PM
- Project Assistants
  - Pollinator Box Maintenance and Monitoring, May-Sept.

**DISTRICT-WIDE SOCIALS**

Please save these dates and watch for more details via e-mail.

**Spring District-wide Social: May 29-30**

Bike Camping with Danny McCullough: An introductory bike camping experience with the Regional Trail System Manager. On Friday, bike from French Park to a private Baker Park group camp, then camp out together with a few traditional bike camping activities. On Saturday morning, bike back to French Park.

**Summer District-wide Social: Aug 21**

Disc Golf and Potluck Night at Elm Creek Park Reserve: Potluck style dinner, small program on volunteering at Elm Creek Park, and then an intro to disc golf with open play on the disc golf field before the sun sets.
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
- Beat Back Invasives Removal Events
  - May & October, see poster insert for dates, times & locations
- Adopt-a-Woodlot
  - Spring-early fall, ongoing invasive species removal (garlic mustard, buckthorn, exotic honeysuckle, etc.) on adopted woodlot.
- Invasives Removal Work Crew
  - Join group efforts led by other volunteers, usually spring and fall

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. A list of available gardens is posted online.

WILDLIFE
Steven Hogg, 763.694.7848, Steven.Hogg@threeriversparks.org
Angela Grill, 763.694.7851, Angela.Grill@threeriversparks.org

Monitors & Surveyors
- Bluebirds
  April-Aug., weekly, full season commitment, as openings occur (Angela)
- Breeding Birds
  May-June, as needed (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)
- Turtles (Blanding’s)
  June, 6-10 PM, Crow-Hassan (Angela)
- Turtles (Softshell)
  June 1-July 15, 10 AM-4 PM, French (Angela)
- Wildlife Camera Trapping
  Year around
  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
  Ability to independently ID targeted plants is required. (Angela)

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., March 25, 6-10 PM and runs through April 7 (dates and times vary). Patrol training will start again in Fall (dates TBD).

The Three Rivers Park District Foundation is a 501(3)(C) non-profit organization who’s mission is to “connect everyone to the wonders of our parks”. Join them for one or all of their amazing 2020 events as they support the Park District.

Foundation Annual Event
You are invited to SummerBration @ The Cabin on August 6, 2020 at Elm Creek Park Reserve. Last year’s event featured your up north favorites like axe throwing, fishing, S’mores and meat raffle. Thanks to everyone’s generous support to the SummerBration which raised over $30,000 for adapted programming in 2019. Registration opens in spring 2020.

Foundation Brewery Fundraiser
Spend an evening and support the Foundation in a fun relaxed atmosphere. Mark your calendars for the full season of Foundation brewery fundraisers!
- May 4 - Excelsior Brewing
- July 14 - LTD Brewing
- October 7 - Unmapped Brewing

Foundation Golf Fundraiser
Watch for additional details on our Foundation Golf Fundraiser held in Sept. 2020 at Baker Park Reserve.

For additional information, please contact the foundation at 763.559.9000, E-mail: Info@ThreeRiversParksFdn.org
Many volunteers are needed! Short-term volunteers are welcome. Visit www.ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer, call 763.559.6706, or e-mail volunteer@threeriversparks.org to sign up. 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.

**SIGNATURE RACE SERIES**

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

**Big Woods Classic: Mountain Bike Race**
Sat. Jul. 11, 8 AM-4 PM in shifts
Lake Rebecca Park Reserve, Rockford

**Autumn Woods Classic: Run/Walk**
Sat. Oct. 10, 7 AM-12:30 PM
Elm Creek Park Reserve, Maple Grove

**Ski Rennet and Fat Bike Rennet**
Sat. Jan. TBD, 2021, 7 AM-9 PM in shifts
Hyland Lake Park Reserve, Bloomington

**SITE EVENTS**
Maple Syrup Festivals, Egg Hunts, Mountain Bike Races, Saturday Mornings on the Farm, Earth Day, Fishing Opener, Adapted Recreation Demo Day, Beach Party, and many more site events need volunteers. See pages 3-7 for listings.
SPRING 2020
Service Project Events
MULTIPLE PARK LOCATIONS

ADOPT-A-GARDEN
Spring-fall, twice a month, 2-year commitment
Enlist your group to weed and clean up rain gardens and landscape plantings. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. A list of available gardens is posted online.

ADOPT-A-WOODLOT
Spring-fall, ongoing, 2-year commitment
Enlist your group in the war against exotic invasive plant species. Youth must be accompanied by an adult.

BEAT BACK INVASIVES
Help keep invasive species at bay by signing up for a removal event or to be "on call"! Exotic invasive plant species such as garlic mustard, narrowleaf bittercress and common buckthorn are a threat to the future of native natural habitats. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. (8 years+) (G)
Removal Events, 9-11:30 AM.
- Sat. May 9, Silverwood Park
- Fri. May 15, Tierney’s Woods
- Sat. May 16, Hyland Lake Park Reserve
- Fall dates yet to come

PRAIRIE SEED COLLECTION
Help restore prairie by collecting native wildflower seed. All events start at 10:30 AM and end at approximately 1:30 PM. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. (12 years+) (G)
Crow-Hassan Park Reserve:
- Tue. Aug. 18 & 25, Oct. 6 & 13
- Sat. Aug. 22 & 29, Sept. 12 & 26, Oct. 17
- Thur. Sept. 3
Elm Creek Park Reserve, Eastman Nature Center:
- Tue. Sept. 8
- Sat. Oct. 10
Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve:
- Tue. Sept. 1
- Sat. Sept. 19
- Thur. Oct. 1
Carver Park Reserve, Lowry Nature Center:
- Thu. Sept. 17
Hyland Park Reserve, Richardson Nature Center:
- Tue. Sept. 22

YOUTH SERVICE
High school and college-aged youth can make a difference by supporting parks. For a list of youth service options and Global Youth Service Day projects, visit www.threeriversparks.org/page/teen-zone

Registrations required unless noted.
(G) Groups of 10 or more may inquire about arranging a date.

www.ThreeRiversParks.org
particularly those facing barriers to employment, a hands-on experience to explore a career in parks and recreation.

**Increasing Access.** Lots of factors can stand in the way of people visiting Three Rivers parks, including time, money, language and physical barriers. We are actively working to provide ways for the communities we serve to overcome them. Through fee assistance programs, free programming, interpreter services, adapted programs and more, we are striving to be a place for everyone.

**Program Partnerships.** The Community Engagement team at Three Rivers has over 25 partners in the community. These vary from city parks and recreation, non-profits, schools, youth-serving programs, and many others. Community Engagement staff, with the Parks on the Go Van, attend many events and programs to provide opportunities to engage with nature and the outdoors.

**How Volunteers Contribute**
Volunteering offers an opportunity to showcase your knowledge and love for Three Rivers while engaging with your community. At events and festivals, volunteers partner with program staff to encourage people to experience nature, recreation, and Three Rivers offerings through informational materials and sample park activities.

By participating in these events, volunteers play a direct role in sparking curiosity, expanding knowledge and widening views of what it means to connect with nature and the outdoors. Plus, it’s pretty fun!

Volunteer Bill Brechtel loves that these events give him an opportunity share his enthusiasm for the outdoors and Three Rivers with others. “I meet many Twin Cities residents who are not aware that Three Rivers Parks provides experiences generally not available in their community parks or recreation centers,” Bill said. “Reaching out to them in their communities and neighborhoods is as important and satisfying as meeting and assisting guests in the parks.”

Deb Lewis also loves engaging with people who already know and love Three Rivers. “People love to tell me their favorite park and activity,” she says. She also finds it rewarding to teach people about Three Rivers’ animal ambassadors like sheep, chickens, turtles and snakes. “Those who may be leery of being near a snake for the first time can have their fearful attitudes change!”

**Join Our Team!**
Volunteers play an invaluable role in reaching the communities we serve. By sharing your passion and knowledge for Three Rivers and the outdoors, you help us provide access to programming, grow awareness of Three Rivers and our offerings, and cultivate healthy communities that are invested in the environment.

This summer, we have numerous opportunities to help out at community festivals and events. To learn more, visit ThreeRiversParks.org/volunteer, call 763.559.6706 or e-mail volunteer@three riversparks.org.

**INVEST IN WHAT YOU LOVE**
We invite you to join other committed volunteers and consider investing in the programs and parks you love. You know first-hand the impact of your service and the important projects and programs taking place across Three Rivers Park District. Your tax-deductible gift will make a visible impact, preserving our valuable natural resources and making Three Rivers a more welcoming place for the entire community. You can donate directly to Three Rivers Park District or through the Three Rivers Park District Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and our philanthropic partner. Visit ThreeRiversParks.org/page/donations or ThreeRiversParksFdn.org to give today.

**Make an impact!**
Your unrestricted contribution will ensure that your gift makes the greatest impact. With an unrestricted donation you enable Three Rivers to take advantage of unique onetime opportunities that would otherwise not be possible.

**Support your passion**
Is there a park, trail or facility that has special meaning for you? Is there a certain activity you really enjoy? We will work with you to ensure that your donation is invested in what you value most.

**Leave a legacy**
Impact generations to come by remembering Three Rivers 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 – Double your impact**
Many corporations offer volunteer grant programs to recognize and inspire employee volunteerism by donating funds to the same cause, therefore allowing the employee to “give twice.” Check with your Human Resources department to see if your company has a program.

“**Give to the Max**” **in November!**
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 e-mail Giving@three riversparks.org or Info@three riversparksfdn.org