Give Time... Give Talent... Give Back

METROPARKS TOLEDO

The following are descriptions of the different volunteer programs at Metroparks. Individuals may volunteer in one area or several areas. Training is provided as needed. Other opportunities may be available. To learn about our current volunteer needs, please stop in during Open Office Hours every Thursday from 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm at the Volunteer Services Office, Metz Stables, Wildwood Preserve.

Maintain Our Parks

Garden Keeper
Adopt a landscape bed at your favorite Metropark. Duties include planting, plant care, weeding, edging, and additional tasks needed to keep the ornamental beds in tip top shape.
Spring—Fall; Various parks

Stewardship Volunteers
Participate in restoration projects throughout the park district. Stewardship Projects include removal of invasive plants, prairie seed gathering and tree planting. Programs including Land Stewardship Work Days, Global Youth Service Day and Make a Difference Day.
Year round; Various parks

Park Clean Up Aide
Help keep Metroparks clean and green by participating in the care and preservation of the parks. Projects include trail maintenance, gardening, green house plant care, playground upkeep, painting, and general park cleanup. Join us throughout the year at Global Youth Service Day, Make a Difference Day, or volunteer on your own as your schedule permits. Individuals and groups welcome!
Year round: Various parks

Native Seed Nursery
Help operate the native seed nursery while learning more about native plants through this hands-on experience. Activities include transplanting, weeding, seed cleaning and seed collecting.
Year round; Blue Creek Conservation Area

Trail Steward
Help maintain your favorite trail at Oak Openings Preserve. Trail Stewards commit to walking their assigned trail on a regular basis and keeping it trimmed back according to trail standards.
Spring - Fall; Oak Openings Preserve

Window on Wildlife
Volunteer to maintain one of Metroparks Windows on Wildlife. Duties include filling and cleaning feeders, washing finger and nose prints off the windows, and general upkeep of both the inside and outside of these facilities.
Year round; Various parks

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Educating Our Visitors

Manor House Docent
Share the history and beauty of Wildwood Preserve's Manor House as a Docent for public tours.
Year round; Wildwood

Garden Ambassador
Introduce park visitors to the gardens located at Toledo Botanical Garden or The Shipman Garden located at Wildwood Preserve. Garden Ambassadors will welcome visitors, provide visitors with garden locations, welcoming scheduled tours, get guest started on self-guided tours, answering questions about the gardens, and assisting with garden bed identification.
Spring - Fall; Toledo Botanical Garden and Wildwood Preserve

Facility Host
Facility Rental Host volunteers are needed to show off the Metroparks rental facilities during monthly open houses.
Year round: Various parks

Roving Interpreter
Share your love of the outdoors with others. Volunteers use exciting interpretive materials to educate park visitors about the wide variety of plants and animals that make their homes at Metroparks.
Year round; Various parks & out in the community

Volunteer Trail Patrol
While walking or biking Metropark trails, these dedicated volunteers answer questions for park visitors and identify any potential issues they may see while they are patrolling.
May - April; Various parks

Walk Leader
With guidance and training from Metroparks staff, these volunteers walk the beautiful Metropark trails while leading interpretive nature walks for area schools and the general public.
Year round; Various parks

Monitoring Our Natural Resources

Bat Monitor
Using a device called the Anabat, volunteers are able to record and hear bat echolocation as they walk through various Metroparks. These sound recordings can be used to identify bat species active in the area.
June - August; Various parks

Monitoring Our Natural Resources

Butterfly Monitor
Butterfly Monitors will assist with locating and identifying butterfly species. This effort is part of a larger, statewide long term monitoring project in which data can reveal long term population trends.

April - October; Various parks

Cavity Nesting Birds Program
Help Metroparks keep tabs on cavity nesting bird populations. Monitor nesting boxes on Metroparks property, check your box(es) weekly, record your findings and report the data to staff.

April - August; Various parks

Frog Survey
Learn to distinguish frogs simply by hearing their calls. Team up with a fellow volunteer or two to participate in this night time count of breeding frog and toad species.

March through May; Oak Openings Preserve

Plant Monitor
Assist with locating, identifying, measuring and counting rare plant species within Metroparks in order to maximize efforts to protect these species and their habitats.

April - September; Various parks

Water Quality Monitor
Assist staff in the use of biological monitoring to determine the water quality of streams and rivers in and near Metroparks.

May through October; Various parks

Assisting With Programs

Counselor in Training (CIT)
Teens ages 13-18 have the opportunity to develop leadership skills, earn service hours and gain experience in outdoor education while interacting with campers ages 3-15. Recruitment is January-March.

Summer; Various parks

Program Assistant
Assist staff with educational nature based programs. The opportunities happen all year long at all of our parks and in the community.

Year round; Various parks

Program Assistant - Outdoor Skills
Assist staff during fun outdoor adventure programs. Whether you like archery, paddle sports, fishing, or snowshoeing, Metroparks has an opportunity for you.

Year round; Various parks

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Public Relations and Administration

Information Table Host
Help Metroparks get the word out! Hosts are needed to staff information tables at area festivals, public events and at Metroparks.

Year round; Various parks and out in the community

Mascot Corp
Appear at Special Events in the park and in the community as Otis the Oak Leaf, Owlberta the Barred Owl, or Boggs the Leopard Frog. Must be at least 18 years of age and have an outgoing personality. Mascot Handlers, who speak and interact with the public during a Mascot appearance, are also needed.

Year round; Various parks and out in the community

Additional Opportunities

Scouts
For decades, local Scout Programs have completed service projects in the Metroparks as part of the requirements for advancement throughout their program. Projects range from building boardwalks and bridges, to native planting and invasive species removal.

Year round; Various parks

Friends Groups
Friends Groups provide programs and assist with special projects and fundraising events in support of Metroparks. Friends groups include Friends of Side Cut, Friends of Pearson, Volunteers in Parks, and Manor House Volunteers.

Year round; Various parks

Volunteer Internship
These meaningful learning experiences are available throughout the year in a wide variety of departments. Internships may include experiences with Camp, at the Canal Experience, with Natural Resources and at Special Events.

Year round; Various parks

Volunteer Services Staff

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