



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

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 attend a Volunteer Orientation, call 419-407-9703, or go to [www.metroparkstoledo.com](http://www.metroparkstoledo.com).

## Maintaining Our Parks

### **Garden Keeper** *Lori Miller*

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

### **Land Steward Volunteer** *Annie Devine*

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

### **Maintenance Aide** *Annie Devine*

Help keep Metroparks clean and green by participating in the care and preservation of the parks. Projects include trail maintenance, playground upkeep, painting, and general park cleanup. Join us in our public programs throughout the year including Global Youth Service Day and Make a Difference Day or volunteer on your own as your schedule permits. Individuals and groups welcome! *Year round; Various parks*

### **Native Seed Nursery** *Annie Devine*

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*

### **Oak Openings Horse Corp** *Lori Miller*

Area equestrians participate in the maintenance of the horse trails. Volunteers also help maintain hitching posts, mounting platforms, and many of the other amenities associated with Metroparks renowned system of bridle trails. *Year round; Oak Openings*

### **Window on Wildlife** *Lori Miller*

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*

## Educating Our Visitors

### **Manor House Docent** *Nancy Jomantas*

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

### **Oak Grove School Volunteer** *Nancy Jomantas*

The Oak Grove School is a restored 1890s one-room school house. Volunteers act as docents and greeters, informing visitors about early school days as they experience a typical day in the classroom. *Year round; Wildwood*

### **Roving Interpreter** *Lori Miller*

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 in the Metroparks. *Year round; Various parks and out in the community*

### **Volunteer Trail Patrol** *Lori Miller*

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 to April; Various parks*

### **Walk Leader** *Nancy Jomantas*

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** *Annie Devine*

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 through August; Various parks*

### **Breeding Raptor Monitor** *Annie Devine*

Search for signs of hawks, owls and other raptors in the Oak Openings Region. On designated dates throughout the season, volunteers survey and record raptor occurrences. *March through May; Oak Openings*

### **Butterfly Monitor** *Annie Devine*

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 through October; Various parks*

### **Cavity Nesting Birds Program** *Annie Devine*

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 through August; Various parks*

### **Frog Survey** *Annie Devine*

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*

### **Plant Monitor** *Annie Devine*

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 through September; Various parks*

### **Vernal Pool Monitor** *Annie Devine*

Investigate the biodiversity of these unique habitats by identifying aquatic life. Volunteers work as part of a team to survey a vernal pool every two weeks. *Spring to Fall; Various Parks*

### **Water Quality Monitor** *Annie Devine*

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)** *Nancy Jomantas*

Teens ages 14-18 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 park*

### **Program Assistant-Canal Experience**

*Nancy Jomantas*

Assist in the operation of a 60 passenger mule-drawn canal boat as it passes through the state's last operating canal lock. Help with special family programs or learn a heritage trade when you volunteer to go back to life in 1876. *May through October; Providence*

### **Program Assistant-Johlin Cabin** *Nancy Jomantas*

If you are interested in Ohio history and homesteading in the 1860s in the Great Black Swamp, then helping out at Johlin Cabin might just be the place for you. Assist with educational programs, or join Johlin Cabin's Sewing Circle to help maintain and expand Metroparks collection of historic apparel. *Spring to Fall; Pearson*

### **Program Assistant-Manor House** *Nancy Jomantas*

Volunteers assist with programs that take place in the Manor House including Holidays in the Manor House, which requires hundreds of volunteers each year, concerts, and a variety of other events. *Year round; Wildwood*

### **Program Assistant-Outdoor Skills** *Lori Miller*

Assist Outdoor Skills staff during fun outdoor adventure programs. Whether you like archery, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, or snowshoeing, Metroparks has a volunteer opportunity for you! *Year round; Various parks*

### **Program Assistant-Special Event** *Nancy Jomantas*

Each year numerous volunteers are needed for a variety of Special Event opportunities throughout the Park district. *Year round; Various parks*

## **Public Relations and Administration**

### **Information Table Host** *Nancy Jomantas*

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*

### **Marketing Photography Assistant** *Trish Hausknecht*

Take photographs or videos during park events and programs that may be used for Metropark publications and websites, social media, advertising and presentations. Use your own camera.

*Year round; Various parks and out in the community*

### **Mascot Corp** *Nancy Jomantas*

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*

### **NCNP Gallery Host** *Nancy Jomantas*

Greet the public as they enter the National Center for Nature Photography. Volunteers are needed during the weekend open hours. *Year round; Secor*

### **Office Work** *Trish Hausknecht*

Volunteers are needed for long term and short term assignments which may include answering phones, filing, data entry and other clerical duties. *Year round; Various parks*

## **Additional Opportunities**

### **Eagle Scout** *Annie Devine*

For decades, local Boy Scouts have completed service projects in the Metroparks as part of the requirements for advancement to Eagle Scout. Projects range from building boardwalks and bridges, to native planting and invasive species removal. *Year round; Various parks*

### **Friends Groups** *Trish Hausknecht*

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, Friends of the Lathrop House, Volunteers in Parks, and Manor House Volunteers. Teas in the Manor House are hosted by Manor House Volunteers. *Year round; Various parks*

### **Volunteer Internship** *Trish Hausknecht*

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**

**Trish Hausknecht**, *Volunteer Services Manager*  
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