

Volunteer Opportunities

April 2023

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

DISTRICT-WIDE NOTICES

2023 Distinguished Volunteer Service Award Recipients

This year, site staff nominated eleven amazing volunteers for the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award, the Park District's highest volunteer recognition award. Of these eleven, six were chosen to be this year's recipients. Recipients will be recognized at the April and May Board meetings. Congratulations!

This year's recipients are:

Rebecca Campbell	Ann Chemin	Kent Holmes
Karen Leistico	Rebecca Pewu	Louise Ogden

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Trail Mix

Volunteers: Aid station (pm only), finish line, and racer food

Location: Lake Rebecca Park Reserve

Date/Time: Saturday, April 22, 6:30am-4pm, in shifts.

Contact Becca Conser, rebecca.conser@threeriversparks.org

NEW - Trail Spin

Date: Saturday, June 24, 10am to 3pm

Location: Carver Park Reserve

Are you a biker? Do you just like being outdoors in the summer? We need your help at Trail Spin! This will be our first year of this fun bike-centered festival and we will have vendors, food and beverages, live music, and everything summer biking: rentals, self- and staff-guided trail rides (paved and mountain bike!), gear demos, skills courses, and more! We need: greeters, rental assistants, park patrollers, and bike program education assistants. Great for all skills: from those with no biking experience to advanced bikers.

Contact Katie Brom, Katherine.Brom@threeriversparks.org

NEW - Watercraft Ambassadors

Location is TBD – but the top contender right now is Baker Park Reserve on busy camping weekends.

This is a new volunteer opportunity the Park District is hoping to pilot this summer. Watercraft Ambassadors will assist boat rental customers to ensure safe operation of rental equipment. Position will primarily work outdoors in beach areas. Volunteers will assist park guests as they are getting ready to go on the lake with rental watercraft – this may include advising on life jacket fit, basic paddle strokes, launching tips, etc. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Becca Conser at Rebecca.Conser@threeriversparks.org.

COMING SOON - Summer Research Counts

Three Rivers research section is looking for volunteers to assist with park and trail observation counts this summer. Opportunities are available at every park and trail location in one or two-hour shifts from Memorial Day to Labor Day. All shifts are outside, rain or shine, unless weather is severe. Materials and instructions are provided. For more information, please contact Tyler Thompson, Research & Evaluation Analyst Tyler.Thompson@threeriversparks.org or 763-694-1106.

Park Ambassador

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.

Orientation: April 18 from 6:30-7:30pm and April 25 from 2:30-3:30pm via Zoom

Park Ambassador Training: April 26 from 6-8pm, AC - Boardroom

Contact Becca Conser at Rebecca.Conser@threeriversparks.org to register.

Baker Outdoor Learning Center

On-call Maple Syrup Boilers

Contact: Mary Morris, 763-694-7857, Mary.Morris@ThreeRiversParks.org

Volunteer: (Adults) Start and manage the evaporator to boil down sap into syrup. Due to the weather-based nature of sap flow, this role is "on-call" – contact Mary with your email/phone number to be added to our contact list. We will contact you to schedule a date and time when we have high volumes of sap that need to be boiled down.

Counselor-in-Training

Contact: Mary Morris, 763-694-7857, Mary.Morris@ThreeRiversParks.org

Volunteer: Looking for teens age 15-18 to help out at summer camps! Continue the fun of summer camp while developing leadership skills. Participants learn how to foster friendships, solve problems, and be a role model for kids. Includes training and at least one week of summer camp immersion assisting staff. Separate application required. Space is limited. Share this opportunity with your friends and family!

Carver Park Reserve / Lowry Nature Center

Call 763-694-7650 or email LowryNC@threeriversparks.org

Summer Camp Opportunities

Volunteers: Assist staff and participants at Lowry's summer camps

Note: you must be at least 13 years old, but adult volunteers are also welcome.

Young adults (13- & 14-year-olds) needed to volunteer for our younger kid's (4–6-year-olds) camp

Contact: Call 763-694-7650 or e-mail Elise Bushard at Elise.Bushard@threeriversparks.org

Cleary Lake Regional Park - Scott County Wellness in the Parks Program

Contact: Annie Bunio, Parks Wellness Programmer - 612-322-5746, Annie.Bunio@ThreeRiversParks.org

Volunteers: looking for program assistants at various wellness programs. Also contact to receive monthly e-mail newsletter/program calendar.

Community Events (location varies)

Contact: CommunityEvents@threeriversparks.org

The Community Events team is seeking volunteers for a variety of community outreach events throughout 2023. Please note that volunteer shifts can be shortened from what is listed on the Sign-Up.

2023 listing: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4fa9aa29a3f5c16-volunteer#/>

Discover Plymouth – Plymouth Community Center

Volunteer: Knowledge Booth Assistant

Date/Time: Saturday, April 15, 9am-2pm

Day at the Capital with Three Rivers Park District

Volunteer: Knowledge Booth Assistant

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 26, 8am-12pm, 10am-3:30pm

Maple Grove Arbor Day – Maple Grove Community Center

Volunteer: Knowledge Booth Assistant

Date/Time: Saturday, April 29, Noon-3pm

Eden Prairie Arbor Day – Round Lake Park

Volunteer: Knowledge Booth Assistant

Date/Time: Saturday, April 29, 9am–Noon

New Hope Bike Rodeo – New Hope City Hall

Volunteer: Knowledge Booth Assistant

Date/Time: Thursday, May 4, 6-8pm

General Mills Wellness Expo – General Mills HQ Building

Volunteer: Knowledge Booth Assistant
Date/Time: Thursday, May 4, 10am-12pm

Hopkins Summer Safety – Hopkins Police Department

Volunteer: Knowledge Booth Assistant
Date/Time: Saturday, May 20, 11am-2pm

The Steps for Autism – Como Park

Volunteer: Knowledge Booth Assistant
Date/Time: Sunday, May 21, 9am-12pm

Minnetonka Farmers Market – Minnetonka Community Center Lot

Volunteer: Knowledge Booth Assistant
Date/Time: Tuesday, June 6, 3-7pm

Crystal Farmer's Market – Becker Park

Volunteer: Knowledge Booth Assistant
Date/Time: Tuesday, June 27, 3-7pm

Elm Creek Park Reserve/Eastman Nature Center

Contact: Vicky Wachtler, Interpretive Naturalist, Outdoor Education, Vicky.Wachtler@threeriversparks.org

Project FeederWatch

Contact: Christy.Bishop@threeriversparks.org
Volunteers: Commit to 2 dates per month. Participate in a nation-wide survey by recording bird feeder observations.
Date/Time: April

SpringFest

SpringFest is a new event at Eastman designed to celebrate all the excitement of spring firsts and fun.
Volunteers: needed for hikes, crafts/projects, education stations, bingo, and more.
Date/Time: Saturday, May 13, 10am-2pm
Contact: Vicky.Wachtler@ThreeRiversParks.org

Dragonfly Monitoring

Volunteers: Catch and ID dragonflies and damselflies in the field, record data for the MN Dragonfly Society.
Date/Time: Once per week May through September
Contact: Christy.Bishop@ThreeRiversParks.org

Monarch Larval Monitoring Training

Volunteers: MLMP is summertime citizen science. Training recommended for review and required for new participants. Learn more:
<https://monarchjointventure.org/mlmp/mlmp-about>
Date/time: Thursday June 1, 5:30-7:30pm / 1 or 2 two-hour visits per month
Contact: Elaine.Tucker@ThreeRiversParks.org

Historical Interpretation (The Landing MN River Heritage Park)

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

Building Hosts

We are looking for volunteers to be Building Hosts! Being a Building Host entails showcasing The Landing, Grimm Farm House and Bottineau House and engaging with the public, being available to answer general questions, and being a welcoming presence for our visitors.

Note: Must be somewhat familiar with The Landing Park.
Date/Time: Flexible timing

Mississippi Gateway

Contact: Ashley at Ashley.LeVoir@ThreeRiversParks.org

Weekday and Evening Program Support

Volunteers needed for a variety of weekday and evening programs.

Outdoor Recreation School

Contact: Heather at Heather.Gordon@threeriversparks.org

Archery Volunteers

Help us introduce the sport of archery to kids, adults, and families.

Volunteers: Assist with range set up, range monitoring, and coaching individuals on shooting techniques.

Requirements/Training: No advanced training needed; volunteers will be given a brief orientation on their role when they arrive for the program. Be able to learn archery range rules and the role of range master

Activity Level: Easy to moderate, some lifting of equipment is involved for those up for a moderate level of activity.

Canoeing Volunteers

Help us introduce youth, adults, and families to canoeing.

Volunteers: Assist with program set-up, fitting PFDs, loading/launching and landing/unloading canoes, and group management on the water.

Requirements/Training: Current Paddle Programs Volunteer Training and have previous experience canoeing. Ages 18+

Activity Level: Moderate, including optional moving of equipment (up to 70 lbs. with assistance).

Fire Building Volunteers

Assist ORS staff in monitoring participants as they learn the camping skill of building a fire.

Volunteers: Collect firewood and building fires in small metal pans on the ground.

Requirements/Training: No advanced training needed. Volunteers will be given a brief orientation on their role when they arrive for the program.

Activity Level: Easy, bending and kneeling to monitor and troubleshoot with the small fires may be helpful but is not required

Fishing Volunteers

Get involved with teaching youth and adults how to fish.

Requirements/Training: No advanced training needed. A basic knowledge of fishing equipment, fishing knots and/or native fish species are helpful. Volunteers will be given a brief orientation on their role when they arrive for the program.

Activity Level: Easy, plus a queasy free stomach when it comes to touching worms and/or taking fish off hooks!

Fly Fishing Volunteers

Get involved with teaching youth and adults how to fish.

Requirements/Training: Volunteers must have a basic knowledge of fly-fishing equipment, fishing knots and/or native fish species are helpful. Volunteers will be given a brief orientation on their role when they arrive for the program.

Activity Level: Easy, plus a queasy free stomach when it comes to touching worms and/or taking fish off hooks!

Kayaking Volunteers

Volunteers: Assist program staff with paddling equipment. There will also be time paddling on the water with staff and participants where you will assist with group management. You may be asked to help manage group while staff conduct rescues if needed.

Requirements/Training: Current Paddle Programs Volunteer Training and have previous experience kayaking. Ages 18+

Activity Level: Moderate

Nordic Walking/Hiking Volunteers

Volunteers: Sweep or rover role, help keep the group together while also chatting with participants and sharing knowledge about the parks.

Requirements/Training: No experience or advanced training needed, just a desire to socialize with participants and help them enjoy the beauty of the parks.

Activity Level: Easy to Moderate, depending on group fitness levels and program goals.

Regional Trails Bike Volunteer

Volunteers: Sweep, rover, or point role, help keep the group together and riding safely while also chatting with participants and sharing knowledge about the parks. Possibly assist with first aid (if a park patroller).

Requirements/Training: No advanced training needed, must be comfortable riding your bike up to 20 miles. Must provide own bike and helmet.

Activity Level: Easy to Moderate (5-20 miles at easy to moderate pace), depending on group fitness levels and program goals.

Stand Up Paddleboarding Volunteers

Volunteers: Help set up for programs including unloading and loading SUP boards. Help participants get in touch with the water while on a SUP or Kayak, depending on watercraft availability. Paddle with participants and assist staff with on the water group management.

Requirements/Training: Current Paddle Programs Volunteer Training and have previous experience kayaking and/or stand up paddleboarding. Ages 18+

Activity Level: Moderate to Vigorous depending on the program and/or needs of individual participants.

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.

Weekday Program Support

Volunteers needed for a variety of weekday and evening programs.

Free Family Fun Days

Every Sunday, naturalist staff will be outdoors providing visitors with a variety of outdoor activities and experiences with a different theme.

Volunteers: Assist with greeting visitors or helping with an outdoor activity.

Date/Time: Sundays, April and May 1-3pm

Silverwood Park

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

Free Family Fun Day: Puppet Art Adventures

Volunteer: Art Assistants (2-6 Volunteers). Assist families and children with making art and learning about nature after a puppet show. This program is best for folks who enjoy enthusiastically explaining instructions and are comfortable standing for most of the program.

Date/Time: Sundays, April 16, May 14, 12:30-3pm

International Sculpture Day

Volunteer: Art Assistants (2-6 Volunteers). Assist families and children with making art related to the sculptures along the trail. This program is best for folks who enjoy enthusiastically explaining instructions and are comfortable standing for most of the program. Be prepared to be outdoors if the weather allows.

Date/Time: Saturday, April 29, 1-4pm

Volunteer Docents

Become an art and nature docent at Silverwood Park's gallery. We are searching for volunteers to be in the gallery during busy weekend times, primarily Saturdays and Sundays from 1-3pm. Docents 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.

Silverwood Park Community Science Projects

Contact: For more information contact Seth Eberle at seth.eberle@threeriversparks.org

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

Project Feeder Watch

Volunteer: 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: April

Ice Monitoring on Silver Lake

Volunteer: 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: 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