



HURON-CLINTON METROPARKS

VOLUNTEER SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

2022

Administrative Office
13000 High Ridge Drive
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[METROPARKS.COM](https://www.metroparks.com)

OVERVIEW

The Metroparks Volunteer Program supports the park system's mission, vision and Strategic Plan by engaging individual and group volunteers in meaningful activities and projects.

As 2022 brought the hopes of a post-pandemic world and adjusted to in-person activities and programs at the parks, volunteers also returned to help support the needs of the Metroparks. Volunteers were able to lend a hand throughout the Metroparks, such as on the golf courses, with land management by removing invasive species with our Natural Resources team; at our Interpretive Centers and doing select Eagle Scout and collaborative projects throughout the parks. This year we also continued remote volunteer programs, and recreation focused events that added additional volunteer partnerships.

The Metroparks continue to be a regional gem and destination and we are especially grateful for our dedicated volunteer support and appreciate all they do to help make the Metroparks a distinguished regional park system.



BY THE NUMBERS

In 2022, the Metroparks engaged **1,748** volunteers who put in **12,916** hours of work.

When valued at an entry level wage, volunteer work represents **\$149,180 worth of labor benefit** (\$11.55/hour).

When valued at independent sector wages, this work provides a **\$386,834 labor benefit** (\$29.95/hour).



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Metroparks volunteers support a wide variety of programs and activities throughout the year. Individuals, groups, one-time and regular volunteers support staff in a variety of capacities. Some examples from this past year include:

EVENTS AND PROJECTS



Earth Day Park Clean-ups: In celebration of Earth Day, the Metroparks asked volunteers to participate in Earth Day Park Clean-ups to encourage conservation and service. Scouts who participated were able to receive an Earth Day Fun patch.

Prairie Restoration and Native Seed Balls Activity (Indian Springs Metropark): With funding provided by a Planet Award grant from Consumers Energy, volunteers made native seed balls that were then planted in specific native areas in Indian Springs Metropark as part of the prairie and headwaters restoration project.

Raised Garden Beds (Wolcott Mill Metropark): With funding provided by the Ford Volunteer Corps, raised garden beds were built at Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm Center.



Girl Scouts Bike Patch Program (Stony Creek Metropark): Volunteer organizations, CRAMBA (Clinton Area Mountain Bike Association) and BRAVE girls adventure ride club partnered with the Metroparks and Girl Scouts to offer a Bike Pro patch program that taught the scouts about the 'how-to's' of biking.

SportAbility Adaptive Recreation Clinics (Lower Huron and Lake Erie Metroparks): In partnership with the RIM Foundation-SportAbility, adaptive recreation clinics were held throughout the summer at Lower Huron, Willow, and Lake Erie Metroparks and included adaptive sports such as football, softball, cycling, and tennis.



Summer Solstice Disc Golf Clinic and Jr Tournament (Hudson Mills Metropark): In collaboration with A3 Disc Golf club volunteers, Hudson Mills Metropark held its inaugural Summer Solstice Disc Golf Clinic and Jr. Tournament. With great success, new to the sport attendees learned disc golf basic skills and put their skills to the test in a tournament format.



Shelden Mountain Bike Fest (Stony Creek Metropark): In collaboration with local mountain bike organizations, CRAMBA, MiSCA-BRAVE, Stony Creek Metropark held its first Shelden Mountain Bike Fest and offered beginner mountain bike lessons and group rides.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

FAIR Play Coalition: The FAIR (Fun Accessible Inclusive Recreation) Play Coalition, is a volunteer advisory committee developed by the Metroparks that advocates for accessibility in recreation. It has supported the design and marketing for ongoing project developments for accessibility throughout the Metroparks. In 2022, FAIR Play Coalition members assisted Metroparks staff in a review of Lake Erie Metropark pool design and provided input on beach chair purchases for each Metroparks beach.

RIM Foundation, Disability Network of Macomb County, Oakland County parks, UMAISE: in collaboration with the RIM Foundation/SportAbility, the Disability Network, Oakland Co Parks and UMAISE to provide adaptive recreation opportunities and leadership, including adaptive kayak clinics and 'DiversAbility Days' at multiple Metroparks locations at no cost to the participants.



Ford Motor Company Volunteer Corps: The Metroparks partners with Ford Motor Company for volunteer services by their employee base and has been awarded a \$4,000 grant for prairie restoration work at Oakwoods Metropark. This prairie is part of the imperiled oak barrens habitat and is the only contiguous prairie of that size in the area. Ford volunteers worked with Metroparks Natural Resources staff to plant native species, and the plantings were completed in the Fall of 2022.

New Horizon Rehabilitation Services & Work Skills Corporation: The Metroparks was pleased to partner again with both New Horizons Rehabilitation Services (Michigan Rehabilitation Services- Macomb Co) and Work Skills Corporation, organizations that works with people with disabilities to help them develop the skills they need to find full and lasting employment. Volunteers from Work Skills Corporation helped at Hudson Mills Metropark, volunteers from New Horizon Rehabilitation Services at Lake St. Clair Metropark and Wolcott Mill Farm Center. Volunteers worked on minor maintenance activities, invasive species removal, and farm chores.

LOOKING FORWARD

We are excited about expanding the volunteer opportunities and creating a stronger volunteer services program in 2023 and beyond. We will be implementing new programs, partnerships, and ideas, such as:

Collaborative projects: Expand support for the parks by growing the project list and increasing Eagle Scout and collaborative project engagement

Inclusion: Strategic diversity engagement with organizations and schools in the five counties with the goal to engage new volunteers of all abilities.

Natural Resources: Expanding community partnerships and the total area serviced by volunteers.

Community and Corporate Partnerships: Expand partnerships with community and corporate groups to support volunteer services, grant opportunities, and recreation programming.

New Volunteering Communications Campaign: The Metroparks will establish a consistent communications campaign around volunteering in 2023. This campaign will include at least bi-monthly volunteer e-newsletters sent in February, April, June, August, October, December to highlight the benefits of volunteering and the opportunities Metroparks have for volunteering. The Annual Volunteering Report will be released via press release after it is filed at the board level. The volunteer contact database and email subscribers will continue to be maintained and grown, and additional calls for volunteers will be sent as needed.

