



GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT

Position Description

Volunteer Trail Team

Department: Naturalist

Supervisor: Naturalist / Volunteer Coordinator

SUMMARY:

The Volunteer Trail Team volunteers are assigned a specific park or set of regularly hiked trails to conduct light trail maintenance, which consists of picking up litter, light pruning, removing manageably sized fallen branches from the trail, and reporting any major trail issues to Geauga Park District. Volunteer Trail Team volunteers work independently and with the flexibility to tend to their trails whenever it most convenient for them.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES: Areas of responsibility include, but are not limited to, the following.

Remember, your safety is the priority. Do not attempt to do something beyond your capabilities. If the job is too big, report it for the staff to address!

General

- Assigned parks or trails should be checked at least twice per month
- Assigned parks or trails are checked year-round

Reporting to the Volunteer Coordinator

- All major issues discovered (immediately)
- Hours worked (by the 5th of the next month, i.e. November hours submitted by December 5)

Litter

- Pick up any litter – recycling encouraged
- Report major trash dumping for Park District staff to remove

Vegetation

- Prune branches encroaching on the trail to 2' away from the trail edge
- Remove fallen branches to the side of the trail, but only if you can easily lift them
- Report larger branches or fallen trees on the trail for Park District staff to remove
- Report hanging branches or dead trees that seem potentially dangerous

Trail Damage

- Remove debris from clogged culverts and water bars
- Move larger stones that are a tripping hazard to the side of the trail
- Report damage from wash-outs or run-off
- Report damage from bicycles, horses or motor vehicles on prohibited trails

Structures

- Report any damage or vandalism found on steps, bridges, benches, kiosks or signs

Police/Law Enforcement

- Volunteer Trail Team volunteers must never confront the rule-breaking public, even when witnessing a rule-breaking activity (i.e. dogs off leash or hiking in protected areas).

- For non-emergencies, call Big Creek Park's Meyer Center during normal business hours at 440-286-9516 or the sheriff's office after hours and on weekends at 440-286-1234.
- For any emergency, please call 911.
- Reporting trail maintenance through the app:
 - <https://arcg.is/zrauv>



SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT:

- Work gloves
- Plastic bags – use to collect any litter; dispose of in park receptacles
- Pruning shears
- Folding saw
- Trowel – use for unclogging plugged drainages
- Bucket – use to carry tools and litter
- Backpack or waist pack – use for carrying tools in place of a bucket
- Waterproof boots

QUALIFICATIONS & COMMITMENT:

Volunteer Trail Team volunteers must be able to hike assigned park or trail(s) a minimum of twice per month while independently working and scheduling themselves. They must also be able to physically perform all tasks mentioned under key responsibilities and be familiar with the safe use of the various hand tools suggested.

Volunteer Trail Team volunteers will be asked if they would like to renew their commitment on an annual basis each January.

IMPACT & OUTCOME:

Public surveys show that access to hiking trails is the number one thing desired from a park district. Geauga Park District's trusty Volunteer Trail Team volunteers allow more trails to be constructed and maintained than would be possible if relying on staff alone. Your contributions enable our Operations Department to concentrate on major maintenance items and prioritize new trail projects. We appreciate your time and effort in maintaining the trail standards that Geauga County deserves!