



Cleveland Metroparks®

VOLUNTEER SERVICES 2024

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Volunteers from Marsh McLennan Agency help restore the Huntington Beach ADA footbridge using ServeOhio grant funds.



Zoo survey shows volunteers significantly improve guests' experience. Eileen enjoys her roving shift.



Our annual volunteer appreciation event welcomed 800+ volunteers & guests.

7,104 Volunteers

Donated 135,282 Hours

2024 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Top 10 Most Hours in 2024:

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Judith Conner | 731 | 6. Susan Krall | 585 |
| 2. Darlene Glass | 713 | 7. Jean Dockman | 529 |
| 3. Robyn Smith | 707 | 8. Cheryl Price Radford | 527 |
| 4. James Drozda | 681 | 9. Terry Radford | 518 |
| 5. Freddie Shima | 588 | 10. Janet Glaeser | 510 |

2024 was a tremendous year for Cleveland Metroparks thanks to the collective impact of our volunteers. A total of 1,596 ongoing volunteers donated 107,634 hours across the Emerald Necklace, making a lasting impact on our parks, golf courses and Zoo. And over 5,508 group and episodic volunteers gave an additional 27,648 hours, furthering our mission and strengthening our communities.

In 2024, the Volunteer Services team recognized our volunteers by sharing their stories and highlighting their incredible accomplishments. The team continued our tradition of hosting our parkwide annual volunteer recognition event at the Zoo, welcoming 800+ volunteers and guests. We also upgraded our Volunteer Award Catalog to an online format, which allowed us to expand our offerings and improve the volunteer redemption process.

The collaborative efforts between volunteers and staff members earned national recognition in 2024. The Volunteer Recycling Program received the Outstanding Community/Government Program Award from the National Recycling Coalition. Volunteer Services also received the ServeOhio Make A Difference Day grant to help fund volunteer projects in South Chagrin and Huntington Reservations. Beyond our parks, golf courses and Zoo, our Employee Volunteer Program continued to grow, with 120 employees donating 471 hours to organizations throughout our community.

Every hour volunteers give, every project they take on, and every smile they share helps shape Cleveland Metroparks into the thriving, welcoming place it is today. We thank our volunteers for their dedication - we are excited to see what we accomplish together in 2025!

Volunteer Career Milestones Reached in 2024

35 Years of Service

- Betsy Chen
- Linda Opaluch

30 Years of Service

- Theresa Ormandy

25 Years of Service

- Sandy Emery
- Linda Green
- Donna Hach
- Clay Knotek
- Cathy Korponic
- Beth Stickley
- Sherry Thaler

20 Years of Service

- John Felix
- Larry Flanagan
- Ellen Heraghty
- Marcia Karchmer
- Lesley Lake
- Dan McGovern
- Mari-Joan McGovern
- Peggy Schaffer
- Laura Williams

Lifetime Volunteer Hour Awards Achieved in 2024

5,000 Hours

- Joann Romick
- Lynda Warner

2,500 Hours

- Michael Hritz
- Clint Many
- Peggy Schaffer
- Ruth Scheib
- Rhyna Sensiba

2,000 Hours

- Steve Bedell
- James Drozda
- Carrie Hansen
- Theodore Janollari
- Lauren McAliley
- Jackie Perchinske
- Vivian Pierce
- Donald Rohde
- Douglas Stoessner
- Keith Turner
- Becky Walters

1,500 Hours

- David Bargetzi
- Sue Botos
- Joan Braun
- Audrey Goebel
- Laura Gorsky
- Gary Hasul
- Donald Jaworske
- Larry Koverman
- Pardis Lotfi-Fard
- Karen McKeehan
- Sam Pierce
- Linda Quast
- Marty Reynard
- Linda Shaw
- Robert Stratton

1,000 Hours

- Marsha Barnhard
- Barbara Bean
- Robert Bennett
- Cindy Burke
- Clark Button
- Beverly Chambers
- Joy Coleman
- Judith Conner
- Robert Conner
- Kay David
- Linda Elonen-Wright
- James Hallis
- Don Haney
- Margie Harler
- Marian Harmount
- Lee Hover
- Mark Kasmark
- Jerry Kolar
- Mary Ellen Koskey
- Lawrence Kus-chmeider
- David LeBrun
- Patty Lewis
- Bonnie Mancini
- Michelle Manzo
- David Marble
- Betty Markowski
- Eleanor Morawczyk
- Jack Nesser
- James Noga
- Karen Rohde
- Laurie Ross
- Scott Ross
- Tom Shamess
- Jodi Shankweiler
- Melvin Simmons
- Doreen Skinger
- Susan Sledz
- Dennis Stocum
- Patrick Tabelaing
- Joseph Troha
- John Veverka
- Denise Wagner



Thanks to donor support, the new Volunteer Recycling Center is ready for the 2025 season. Made possible by donors.





Zoo volunteer engagement is at an all-time high as volunteers gather for a pre-shift meeting.

Natural Resources

1,113 Volunteers
17,034 Hours

	Volunteers	Hours
Lights Out Cleveland	78	3,469
Management & Research	929	6,302
NOWCorps	2	3,262
Watershed Volunteer Program	249	4,001



New & veteran Trail Ambassadors Peggy, Sandy, Chris, & Joy connect at a TA Meet-Up event in West Creek Reservation.

Police

15 Volunteers | 171 Hours

Zoo

728 Volunteers
50,386 Hours

	Volunteers	Hours
Ambassadors,		
Docents & Events	466	42,099
Episodic & Zoo Crew	262	8,287



Kristine engages guests at the Mushroom Madness event at Look About Lodge in South Chagrin Reservation.

Executive Office

3 Volunteers | 32 Hours

Marketing

48 Volunteers | 4,544 Hours

	Volunteers	Hours
Events, Outreach & Engagement	16	49
Hinckley Lake Boathouse	2	166
Holiday Shop	13	173
Merchandise Assistant - OEC	5	99
North Chagrin Nature Shop	16	1,921
Rocky River Nature Shop	20	2,100
Wallace Lake Outside Attendant	2	36

Legal

3 Volunteers | 421 Hours

Volunteer Services

2,330 Volunteers
22,292 Hours

	Volunteers	Hours
Administrative & Training	285	428
Adopt-a-Beach	1,577	5,512
American Red Cross Instructor	5	48
Clean Team	268	3,695
National Mountain Bike Patrol	3	99
Recycling Program	25	430
Special Event	18	155
Trail Ambassadors	254	11,824
Volunteer Group Leaders	2	102

Outdoor Experiences

754 Volunteers
19,639 Hours

	Volunteers	Hours
Archives	8	518
Brecksville Nature Center	117	2,011
CanalWay Center	138	2,151
Mobile Outreach	16	331
North Chagrin Nature Center	134	4,158
Outdoor Recreation	23	937
Rocky River Nature Center	145	4,501
Watershed Stewardship Center	214	4,294
Youth Outdoors	100	739

Park Operations

2,792 Volunteers
10,410 Hours

	Volunteers	Hours
Acacia	25	49
Bedford	92	252
Big Creek	75	189
Bradley Woods	10	15
Brecksville	180	550
Brookside	86	180
Euclid Creek	416	952
Garfield Park	175	381
Hinckley	56	155
Huntington	385	1,027
Lakefront	177	303
Mill Stream Run	115	254
North Chagrin	38	172
Ohio & Erie Canal	263	548
Parkrun	46	1,411
Rocky River	208	446
South Chagrin	132	318
Washington	37	74
West Creek	65	123
Chalet	7	28
Trails Division	223	2,987

Golf

169 Volunteers | 9,935 Hours

	Volunteers	Hours
Big Met	21	1,444
Ironwood	18	1,200
Little Met	2	361
Manakiki	19	1,157
Seneca	64	3,117
Shawnee Hills	8	357
Sleepy Hollow	29	1,013
Washington	18	1,288

Planning & Design

41 Volunteers | 418 Hours

The department volunteer totals represent the total number of unique volunteers coordinated within each department.

Volunteer Services Mission

To promote community involvement through rewarding volunteer opportunities that support the needs and mission of Cleveland Metroparks.

Volunteer Services Team

Lynne Lisner, Director
James Bluher, Manager (Zoo)
Emily Baar, Specialist (Zoo)

Molly Tarase, Engagement Manager
Madison Howard, Manager (Parks)
Gina Cantale, Specialist (Parks)