

Do I have to apply to be a volunteer?

No, but we ask that you register with the Volunteer Coordinator ahead of time. No previous restoration or stewardship experience is necessary. Workday leaders will orient volunteers to the procedures and safety precautions of the activity.

How fit do I need to be?

If you are in good physical health and can handle carrying or dragging 10 – 25 lbs, walking on un-even terrain, and bending or stooping you should have no trouble with our workday activities.

Do I have to sign up or can I just show up?

Pre-registration is recommended for all workdays. We ask that you pre-register so that we can provide the amount of tools, food, and drink necessary for everyone expected to be in attendance. This also helps us adjust the stewardship activity to the amount of volunteers and make sure that your valuable time is not wasted.

What do I need to bring to the workday?

Please come dressed for outdoor work. This means: long pants, closed-toe shoes or boots (waterproof shoes in wet conditions), layers for varying weather conditions, a hat to protect from the sun, etc. While the Metroparks will provide water, it is always smart to bring your own.

Is there a minimum age limit?

No, however some activities are more appropriate for young children than others. For example: garlic mustard pulls and native seed collections are appropriate for all ages while invasive shrub removal involves using sharp tools, herbicide, and handling thorny plants and is better suited for older volunteers. Please use discretion or ask a Volunteer Coordinator before bringing young volunteers to workdays.

How do you decide whether to cancel a workday?

If there is impending inclement weather we may decide to cancel a workday. Also, if very few volunteers register it may not be effective to go through with the workday. In the event that a workday is cancelled, check the [Workday Schedule](#) for an update and look for a cancellation email to registered volunteers.

Do I have to stay for the whole workday?

No. We are grateful for any amount of time you can volunteer to us. If you cannot stay the entire time, ***we do ask that you arrive on time and leave early***. We often hike a short distance to our worksite from the parking area and if you arrive late, you may not be able to find the group.

Will there be bathrooms at the workday site?

Workdays are almost always scheduled at sites with restrooms within walking distance.

Can I get community service credit for volunteering at workdays?

Yes. Workday leaders are happy to sign off on any papers required to give volunteers community service credit. If you are expecting credit for the full duration of the workday, please stay until the end.

How do you decide where workdays take place?

Our workday sites are chosen based on volunteer accessibility, restoration need, and ecosystem quality. Because there are so many sites that need volunteer attention, we try to get volunteers out to as many of our Metroparks as possible. You can always be sure that the area you are working in is in need of restoration help and that the work you are doing will be lasting.

Can we do a workday on a different day/time than is listed on the schedule?

Yes. We are flexible in scheduling special workdays for groups or organizations. If you are interested in scheduling a workday for your group, contact our Volunteer Coordinator at [\(810\) 227-2757](tel:(810)227-2757) x6086 or nrdept@metroparks.com.