



Cleveland Metroparks®

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Trail Ambassadors meet up to learn about electrofishing and stream health from Aquatic Biologist Mike Durkalec.



During KeyBank's Neighbors Make The Difference Day, 268 volunteers completed 26 service projects across Cleveland Metroparks.



Marianne and Tina are ready to pass out candy during the return of Boo at the Zoo.

In 2025, Cleveland Metroparks Volunteer Services with our dedicated community of volunteers strengthened the organization through impactful partnerships, high-quality programs and exceptional engagement across the Park District and Zoo.

A total of 1,607 ongoing volunteers donated more than 106,800 hours supporting park operations, golf courses, the Zoo, nature centers, natural resource management and research, and other District-wide programs. 5,274 group and episodic volunteers gave an additional 26,382 hours through special projects and service days, with post project surveys highlighting outstanding experiences and a 99% likelihood to volunteer for Cleveland Metroparks again.

A standout achievement in 2025 was the Zoo Ambassador Program receiving the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Volunteer Engagement Award, a prestigious national honor recognizing excellence among accredited zoos and aquariums across the country. This recognition underscores the strength, innovation and impact of volunteers at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Beyond the Zoo, Volunteer Services' signature programs continued to make an impact as well. The Trail Ambassador Program celebrated its 20th season, while Clean Team and Recycling Program volunteers removed thousands of bags of litter and helped divert nearly 17,500 pounds of recyclable materials from landfills. Volunteer Services and Human Resources were also honored with the 2025 Pillar Award for Community Service, recognizing Cleveland Metroparks organization-wide commitment to volunteerism and the positive difference of Cleveland Metroparks Cares in connecting employees to meaningful service opportunities throughout the community.

Volunteers truly are essential to Cleveland Metroparks, and as 2026 unfolds, we sincerely thank them for all of their efforts in 2025 and for the lasting contributions they continue to make.



Pictured left to right: Emily Baar, James Blucher, AZA President & CEO Dan Ashe and Dr. Chris Kuhar. Blucher, Baar and Kuhar accept the AZA Volunteer Engagement Award on behalf of all 477 Zoo Ambassadors.

6,881 Volunteers

Donated 133,260 Hours

2025 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Top 10 Most Hours in 2025:

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. James Drozda | 987 | 6. Linda Daveant | 560 |
| 2. Judith Conner | 873 | 7. Cheryl Price Radford | 555 |
| 3. Robert Conner | 868 | 8. Terry Radford | 555 |
| 4. Susan Krall | 737 | 9. David Scott | 554 |
| 5. Robyn Smith | 624 | 10. Freddie Shima | 529 |

Volunteer Career Milestones Reached in 2025

40 Years of Service

Deb Marcinski
Jeanne Shaft
Ted Shaft

35 Years of Service

Betty Dunger

30 Years of Service

Cindy Allen
Darlene Cowles
Don Labusky
Barbara Sciuilli

25 Years of Service

Dan Kozminski
Mike McCormick
Elaine Murtaugh
Stuart Pearl

20 Years of Service

Rachel Abernethy
Sheila Brown
Marilyn Burns
Gary Hasul
Denice Johnson
Jerry Kolar
Ann-Marie Lacy
Paula Longshore
Judy Malasky
Victor Rutkoski
Marilyn Stanton
Bill Vorobej
Laurie Vorobej
Lynda Warner

Lifetime Volunteer Hour Awards Achieved in 2025

5,000 Hours

Rachel Abernethy
Janet Glaeser
Linda Opaluch
Paul Webster
Jody Wilson

2,500 Hours

Steve Bedell
Joe Burwell
Romeo Coleman
James Drozda
Theodore Janollari
Terry Mog
Vicki Plata
Donald Rohde
Keith Turner
Mary Vidmar

2,000 Hours

Marlyn Aber
Judie Amsel
David Bargetzi
Alex Chunyo
Judith Conner
Robert Conner
Laura Gorsky
Marilyn Kay
Wendy Medla
Linda Olen
Lori Palmer
Janie Schwegel
Don Young

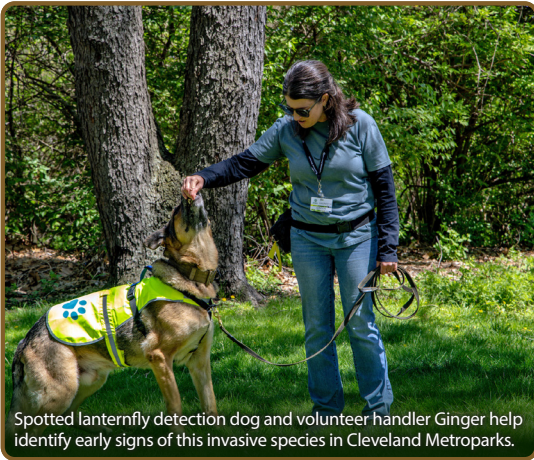
1,500 Hours

Shirley Allen
Judith Conner
Robert Conner
Lee Eizenberg
John Gibbons
Robert Hahn
Phillip Marunowski
Eleanor Morawczyk
Janet Noss
Aggie Phillips

Dale Podojil
Karen Riegel
John Schniegenberg
Amanda Sebrosky
Stephen Shaffer
Howard Simon
Lorelei Suehrstedt
Laurie Vorobej
Joyce Webster

1,000 Hours

Elizabeth Cameron
Terrence Carlin
Jeanette Carr
Betsy Chen
James Darwal
Vince Donofrio
Barbara Galbincea
Liz Hagen
Denise Hancsak
Keith Jameson
Andrew Janollari
Jeanmarie Javor
Russell Johnson
Corky Johnson
Beverly Kubiez
Deborah Lane
Katy Lee
Jeff Lynn
Maureen MacIntyre
Jim Meneely
Danny Messich
Carolyn Modic
John Neeson
Timothy Neff
Barb Pemberton
Cheryl Price Radford
Terry Radford
Beth Riha
Jan Saurman
Charles Smith
Rhonda Somnitz
Jay Wirtz
Anita Zak



Spotted lanternfly detection dog and volunteer handler Ginger help identify early signs of this invasive species in Cleveland Metroparks.

Natural Resources

979 Volunteers
15,306 Hours

	Volunteers	Hours
Lights Out Cleveland	75	3,278
Management & Research	652	6,522
NOWCorps	2	1,227
Watershed Volunteer Program	310	4,280



Incarnate Word Academy students return to Huntington Reservation to clean the mural students helped paint in 2022.

Police

23 Volunteers | 277 Hours

Zoo

680 Volunteers
51,694 Hours

	Volunteers	Hours
Ambassadors & Events	477	43,543
Episodic & Zoo Crew	203	8,151

Legal

5 Volunteers | 537 Hours

Outdoor Experiences

717 Volunteers
18,999 Hours

	Volunteers	Hours
Archives	6	251
Brecksville Nature Center	133	1,979
CanalWay Center	154	2,141
Mobile Outreach	19	379
North Chagrin Nature Center	108	3,678
Outdoor Recreation	32	1,206
Rocky River Nature Center	212	4,824
Watershed Stewardship Center	136	3,581
Youth Outdoors	62	960

Planning & Design

28 Volunteers | 148 Hours



Trail Ambassador Katy lends her specialized training to the Zoo's Wild Ride event.

Volunteer Services

3,043 Volunteers
21,941 Hours

	Volunteers	Hours
Administrative & Training	293	320
Adopt-a-Beach	2,226	6,718
American Red Cross Instructors	4	19
Clean Team	262	2,707
Mountain Bike Patrol	3	100
Recycling Program	40	396
Special Event	16	37
Trail Ambassadors	252	11,374
Volunteer Group Leaders	2	99
Volunteer Interviewers	8	173

Golf

147 Volunteers | 10,197 Hours

	Volunteers	Hours
Big Met	29	1,583
Ironwood	17	1,346
Little Met	3	296
Manakiki	8	1,054
Seneca	39	2,867
Shawnee Hills	3	411
Sleepy Hollow	20	1,168
Washington	36	1,473

Marketing

77 Volunteers | 4,577 Hours

	Volunteers	Hours
Events, Outreach & Engagement	28	92
Hinckley Lake Boathouse	6	464
Holiday Shop	14	174
Merchandise Assistant - OEC	2	104
North Chagrin Nature Shop	15	1,644
Rocky River Nature Shop	20	2,098



Don supports the Trails staff in the new Trail Armoring role focused on protecting and preserving our trails.

Park Operations

2,073 Volunteers
9,584 Hours

	Volunteers	Hours
Acacia	8	16
Bedford	28	134
Big Creek	46	178
Bradley Woods	42	325
Brecksville	146	484
Brookside	61	143
Euclid Creek	328	767
Garfield Park	163	367
Hinckley	37	72
Huntington	374	992
Lakefront	118	205
Mill Stream Run	98	184
North Chagrin	20	50
Ohio & Erie Canal	167	438
Parkrun	45	1,256
Rocky River	102	237
South Chagrin	44	126
West Creek	67	169
Trails Division	203	3,400
Western Reserve Racing	10	44

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)

Gina Cantale, Manager (Parks)
Molly Tarase, Engagement Manager
Emily Cass, Engagement Specialist