"My students were incredibly engaged and they had a great time - the perfect combo for teaching!"

Volunteer Stewardship Program

Working with volunteers of all ages to restore Portland's parks, natural areas, plant and animal habitat, and water quality.

Groups and Classes

Stewardship Coordinators are available to organize and lead events alongside teachers, community leaders, and private groups. Stewardship trips are a great opportunity for students to enjoy hands-on environmental science lessons and practice important job skills, while stewarding and restoring parks and natural areas. We partner with groups of all ages and backgrounds to organize opportunities that offer appropriate education lessons.

▶ **Susan Hawes -** *Johnson Creek Watershed*
 susan.hawes@portlandoregon.gov | 503-823-6131
 Parks and natural areas in inner and outer SE Portland

▶ **Anne Marie Santos -** *Willamette River Watershed*
 annemarie.santos@portlandoregon.gov | 503-729-0318
 Parks and natural areas close to the Willamette River

▶ **Yoko Silk -** *Columbia Slough Watershed*
 yoko.silk@portlandoregon.gov | 503-278-1341
 Parks and natural areas in N and NE Portland

▶ **Mary Verrilli -** *Westside Watersheds*
 mary.verrilli@portlandoregon.gov | 503-823-9423
 Parks and natural areas in SW and NW Portland

The Volunteer Stewardship Program is part of Portland Parks & Recreation's Land Stewardship Division.

PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION ℠
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

PORTLANDPARKS.ORG
Commissioner Carmen Rubio | Director Adena Long

PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION ℠
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

"Working on trails is great exercise and helps my overall physical well-being."

"It's satisfying to see what people can do with a little persistence and group effort."

Why Volunteer?

Portland Parks & Recreation manages over 90 natural areas throughout the city. Donating your time and effort with the Volunteer Stewardship Program is a great way to support natural spaces within the city and connect with your community! Through volunteering, you can:

- Experience Portland's beautiful parks and natural areas
- Learn about and create habitat for local plants and animals
- Connect with and improve your community
- Get outside, get active, and learn new skills!

Stewardship Activities

- Remove invasive plants and plant native vegetation to improve plant diversity and animal habitat
- Maintain native plantings by weeding, watering, and mulching
- Participate in community science projects.
- Maintain trails and fences to protect plants, animals, water quality, and people
- Collect and dispose of litter and debris

How to Volunteer

Individual volunteers can check the stewardship calendar online at *portland.gov/parks/stewardship*, and attend an event that works best for their schedule. Groups of five or more must register in advance by setting up a group event with one of our stewardship coordinators.

Frequent Questions

How much does it cost? Activities through the Volunteer Stewardship Program are FREE!

What if I don't have transportation for my group? Talk to us! We can find a park accessible by public transportation, or may be able to find transportation for you.

What if a volunteer, group, or class has no experience in nature? No experience is necessary! Our staff are skilled at creating positive and rewarding experiences for everyone; and will provide the right tools and guidance.

Can students get credit for volunteering? Yes! Many educators will offer extra credit or other incentives for volunteering.

Can I organize an event for my office, corporate group, or a birthday party? Yes! You can either arrange to have your group join us in an already scheduled public event, or we can schedule something specifically for your group.

Can I bring my child with me to a volunteer stewardship event? Yes! Most events are family friendly.

Will volunteering get me a job? Volunteering helps build job skills and can be a useful networking opportunity to aid in finding paid employment!

For more information, visit us online at
portland.gov/parks/stewardship