



Volunteer Opportunities

How Volunteer Trail Maintenance Helps

Volunteers are essential to trail clearing, and support the work of the Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC). Spending time in nature is rewarding, and good for your physical and emotional health while supporting your community. Join us and enjoy the socializing and camaraderie while experiencing the outdoors.

Volunteer Activities

- **HIKE | CHAT | TRIM** (Vegetation Control) - Volunteers help trim back vegetation, bramble, tree branches, blowdowns, weeds, and brush away from the trails.
- **Trail Ambassadors** - For those who regularly hike one or more specific trails, a trail ambassador agrees to report issues such as downed trees, flooding, excessive mud, or impassible trails.
- **Trash Pickup** - Maintenance days may include trash pickup on the trails and at trail entrances, or be scheduled as a separate activity.
- **Projects** - The OSRPC often has projects appropriate for organizations, schools, and individuals.
- **Event Support, TBA** - assist on event days by answering questions, handing out refreshments, manning a table, or assist with a guided hike.

**We ask that community members not undertake any of the above activities without supervision or direction from the OSRPC.*

What to expect on a Volunteer Maintenance Outing

- **Age requirement:** Volunteers should be over 18 unless accompanied by an adult.
- **Time Commitment:** Volunteers should be prepared to commit to 3-5 hours; the trail work usually runs from around 8:30 am to 12N or 1 pm.
- **When:** The OSRPC maintains the trails throughout the year every 1-2 weeks, with the greatest need for volunteer assistance from April or May through November. The warmest months are when the brush and weed growth is most rapid.
- **Physical Demands:** Volunteers should be prepared to hike over varied terrain while carrying hand tools.
- **What to wear:** Wear long sleeves, long pants, and hiking shoes or boots, and take tick precautions.
- **What to bring:** OSRPC has hand tools or you can bring your own. Bring water and a snack, bug netting or spray, sunscreen, work/gardening gloves, and your team enthusiasm!
- **Heads up!** There are no bathrooms nor picnic tables on the trails.

How to Participate

The quickest way to stay informed about upcoming volunteer activities is to be added to the volunteer mailing list - contact the Community Outreach Coordinator (Marianne) at marianne.os@yahoo.com. If you have specific questions about HIKE-CHAT-TRIM maintenance days please contact the Trail Manager (Jay) at mrjayt0701@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook for updates and announcements: <https://www.facebook.com/wilbrahamopenspace>. We look forward to hearing from you!