

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd. Suite 105, Saint Paul, MN 55101

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

The days are growing shorter but park rangers are still busy with education programs, restoration events, and wildlife surveys. Our biggest volunteer needs of the month are in our educational programs with elementary school children on Journey to the Falls and Take Me to the River. These are both hands-on roles for volunteers, where you are given the opportunity to lead students through a mock archaeology dig, an orienteering scavenger hike, shelter building, and fire building. No experience is necessary - training is provided for each program.

Wildlife survey opportunities continue; learn from our biotechnician rangers Allie and Sam as they monitor the wildlife in the river corridor. Ranger Sharon will host the Big Sit at Coldwater Spring, so get out your binoculars and help her host this semi-annual event tracking migrating bird species.

And of course, don't miss the annual volunteer recognition event on October 12th, where we at the park say "thank you!" to all of our volunteers for your service this past year!

OPPORTUNITIES (details follow)

Ongoing:
iNaturalist Otter Surveys
Wildlife Surveys (Otter, Birds, Coyote)
Coldwater Crew: Thursday Mornings

by date
September 30: Illuminate the Lock
October 2, 4, 5: Big River Journey
October 10, 11, 12, 13: Journey to the Falls
October 12: Volunteer Recognition Event
October 14: Geology Day (Second Saturday)
October 14: Mill Ruins Crew
October 16 - November 2: Take Me to the River
October 22: Big Sit

Annual Volunteer Recognition Event
Thursday, October 12
5:30pm - 7:30pm; Boarding begins at 5pm, boat leaves at 5:30pm
Padelford Landing, 205 Dr. Justus Ohage Blvd, Saint Paul, MN 55107

Please join us aboard the Anson Northrup riverboat to celebrate all of our accomplishments from the past year! This is an evening of socializing with the park community (volunteers, staff, friends), light refreshments, drinks and, of course, the river. This event is for volunteers who have completed a minimum of 5 hours of service between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017. Volunteers are invited to bring a guest.

Please RSVP through Event Brite by following this

link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/miss-volunteer-recognition-cruise-tickets-37400304317> (The event is free).
Contact: Karen Katz, karen_katz@nps.gov or [651-293-8458](tel:651-293-8458).

EDUCATION AND RECREATION

Illuminate the Lock
September 30
6:30pm - 11:00pm
Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam

Illuminate the Lock is a two-weekend series of artist projections inside the lock chamber at the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. We will need volunteers to answer questions and have conversations with the public at the NPS welcome table, orient visitors to the exhibition, assist park rangers escorting people on the lock safety.

Contact: Anna Waugh at [651-291-8164](tel:651-291-8164) or awaugh@parkconnection.org

Big River Journey: Aquatic Invertebrates
9/28, 10/2, 10/4, 10/5
Daytime - hours vary slightly
Anson Northrup Riverboat boarding at Harriet Island, Saint Paul, MN

Volunteers are needed to work with Science Museum of Minnesota staff and assist students (grades 3-5) with the study of live macro aquatic-invertebrates.

Contact: Returning volunteers can sign up on the online schedule or contact Brian Goodspeed, [651-293-8414](tel:651-293-8414) or brian_goodspeed@nps.gov

Journey to the Falls
October 10, 11, 12, 13
9:00am - 2:00pm (approximate)
Mill Ruins Park

Volunteers are needed to help with a mock archaeological dig. Volunteers help dig "sites" in sand under the Stone Arch Bridge, bury artifacts and help students discover the industrial past of St. Anthony Falls that their site represents. Training materials are e-mailed in advance so volunteers have time to familiarize themselves with the topic.

Contact: Brian Goodspeed at brian_goodspeed@nps.gov or [651-293-8414](tel:651-293-8414)

Geology Day with Geologist Justin Tweet
October 14
10:00pm - 1:00pm
Coldwater Spring

One volunteer is needed to help park rangers with this family-friendly, drop-in event. The volunteer may help guide families through the Paleontology Junior Ranger Workbook, direct participants to various locations at Coldwater, greet the public at the welcome table in the parking lot, check workbook answers and award badges. This will all be done under the supervision of the lead park ranger. No experience is

necessary but an enthusiasm for fossils is essential!
Contact: Gordon Dietzman at Gordon_dietzman@nps.gov

Take Me to the River
October 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, 31, and November 1, 2
Approximately 5 hour commitment, hours vary between 9:00am - 3:30pm.
Hidden Falls Park, St. Paul

Volunteers are needed to help park rangers engage 4th grade students in an orienteering scavenger hunt and/or shelter building activity and help with set up, take-down, and transitions between stations. This opportunity requires quite a bit of walking and student engagement (park rangers will lead all stations). The time with students is about 3.5 hours which includes a 20 min lunch break. We need 4-8 volunteers each day. A Volunteer Training will be held on October 11, 9:00am - 11:00am.
Contact: Karen Katz karen_katz@nps.gov or [651-293-8458](tel:651-293-8458).

Big Sit
October 22
7:00am - 7:00pm; Multiple shifts available
Coldwater Spring

It's that special time of year again when Ranger Sharon tallies all the birds seen and heard at Coldwater Spring from sunrise to sundown. You are welcome to participate in any way and in any shift. We need people who can help spot birds, greeters and for set up and tear down. If you know your birds well--great. If you want to learn more about identification, especially for sparrows, thrushes and raptors, this is a great way to learn. Ranger Sharon will have some extra binoculars and spotting scopes, but feel free to bring your own if you have them.

Volunteer Shifts:

7:00am - 11:00am: Help with set up, Greeter, Bird spotters, Bird list keeper

10:30am - 3:00pm: Greeter, Bird spotters, Bird list keeper

2:30pm - 6:30pm: Greeter, Bird spotters, Bird list keeper, Tear down

Contact: Ranger Sharon sharon_stiteler@nps.gov

WILDLIFE AND CITIZEN SCIENCE

iNaturalist River Otter Survey
Days and times vary
Multiple locations throughout the river corridor

Join the Minnesota Metro Otter Survey, <http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/minnesota-metro-otter-survey>, to share river otter sightings, tracks and sign throughout the park's Metro river corridor. NPS is partnering with the Minnesota Wildlife Tracking Project, <http://www.mntracking.org/>, to monitor river otter as a surrogate of a healthy watershed and river ecosystem.
Contact: Allison Holdhusen, allison_holdhusen@nps.gov or Jonathan Poppele, poppele@umn.edu

Fall Wildlife Surveys

Multiple days available
Weekdays. 9:00am - 4:00pm
Multiple Locations

Fall is here! We have several wildlife surveys taking place in the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, and we are seeking volunteers to assist park staff with river otter, coyote and waterbird surveys in October and November. Volunteers are needed to work alongside a park ranger, canoeing and hiking, tracking and identifying wildlife sign, setting remote wildlife cameras, counting waterbirds and more. Up to two volunteers are needed for each survey.
Contact: Allison Holdhusen, allison_holdhusen@nps.gov

RESTORATION

Coldwater Crews
October 5, 12, 19, 26; Nov 2
Drop in; Thursday mornings, 9:00am-12:00pm
Coldwater Spring

Get to know your park! Ongoing volunteer habitat restoration crews meet every week throughout the summer and do light habitat restoration. Crews are drop in and there is no minimum or maximum number of times to volunteer. The crews help with ongoing restoration of Coldwater Spring, which is near Minnehaha Falls. They are run by our super Crew Leader volunteers. Activities include invasive species removal, site exploration, and other outdoor restoration tasks. If you like to be outdoors and hands on, this opportunity is for you!

Contact: Karen Katz, karen_katz@nps.gov or [651-293-8458](tel:651-293-8458)

Mill Ruins Crews
October 14
Drop in; Saturday mornings, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Mill Ruins Park, Minneapolis

Looking for a great way to get to know a unique part of your park? Ongoing volunteer habitat restoration crews meet on Saturdays throughout the summer and do light habitat restoration. Crews are drop in and there is no minimum or maximum number of times to volunteer. The crews help with ongoing restoration of Mill Ruins, which is near downtown Minneapolis, along the Mississippi. They are run by our super Crew Leader volunteers. Activities include invasive species removal, site exploration, and other outdoor restoration tasks. We will also be doing some planting for our opening day! If you like to be outdoors in the heart of the city, this opportunity is for you!

Contact: Erin Steinhibel, erin_steinhibel@nps.gov or [651-293-8474](tel:651-293-8474).

Mississippi Park Connection

Mississippi Park Connection is the charitable partner of Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. Mississippi Park Connection is committed to preserving, protecting, and enjoying the Mississippi River, the national park that runs through the Twin Cities. Among many things, we work closely together (we even share office space) to operate our joint volunteer program. Learn more at <http://parkconnection.org/>

Karen Katz, Park Ranger, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
111 Kellogg Blvd. East, Suite 105, St. Paul, MN 55101-1256, [651-293-8424](tel:651-293-8424)

This is the volunteer newsletter for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, a national park unit located in the Twin Cities. The monthly newsletter details volunteer opportunities for the given month. If you are interested in an opportunity or have questions, contact the person listed. If nothing fits your interest or availability, don't worry, next month brings new opportunities! To volunteer, unsubscribe, or for more information contact miss_volunteer@nps.gov or [\(651\) 293-8424](tel:651-293-8424). Please circulate freely to interested parties.