

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Hello Volunteers!

The staff at MISS and MPC are gearing up for a busy spring season! If you would like to assist the park at an advanced level, please consider becoming a volunteer crew leader. Volunteer crew leaders are essential to the habitat restoration program. At large (and small!) volunteer events, crew leaders take on the responsibility of supervising small groups of novice volunteers. It is an opportunity to engage with people of all backgrounds and be a leader in our river community.



Volunteer crew leaders ensure young native plants have the best chance of survival by guiding volunteers in plant installation.

If you're not familiar with habitat restoration but are interested in being a crew leader, consider volunteering at the Survival RAVE at Hidden Falls this Saturday, March 3rd. This event will give you an excellent perspective on the volunteer role, the habitat restoration program *and* you may even have a chance to chat with an experienced crew leader!

Unless otherwise noted, please sign up for volunteer opportunities through the online scheduling tool located on the Mississippi Park Connection website (<http://parkconnection.org/volunteer/volunteer-registration/>). Know that you can always reach out to staff with any volunteer-related questions by calling 651-293-8458 or emailing miss_volunteer@nps.gov.



After hauling brush, volunteers were challenged to build a fire as part of the 2017 Survival RAVE. Could you do the same?

OPPORTUNITIES

(details follow)

- Survival RAVE 3/3
- Insect Training 3/28
- Seed Pod Dispersal 3/29
- Crew Leader Training, 4/5

Survival RAVE

Saturday, March 3

1:00pm-4:00pm

Hidden Falls Regional Park, North Entrance

Participants will be helping to restore the floodplain by hauling brush and spreading native seeds. This RAVE will challenge your outdoor skills (though no experience or previous knowledge is required). You'll learn what it takes to make it outdoors in a Minnesota winter! Do some good while helping us to celebrate service and our most special places – national parks! RAVEs are great for adults and kids over 10 years old. This is a free event for volunteers – your only ticket is your service to the river!

Register by signing up [here](#).

Contact: Mary mhammes@parkconnection.org

Seed Pod Dispersal

Thursday, March 29

Time TBD

Location: Near the Franklin Ave bridge and West River Road

Students who made seed pods in February will come out to disperse them and learn more about the ecosystem along the river. Come help teach the kids about how prairie plants impact water quality and wildlife. This volunteer position will require significant walking, standing, lifting of 5 gallon buckets, and interacting with elementary school students and teachers.

Contact: Mary Hammes, 651-291-9119 mhammes@parkconnection.org

Volunteer Training on Insects

Wednesday, March 28th

5:30pm-7:30pm

MISS Headquarters, 111 E Kellogg Blvd, Suite 105, Saint Paul MN 55101

Learn about the different insects you can see in our urban park. You will also learn where to look for them, how to attract them and how they fit within our ecosystem. Training will be run by entomologist Jessica Miller. This is a good opportunity for volunteers interested in enhancing their knowledge of the natural history of the park. Please register [here](#).

Crew Leader Training

Thursday, April 5

MISS Headquarters, 111 E Kellogg Blvd, Suite 105, Saint Paul MN 55101

Are you interested in stepping up your game as a volunteer? Would you like to lead others in habitat restoration events? We are looking for volunteer crew leaders for the 2018 season. Volunteer crew leaders commit to attending a few large group habitat restoration events per month, April through October. At events, volunteer crew leaders assist general volunteers in plant identification, invasive species removal and planting techniques. Volunteers must be comfortable working in variable weather conditions and spending time standing, crouching and walking on uneven ground. Crew leaders are models for safety and strong work ethics – as a crew leader, you can inspire others to become stewards of the Mississippi River! The crew leader training will be a full day (5-6 hours) of skill training including a field visit.

Please Contact: Mary Hammes with a note of interest in being a crew leader for 2018 or with any questions about the volunteer position. mhammes@parkconnection.org or 651-291-9119.

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/>

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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) 293-8458. Please circulate freely to interested parties.