

## **IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

Hello volunteers,

Fall is a busy time at the park as field trip season begins and habitat restoration events continue full force. Volunteers who complete a minimum of five hours of service are invited to attend the annual volunteer recognition event aboard the Anson Northrup riverboat. This year the annual recognition event will be on the evening of October 11.

There are many opportunities to volunteer this month; read on to find out how you can be part of our vibrant volunteer community.

Here's the next installment of volunteer stories from Marnie Sciamanda, Community Volunteer Ambassador:

Meet Paul. A regular visitor to Coldwater Spring before the land was managed by the National Park Service, Paul began his tenure on Coldwater Crew after volunteering on a National Public Lands Day event. His volunteer work helps restore the native landscape by planting native species and removing invasive ones, all to preserve the land to which he is deeply drawn and connected. When asked why he volunteers at Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, Paul answered, "the land called me."



*Paul Eaves (L) and Alan Robbins-Fenger (R)*

Read more about Paul [here](#).

If you are a volunteer with more than 250 service hours with the park and you would like to share your volunteer story, please contact Marnie at [marianne\\_sciamanda@partner.nps.gov](mailto:marianne_sciamanda@partner.nps.gov).

**Mark your calendars for these upcoming opportunities:**

Saint Paul Bike Classic: 9/9  
Public Habitat Restoration: 9/13  
Dakota Outdoor Days: 9/18, 9/20, 9/25, 9/27  
Tree Planting: 9/15  
Moth Program: 9/15  
Illuminate the Lock: 9/20, 9/21, 9/22  
National Public Lands Day: 9/22  
Working River Learning Journey: 9/24, 9/25, 9/26, 9/27, 9/28  
Big River Journey: 9/25 – 10/5  
Tree Planting: 9/27  
Take Me to the River New Volunteer Training: 9/27  
Coldwater Crew (Tuesday nights): 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, 9/25  
Coldwater Crew (Thursday mornings): 9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27  
Mill Ruins Crew: 9/15, 9/29  
Bruce Vento Ecostewards: 9/8, 9/11, 9/27  
Coyote Howling Surveys: Ongoing  
Community Ambassador: Ongoing  
iNaturalist: Ongoing  
Substitute MRVC Assistant: Ongoing

**Save the date! More information in the October newsletter:**

Working River Learning Journeys: 10/1 – 10/5 ([Sign up](#) now!)  
Journey to the Falls: 10/9, 10/10, 10/11, 10/12 (Sign up now! [Archaeology Dig](#) and [Riverboat](#))  
Take Me to the River: 10/8 – 10/25  
Annual Volunteer Recognition Event: 10/11  
NatureFest: 10/2, 10/3, 10/4 ([Sign up](#) now!)  
Big Sit: 10/6 ([Sign up](#) now!)

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**Saint Paul Bike Classic: Mississippi River Overlook Rest Stop**

Sunday, September 9  
7:00am – 10:30am  
Mississippi Overlook Rest Stop

Help hand out food and refreshments to bikers participating in an annual bike ride. The NPS booth is positioned right along the river. Help clean up the waste left over from hungry and thirsty riders. This is the only rest stop that will feature a park ranger!

**Register [here](#)** and under "Rest Stop Recycling and Composting Educators" select the "sign up" button for "Mississippi River Overlook Rest Stop".

**Contact:** Kyle Just, [kyle\\_just@nps.gov](mailto:kyle_just@nps.gov)

### **Public Habitat Restoration**

September 13  
6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Grey Cloud Dunes SNA

Help remove invasive species and collect native seeds while enjoying the prairie grasses and wildflowers of this dry sand prairie with wonderful views of the Mississippi River! Come lend a hand to help improve the habitat of this unique place. Please wear long pants and close-toed shoes for this outdoor project. Bring your own water bottle.

**Register [here](#).**

**Contact:** Mary Hammes, [volunteer@parkconnection.org](mailto:volunteer@parkconnection.org) or (651) 291-9119.

### **Dakota Outdoor Days**

9/18 and 9/25: 9:00am – 2:45pm  
9/20: 8:15am – 2:45pm  
9/27: 9:00am – 3:00pm  
Dakota County Fairgrounds

Teaching 5-6 rotations of 20 or so local 5th graders about prairie ecology, and the link between prairie roots/invasive species and water quality. Teach/play a game for about 20 min., then the groups rotate through other stations at the fairground prairie. Approx. 5-6 groups in the morning, the 5-6 in the afternoon. Lunch is provided.

**Sign up on the volunteer [calendar](#).**

**Contact:** Erin Steinhibel, [erin.steinhibel@nps.gov](mailto:erin.steinhibel@nps.gov)

### **Tree Planting**

September 15  
9:00am – 12:00pm  
Pig's Eye Archery Range in St. Paul

Join us and our friends from Urban Roots as we plant about 600 trees and shrubs at this new park in the making! We're transplanting trees from gravel bed nurseries to the park in order to build resilience in forested areas that will be losing tree canopy to emerald ash borer, an invasive pest.

**Register [here](#).**

**Contact:** Mary Hammes, [volunteer@parkconnection.org](mailto:volunteer@parkconnection.org) or (651) 291-9119

### **Moth Program Volunteer**

September 15  
7:00pm – 10:30pm  
Coldwater Spring

Join Ranger Sharon and entomologist Jessica Miller as we set up some lights and sugar to see what kinds of moths use Coldwater Spring. You don't have to be a moth expert (but it helps). We need people to help identify what we find using either the many moth books we will have on

hand or the iNaturalist app. We will also be checking out other insects as well. This is also a fun and interesting way to increase your knowledge of the park.

**Sign up on the volunteer [calendar](#).**

**Contact:** Sharon Stiteler, [sharon\\_stiteler@nps.gov](mailto:sharon_stiteler@nps.gov)

### **Illuminate the Lock**

September 20, 21, 22

6:00pm – 10:00pm

Upper Saint Anthony Falls Lock and Dam

Illuminate the Lock is an art installation at Upper St Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. Last year artists projected images and lights off the lock wall. This year the artist will be projecting on the water. We will need volunteers to answer questions and have conversations with the public, staff the NPS welcome table, orient visitors to the exhibition, assist park rangers escorting people on the lock wall and monitor visitor safety. This event is similar to an open house and is a fun way to connect with visitors at the river.

**Sign up on the volunteer [calendar](#).**

**Contact:** Sharon Stiteler, [sharon\\_stiteler@nps.gov](mailto:sharon_stiteler@nps.gov)

### **National Public Lands Day**

September 22

9:00am – 12:00pm

Spring Lake Park Reserve

Join us for a habitat restoration smorgasbord - we will be collecting seeds and acorns, managing invasive plants, and planting acorns and prairie natives. Thank you to our partners from REI for their generous support of this event. REI will be on hand with a light breakfast and t-shirts for participants!

**Register [here](#).**

**Contact:** Mary Hammes, [volunteer@parkconnection.org](mailto:volunteer@parkconnection.org) or (651) 291-9119

### **Working River Learning Journey**

September 24 – 28 and October 1 – 5

8:30am – 2:00pm

St. Anthony Falls Visitor Center, [1 Portland Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55401](#)

Volunteers needed to work with River Educators delivering Fourth Grade programming for the Working River Learning Journeys. Volunteers will assist River Educators in providing a smooth and efficient field trip experience as students learn about the science and history of the St. Anthony Falls area centered on the theme of how places change over time. Specifically, volunteers will help with station prep, greeting students, modeling and maintaining student engagement during presentations, corralling and escorting groups to different stations, providing accurate head counts, creating name tags, recharging iPods, assisting with orienteering questions, and other assignments as needed. Schools are scheduled for two sessions per day.

**Sign up on the volunteer [calendar](#).**

**Contact:** David Kappelhoff, [dkappelhoff@parkconnection.org](mailto:dkappelhoff@parkconnection.org) or 651-293-8468

### **Learning Journeys Classroom Visit Volunteers**

Late September  
Location Varies

River Educators will visit various local schools in the area to deliver pre-lessons related to the Working River Learning Journeys at St. Anthony Falls. Volunteers are needed to assist River Educators in the classroom, helping with lesson setup and delivery. This is a new program and is currently in development. As schools register, volunteer opportunities will be added to the volunteer calendar.

**Contact:** David Kappelhoff, [dkappelhoff@parkconnection.org](mailto:dkappelhoff@parkconnection.org) or 651-293-8468

### **Big River Journey Volunteers (Education)**

Sept 25, 27, 28 and Oct 1 - 5  
Times vary, but most shifts are 8:30-2:00.  
Anson Northrup Riverboat, Harriet Island Regional Park

Volunteers needed to assist activity leaders for grades 3-5. Topics include bird watching, invertebrate study, pollution prevention, geology and ecosystems.  
2 volunteers are needed per activity each day

**Sign up on the volunteer [calendar](#).**

**Contact:** Brian Goodspeed, 651-293-8414 or [brian\\_goodspeed@nps.gov](mailto:brian_goodspeed@nps.gov)

### **Tree Planting**

September 27  
3:30pm – 6:30pm  
Burns Overlook

Please join us for a tree planting in this beautiful oak-filled highland area. We will be adding diverse tree species and helping maintain forest canopy as the ash population declines due to Emerald Ash Borer.

**Register Here:** <http://parkconnection.org/event/tree-planting-burns-overlook-2018/>

**Contact:** Mary Hammes, [volunteer@parkconnection.org](mailto:volunteer@parkconnection.org) or 651-291-9119

### **Take Me to the River: New Volunteer Training**

September 27  
9:00am – 11:00am  
Hidden Falls Regional Park, St. Paul

Learn how to help at our popular educational programs. In October, volunteers are needed to help park rangers engage 4th grade students in an orienteering scavenger hunt, fire building activity, 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). Returning volunteers are welcome to attend the training as a refresher.

**Sign up on the volunteer [calendar](#).**

**Contact:** Allie Dart, [alexandra\\_dart@nps.gov](mailto:alexandra_dart@nps.gov)

### **Mill Ruins Crew**

September 15 and 29

Drop in; Saturday mornings, 9:00am – 12:00pm

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!

**Sign up on the volunteer [calendar](#).**

**Questions? Contact** Erin Steinhibel, [erin.steinhibel@nps.gov](mailto:erin.steinhibel@nps.gov) or 651-293-8474.

### **Coldwater Crew: Tuesday Nights**

September 4, 11, 18, 25

Drop in; Tuesday evenings, 5:30pm – 8:00pm

Coldwater Spring

Ongoing volunteer habitat restoration crews meet every week throughout the growing season and do light habitat restoration. Crews are drop in and there is no minimum or maximum number of times to volunteer. 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!

Volunteers must be comfortable walking on uneven ground, standing, crouching and/or kneeling. Safety equipment (gloves and safety glasses) is provided.

**Sign up on the volunteer [calendar](#).**

**Questions? Contact:** Mary Hammes, [mhammes@parkconnection.org](mailto:mhammes@parkconnection.org)

### **Coldwater Crew: Thursday Mornings**

September 6, 13, 20, 27

Drop in; Thursday Mornings, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Coldwater Spring

Ongoing volunteer habitat restoration crews meet every week throughout the growing season and do light habitat restoration. Crews are drop in and there is no minimum or maximum number of times to volunteer. 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! Volunteers must be comfortable walking on uneven ground, standing, crouching and/or kneeling. Safety equipment (gloves and safety glasses) is provided.

**Sign up on the volunteer [calendar](#).**

**Questions? Contact:** Mary Hammes, [mhammes@parkconnection.org](mailto:mhammes@parkconnection.org)

### **Bruce Vento EcoStewards**

Saturday, September 8; 9:00 – 11:00am

Tuesday, September 11; 5:30 – 7:30pm

Thursday, September 27; 5:30 – 7:00pm

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, 4th Street E, Saint Paul 55106

Map of the meeting location (<https://goo.gl/GwPaKs>). Parking available along Commercial St.

Help out NPS & MPC park partner Saint Paul Parks and Recreation on habitat restoration events throughout the spring season. Projects will vary by date. No experience is necessary. This is a great activity for anyone who wants to get outside, explore Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and learn about restoring our natural areas. All tools will be provided. Volunteers must wear closed-toed shoes and long pants. You will be working outside so please make sure you dress for the weather. Please also bring a water bottle for drinking.

**Register here** (<https://goo.gl/TYLgmk>)

**Questions? Contact** Tricia Wehrle, St. Paul Parks and Recreation, [environment@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:environment@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or 651-632-2411

### **Coyote Howling Surveys**

Thursday evenings

Approximately 9:00pm –11:00pm

Multiple locations

These evening surveys will involve sampling at 3 different locations within the northern, central, or southern sections of our corridor. Following the Howling Survey Protocol, the researchers will play a prerecorded coyote howl in hopes of receiving responses from nearby coyotes. The nature of this survey requires little to no noise during the sampling, which means there is a maximum of three adult volunteers allowed to participate on a given night.

Please contact Sam House to receive the dates and locations of the surveys.

**Contact:** Samantha House, [samantha\\_house@nps.gov](mailto:samantha_house@nps.gov)

### **Community Ambassador**

Ongoing

Various Locations

Do you love talking with people? Or telling people about all the fun activities and events to do in the Mississippi National Park and Recreation Area? Or enjoy volunteering at cool events? If that sounds like you, then consider signing up to become a Community Ambassador for Mississippi Park Connection (MPC). Often times, we get the wonderful opportunity to table at events at places like Surly Brewing Company, Grand Old Day, Mill City Farmers Market and more. These tabling events allow MPC to engage with the public about community programs such as Mississippi River Paddle Share and connect people with the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, a national park running through the heart of the Twin Cities.

**Contact:** Lee Vue, [lvue@parkconnection.org](mailto:lvue@parkconnection.org) or 651-291-8164

### **Substitute MRVC Interpretive Assisstant**

Varies

10:00am – 2:00pm

Mississippi River Visitor Center

We are in need of periodic volunteer interpreter help at our Mississippi River Visitor Center located in the lobby of the Science Museum of Minnesota in downtown St Paul. We have set volunteers for each day but sometimes they need time off and we need a sub. Volunteers will help sell park passes, swear in Junior Rangers, answer questions about where to visit and enjoy our park as well as help instruct people with our Fly Like an Eagle exhibit. Many of our St Anthony Falls Visitor Center volunteer staff began their careers at MRVC. Volunteers get free parking at the Science Museum. Shifts generally go from 10am - 2pm.

**Contact:** Sharon Stiteler, [sharon\\_stiteler@nps.gov](mailto:sharon_stiteler@nps.gov)

### **iNaturalist**

Ongoing

Location TBD

We are ramping up our use of iNaturalist with the park. We are developing some programming around using the app and are planning gatherings with people who know plants, insects, mammals, fish, fungus, birds or whatever else can be identified in our project called Life of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. Are you good at identifying certain species? Volunteers with iNaturalist accounts preferred.

**Contact:** Sharon Stiteler, [sharon\\_stiteler@nps.gov](mailto:sharon_stiteler@nps.gov)

### **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 E., Suite #105, St. Paul, MN 55101-1256, 651-293-8458*

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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](mailto:miss_volunteer@nps.gov) or (651) 293-8458. Please circulate freely to interested parties.