

STEWARDSHIP MONROE

Conserving our City for Future Generations
Volunteer Opportunities



City of Monroe,
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Welcome! What is the Stewardship Monroe Program all about?

Are you interested in making a difference in your community? Your time, talents, and creativity are just what we are looking for! Volunteer opportunities range from being a fishing buddy, cleaning the park, helping to build a new park amenity, to participating on an historic baseball team; we have something for everyone. If you have a special talent or interest, we will work together to create new volunteer opportunities. If you enjoy something, chances are others will too.

What does our city leadership think about volunteering?

The City of Monroe Mayor and Council strongly recognize support the vital role volunteers play in achieving a successful community. This is reflected in City Council's 2012 Goals:

GOAL: Promote Community Awareness and Involvement

Objective: Elevate the acknowledgement of individuals and organizations engaged in community service

Objective: Increase continuing education and support for City Boards, Commissions, and Committees

The Stewardship Monroe program seeks to advance the goals of the Mayor and City Council by offering a variety of mutually beneficial, fulfilling, and varied volunteer opportunities. We recognize the volunteer's contribution of talent, time, and skill to enhance our programs, parks, trails, and open spaces, ultimately helping our community to flourish and thrive. We will achieve our mission by tapping into the expertise of our residents and coordinating those efforts with City of Monroe staff.

Who can volunteer?

Individuals, families, community groups, service clubs, school groups, Scouts and Eagle Scouts, church groups, and businesses are all welcome! Life is busy. We understand that. Whether you have one hour or many, we want to offer you an opportunity to make a very real difference in your community. All skill levels are welcome. Take your time reading through our opportunities to find the right choice for you. You are not committed until you apply. Questions are welcomed and encouraged!

What can you expect to get out of it?

Each volunteer comes to the table bringing a unique set of interests, education, and skills. Contributing time and energy in a meaningful way helps volunteers develop a sense of community and belonging. We want our volunteer opportunities to help meet your needs as you help the City of Monroe. Too young for a job but would like a job reference? Love children but yours have flown the coop? Want to learn more about things that interest you? Parents, need a positive opportunity to spend time with your children to develop their self confidence? Most opportunities can be done at your convenience. This is your opportunity to give to the community and get something valuable right back!

Individuals: give back to your community while working alone or with others to achieve change where you live. We will work with you to arrange your volunteer opportunity to suit your schedule.

Families: spend quality time together while teaching our youth the value of stewardship and giving back in our community. We will be happy to find an opportunity that suits your family to develop your child's understanding of his or her role as an active community member. Family volunteering helps parents build character, put others first, and teach skills in a positive environment. We understand that it takes time to teach your children both *why* and *how* to volunteer during an assignment. Remember, teaching kids the importance of stewardship is as important as the stewardship task itself!

Youth Organizations and Schools: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Bluebirds, or any youth oriented group can make a positive difference in their community as part of a learning, service, or enrichment experience. Most volunteer opportunities can be adjusted to meet your group's needs. Waterloo School volunteered to plant and maintain a beautiful 'pocket garden' in their neighborhood in Winston Park.

Day Programs: For two summers, a local day program volunteered to clean our parks on a weekly basis. After spending time in the park and observing litter, the participants felt they could make a difference in their community by spending time beautifying the park. Groups may volunteer long or short term.

Businesses: More businesses today strive to contribute actively to their community. Several groups have already volunteered to help with park clean up. We appreciate and honor those groups that help make Monroe a better place to live and work.

Green Initiatives: Monroe currently has a bike path that is part of the River Raisin Heritage Trail. This trail connects Sterling State Park through the heart of downtown Monroe and out to Munson Park. Expanding and enhancing this trail that includes our parks and greenways helps give Monroe more to offer its residents and visitors.

Do I need to pay for anything?

No, volunteers are not expected to pay for anything. Any volunteer who desires to donate anything beyond their time is welcome to do that, but it is not expected.

How do I get started?

Take a look through the opportunities to find an opportunity that is right for you. Do you have skills you wish to share but do not see it listed? Give us a call! We just might include your idea as a new volunteer opportunity. Short or long term, we will work with you to meet your needs. Groups need one main contact person. Request the paperwork by phone or email at the addresses listed on the cover. Fill out the necessary paperwork and fax, scan, mail, or hand

deliver to the City of Monroe Recreation Department. Filling out an application does not guarantee a volunteer position with the City of Monroe. Photos of volunteers may be used in literature, on Facebook, published in the newsletter, or submitted to the Monroe Evening News unless otherwise requested.

When is a Background Check needed?

To protect all vulnerable populations, any volunteer position that directly involves children, elderly, or anyone with a disability may require a police background check (submitted and paid for by the City). Some positions may require an interview process. The City of Monroe will work with every applicant to place them in the most successful volunteer position for both the applicant and the City of Monroe.

Do I receive any orientation and training?

Volunteers receive a Volunteer Orientation Manual. As training sessions are developed and implemented, volunteers will be invited to attend. Depending on the position, some jobs may require volunteers to attend a training session. Individual job descriptions will list any required training.

Am I responsible to bring any supplies?

A limited number of supplies are available at the Recreation Department, including latex gloves, small rakes, small gardening tools, sanitizing wipes), and garbage bags. Volunteers are welcomed to use any of their own items and count that as part of the donation. You may want to bring and wear a safety vest and/or other protective gear if you wish.

What are the Volunteer Opportunities?

Opportunities can be a onetime event or an ongoing commitment. Feeling unsure? No pressure! You may try a one-time event to see if volunteering is for you. Two questions were considered when formulating our volunteer positions:

1. Does this position enable the City of Monroe to achieve its mission or purpose?
2. Does this position provide meaningful activity for the volunteer?

Here is a list of volunteer opportunities:

**May require a police background check*

Parks

- Trail Monitor
- Trail maintenance
- Adopt a park
- Skate park trash pickup
- Skate park monitor*
- Ball field clean up
- Painting tired structures

- Hosting work days*
- Park Monitor*
- Build a park amenity
- Build a handicapped accessible playground structure at Veteran's, Boyd, Hellenberg, Martin Luther King, or St. Mary's
- Sand volleyball court raking and weeding
- Inventory of natural habitats in all parks
- Build additional pedestrian bridges in natural area of Munson Park
- One-time park clean up days; spring and fall

General

- Adopt a Street
- Concert volunteer
- Recreation office assistant*
- Teaching a class in your area of expertise*
- Assistant volunteer coordinator*
- Specialized interests, such as history, marketing, event planning, computer skills
- Graphic design for newsletter and brochures

Nature

- Fishing Buddy*
- Creating Nature Trails for Kids*
- Geocaching*
- Nature Class Assistant*
- Tree steward
- Eastern Bluebirds at Munson Park Coordinator
- Eastern Bluebirds at Munson Park Aides
- Comprehensive Bird List coordinator
- River clean up

Gardening

- Adopt a garden area
- Invasive plant removal
- Gardener
- Veteran's Park Sensory Garden Guide*
- Community garden volunteer; growing to donate
- Plant and maintain a garden area in any park
- Team leader for invasive plant removal*
- Mulching garden beds

Sports

- Youth softball, baseball, or tee ball coach*
- Youth softball and baseball scorekeeper*
- Youth flag football coach*
- Run coordinator for 3K, 5K Run/Walk *
- Historic Baseball Team*
- Indoor volleyball scoreboard workers

Boards and Commissions

- Board member for various City of Monroe boards:

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Citizen Planning Commission

Downtown Development Authority

Economic Development Corporation

Employment Retirement System Board of Trustees

Library Advisory Commission

Commission on Environment and Water Quality

Recreation Advisory Commission

Monroe Housing Commission

Zoning Board of Appeals

Monroe Traffic Committee

Monroe Historic District Commission

Monroe Port Commission

The Citizen Handbook, along with a one page application to serve on boards, commissions, and committees, are available on our website, www.monroemi.gov. Choose City Government, Committees, Forms & Permits, and scroll to Committees.

Parks Wish List

- New scoreboards at Munson adult ball diamonds
- New shelter Manor Park
- Handicapped accessible play structures at all parks; Arbor Lorain, Boyd, Calgary, Cairns, Frenchman's Bend, Hellenberg, Hoffman, James-Hendricks, Lavender, Manor, MLK, Munson, Soldiers and Sailors, St. Mary's, Veteran's Parks
- Small par 3 disc golf course at James-Hendricks Park
- Small building and facilities at Hellenberg Park for a canoe livery
- Handicapped accessible canoe/kayak launch at Mill Race Park
- Basketball court at Munson Park
- New youth ball diamonds at Munson Park
- Handicapped accessible fishing pier at Cappuccilli Park
- Hiking trail at Hellenberg Island
- Handicapped fishing pier at Hellenberg Park
- Hiking trail in Oak Forest Park
- Exercise stations around Munson Park walking trail
- Nature center built from local materials at Munson Park
- Splash Park at Munson Park

- Handicapped canoe/kayak launch at Hellenberg Park
- Replace cooking grills as needed
- Establish pocket gardens at each park
- New drinking fountains at Munson Park
- New backstops and dugout shelters at Munson Park
- Handicapped accessible paved path around back of Munson Park

Don't see your perfect volunteer job? Call us! 734-384-9193

YOUR TIME IS PRECIOUS!

Are you interested in occasional, short term, seasonal, on call, monthly, or ongoing volunteer opportunities? Consider coming with a friend as a team to share a task if you are concerned about time. Grandparents; consider volunteering with your grandchildren!

Examples of one day volunteer opportunities:

- Spring Park Clean up
- Fall Park Clean up

Examples of short term (8 weeks) volunteer opportunities

- Youth ball coach
- Youth ball scorekeeper
- Planting/maintaining flower beds in the parks
- Facility Upkeep/cleaning/painting
- Trail monitor

Examples of long term volunteer opportunities

- City boards
- Office assistant
- Eastern Blue Birds at Munson Park
- Historic Baseball Team

Examples of family friendly volunteer opportunities

- Eastern Bluebirds at Munson Park
- Paint tired structures
- Community Garden Volunteers
- Adopt a Garden Area
- Trail Monitor

Examples of group opportunities

- Trail Maintenance
- Community Garden Volunteers, including planting new flower beds in parks
- Adopt a Garden Area

- Adopt a Street
- Building a park amenity

If you would like to request an application or need more information, please contact Loretta LaPointe at (734) 384-9193 or recreation@monroemi.gov

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY TODAY!

