



**Park District of Ottawa County**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Volunteer Program Provides Opportunities in Park Programming, Conservation**

**Port Clinton, OH, Feb. 23, 2026** – When the Park District of Ottawa County hosted an orientation for its inaugural Volunteer Program last March, park staff were hoping to net at least two or three trustworthy volunteers.

Imagine their surprise when less than a year later, more than 15 dedicated, passionate park advocates stepped up to regularly donate their time and talents to fulfilling the Park District’s mission of “preserving, enhancing, and connecting Ottawa County’s natural and recreational resources for the enjoyment and benefit of all.”

On the heels of that successful inaugural year, the Park District of Ottawa County will host its second Volunteer Orientation to discuss the program in-depth, the various volunteer opportunities available, and continue to expand its growing volunteer roster.

Set to begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at Genoa Branch Library, located at 602 West St. in Genoa, the free, one-hour orientation will provide attendees with more information about the county park district, its mission, and its goals and expectations for the Volunteer Program, approved by the Board of Park Commissioners in December 2024. Light refreshments will be provided and no registration or commitment is required. The Volunteer Program is open to ages 18 and older, and minors with signature of an adult.

Attendees will receive a folder of information that includes a Volunteer Application, waivers, consent forms, and a listing of events and programming the Park District will lead and/or

participate in throughout 2026. Volunteer opportunities in events and programming, and park maintenance are available, and will be discussed in-depth at the upcoming Volunteer Orientation.

In 2025, volunteers collectively performed just shy of 200 hours of service work that ranged from collecting litter at Park District properties, to representing the Park District at local summertime festivals, to assembling monthly nature craft kits, to helping clear brush and debris, to being on-site during “drop-in” office hours, to participating in Guided Walks for the popular Outdoor Hiking Challenge, and much more.

This year, volunteers will be among the first to see and visit the Park District of Ottawa County’s first park, Islander Woods and Trailhead, opening in 2026 in Catawba Island Township. Islander Woods and Trailhead will feature a nature play area, walking trails, a wildlife observation deck over Bob’s Pond, fishing access to Bob’s Pond, picnic tables, a drinking fountain and water bottle fill station, and interpretive signage.

Park District employees Jannah Wilson, executive director, and Sara Hill, administrative specialist, oversee and manage the Volunteer Program.

“Our Park District volunteer coalition has proved to be an incredible asset,” Wilson said. “We are grateful for the continued support we have received from our volunteers from projects such as trail development to public programs. We look forward to expanding our volunteer program into the Western area of Ottawa County as we work to maintain the North Coast Inland Trail and develop other important outdoor recreation amenities.”

More information about the Park District of Ottawa County Volunteer Program can be found at [www.ottawacountyparksoh.org/home/volunteer/](http://www.ottawacountyparksoh.org/home/volunteer/). For questions, contact Administrative Specialist Sara Hill at (419) 635-8212 and/or [shill@ottawacountyparksoh.org](mailto:shill@ottawacountyparksoh.org).

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