

2026-2027 Conservation Collaborative of Central Ohio AmeriCorps Program

Position: AmeriCorps Conservation Steward

About Preservation Parks of Delaware County

Preservation Parks of Delaware County is a public agency managing over 2,500 acres of natural areas, including 13 parks open to the public and 6.5 miles of the Ohio to Erie Trail. Our mission is to protect and conserve the natural and historic features of Delaware County and to inspire outdoor exploration and learning.

This position supports our mission through hands-on conservation and stewardship of Delaware County's natural areas. We are seeking an individual who is passionate about environmental stewardship and eager to make a meaningful impact.

AmeriCorps Program & Position Overview

This is an AmeriCorps Volunteer national service position affiliated with the Conservation Collaborative of Central Ohio. The Conservation Collaborative is an AmeriCorps State program administered by Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and supported by ServeOhio, Ohio's state commission on service and volunteerism. Preservation Parks of Delaware County is one of 9 AmeriCorps Volunteer host sites for this program. Through this position, you will be part of a 17-member cohort for the 2026-2027 program year.

- **Duration:** This position constitutes a Full Time term of AmeriCorps Volunteer national service. You will complete a minimum of 1,700 hours of service over the course of one year (September 9, 2026 – August 31, 2027).
- **Hours:** 7:00 AM–3:00 PM, Monday through Friday. During the summer field season, schedules typically shift to 7:00 AM–5:00 PM, Monday through Thursday. Members are expected to serve 40 hours per week, unless adjusted due to seasonal changes, weather conditions, observed holidays, projects, trainings, or special events. Service may occasionally include evenings, weekends, and holiday events.
- **Reporting Location:** Hogback Ridge Park, 2656 Hogback Road Sunbury, OH 43074. (Note: AmeriCorps Conservation Stewards will complete work in all parks throughout the district).
- **Report to:** Natural Resources Specialist.

Responsibilities

Primary Responsibilities

- **Invasive Species Management:** Primary focus is on invasive plant management projects that include herbicide application, along with maintaining application equipment and records.
- **Habitat Restoration:** Planting, collecting, and processing native seed; native tree planting and care; drain tile management; and prairie management. Includes project preparation, implementation, wrap-up, and record keeping for these activities.
- **Surveys and Photography:** Assist with biotic and habitat surveys and document field activities through photography.
- **Volunteer and Outreach Events:** Assist with planning and implementation of volunteer service days and outreach activities, including supporting event logistics and volunteer coordination.
- **Equipment Maintenance:** Conduct routine maintenance of vehicles and equipment.

Additional Activities to Be Performed

- Assist with maintaining facilities and grounds in the parks to provide a safe and clean environment. Assist with general maintenance, trail, and construction projects.
- Assist with public programming, community events, marketing, social media, and interpretive displays.
- Assist with mapping and spatial data collection to support natural resource management and field projects.
- Support on-the-ground conservation for other program host sites (activities to be preapproved by the program).
- Participate in program-led service days, trainings, and team-building activities.
- Complete timesheets, program reports, and other administrative items as scheduled.
- Participate in ServeOhio sponsored programs and activities.

Minimum Eligibility

- Must be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States.
- Must be at least 17 years of age by start date of service.
- Possession of a high school diploma or GED equivalent certificate.
- Ability to pass a National Service Criminal History Check and any additional background checks, drug screen, and driving record check as determined by organization. (Having a background does not automatically exclude you from the position.)
- Ability to secure transportation to-and-from service sites.
- Possession of a valid driver's license, auto insurance, and reliable personal vehicle to use for service-related activities.



Preferred Skills and Qualifications

- Knowledge of Google Suite.
- Ability to serve outdoors and in adverse weather conditions (heat, cold, insects, poison ivy, etc.).
- Ability to lift 50 pounds and traverse up to 1 mile over uneven terrain, while potentially carrying equipment, tools, and supplies with or without accommodation.
- Ability to operate a broad spectrum of vehicles and equipment including trucks, tractors, ATVs, backpack sprayers, and chainsaws.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Ability to identify or learn common flora and fauna, including invasive plant species.
- Course work or interest related to natural resources, ecology, or botany.

Benefits of the Full Time Term of Service Position

- **Living stipend distributed in equal biweekly payments of \$915 before taxes** (to total up to \$23,790 for the entire term of service). The living stipend will be this same amount irrespective of the number of hours served from pay period to pay period. The living stipend is not considered income for eligibility for government assistance programs (such as SNAP).
- **Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$7,395** (contingent upon completing the 1,700-hour requirement) that can be used toward qualifying student loans and/or future educational expenses (such as tuition, fees, and supplies).
- Access to Volunteer health care and childcare when active in service.
- Personal budgets for Training (\$250), Travel (\$150), and Field Gear (\$200) and a guarantee that at least 10% of service hours are dedicated to professional development activities.
- Access to federal student loan forbearance while actively serving, including forgiveness of interest accrued during service (contingent upon completing the 1,700-hour requirement).
- Full Time AmeriCorps service is considered qualified employment for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.
- Ability to serve alongside environmental professionals and build a career in the environmental field.
- Potential opportunity to renew.



How to Apply

Applications will be accepted June 24 – July 12 and must be submitted using this online form:

<https://arcg.is/0mTPbO>

Please contact the AmeriCorps Coordinator, Abby Thiel (athiel@franklinswcd.org), with any questions.

**Reference Links**

Program Website: <https://www.franklinswcd.org/ameriCorps>

AmeriCorps Website: <https://americorps.gov/>

ServeOhio Website: <https://serve.ohio.gov/home>

Preservation Parks Website: <https://preservationparks.com/>

*Disclaimer: This position constitutes an AmeriCorps Volunteer *national service* opportunity and *not* employment.