



Volunteer Opportunities in Olympia's Parks

1. English Ivy, Scots Broom and Himalayan Blackberries reduce bio-diversity in forests and meadows by crowding out less aggressive species. These invasive species are not the only plants that have become a problem in our parks but since they are covering the most ground and are spreading the fastest, we are focusing our attention first on removing them.
2. Painting wooden playground equipment. We need volunteers who would like to help paint the wooden playground equipment this summer. This is a good project for organizations that need a service project to do.
3. Once the land is cleared of invasive plants, we need help replanting these areas with plants native to the area. Volunteers who would like to plant trees, shrubs and smaller species are needed to not only plant but also to maintain the areas to prevent the invasive plants from taking over again. We also need help keeping track of the areas we have cleared and planted so we can be sure to get back to them for additional planting and maintenance of the areas.

If you would like to get some good exercise and have some fun with other volunteers, come to these work parties and become a good steward of the land.

Many of these volunteer opportunities can be organized into service projects that meet the requirements for advancement in youth groups such as the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts and others. The Volunteer In Parks Coordinator will help you design your own project so you can earn merit badges, the Hornaday Conservation and Natural Resources Award, Eagle Scout or in the case of Girl Scouts, the Gold Award.

The Volunteer In Parks Program provides tools, gloves and other support to make your volunteer experience enjoyable.

Contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Sylvana Niehuser to discuss how you could volunteer your time and talents to improving City of Olympia parks. Sylvana can be reached by e-mail sniehuse@ci.olympia.wa.us or call her at 360-753-8365.