



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

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www.nps.gov/cuva

Watershed Steward: A New Volunteers-in-Parks Opportunity

Background: The stewardship of Cuyahoga Valley National Park resources is a shared responsibility because many of the resources the park protects extend beyond our jurisdictional boundaries.

Land-use decisions made by local communities in the park's watersheds will continue to affect downstream park resources; especially decisions regarding stormwater management, flooding impacts, water quality, and stream health. We actively encourage communities to adopt best land-use practices and protective ordinances to help us preserve these resources for future generations. However, with more than 40 communities in the park's watersheds, effective outreach is difficult. Realistically, park staff can only focus on a few communities or major issues at a time.

To help us promote watershed stewardship principles in park communities we have established a new Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) opportunity—**Watershed Steward**.

VIP Job Description: We are looking for 2-4 volunteers in *each park watershed community*, who would be willing to regularly attend their community's monthly public decision-making meetings (Council/Trustees, Planning Commission, and Board of Zoning Appeals) and, as they become more comfortable with the content, to engage in watershed policy discussions. Stewards would bring major issues to the attention of park staff for possible follow-up. A list and map of these 46 communities are on the web site listed below.

Stewards will also be encouraged to participate in any local watershed group activities that exist in their communities – our goal is to *supplement and enhance* existing watershed protection efforts in order to preserve downstream park resources better.

Program Support: Stewards will receive educational opportunities and reference materials on key aspects of watershed policy, in addition to our usual VIP program support. An email network is available for park staff and Stewards to increase their communication and coordination. A web site promoting these ideas and providing links to resources is already online:

www.nps.gov/cuva/naturescience/watersheds.htm

An informational meeting on this volunteer opportunity will be held on Thursday, **March 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Happy Days Lodge**. After this meeting, we will accept applications and interviews will follow. You do not need to attend this meeting to apply.

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