



**AmeriCorps**  
Ohio



**SERVE OHIO**  
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism

## Trails Assistant

Contact for interested Members: Angela Brodie, NOWCorps AmeriCorps Program Director at [angela@tinkerscreekwatershed.org](mailto:angela@tinkerscreekwatershed.org) or 330-963-6243. Applications preferred by July 22, 2022, but position is open until filled.

Tinker's Creek Watershed Partners (TCWP) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) watershed organization officially established in 2006. Our mission is to protect and restore water quality and habitats of the Tinker's Creek watershed through community partnerships. The Tinker's Creek watershed drains 96.4 square miles and is the largest tributary to the Cuyahoga River. The watershed area spans 24 communities in Cuyahoga, Summit, Portage, and Geauga counties.

Together with our partners, **Cleveland Metroparks** recognizes the importance of maintaining water quality throughout Northern Ohio. We also believe in educating the public and regional leaders to support behavioral changes that positively affect our water resources. The Northern Ohio Watershed Corps (NOWCorps) works with watershed groups, soil and water conservation districts, city and county government offices, and other conservation nonprofits to facilitate outreach, education, capacity building, environmental stewardship, and stormwater management.

**Cleveland Metroparks** is home to 18 park reservations, eight lakefront parks, 300 miles of all-purpose, hiking, biking, and bridle trails, eight golf courses, five nature centers and the nationally acclaimed Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

**AmeriCorps**, a federal agency, brings people together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges, through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. AmeriCorps helps make service to others a cornerstone of our national culture. Learn more at [AmeriCorps.gov](https://www.americorps.gov).

Housing may be available for potential applicants greater than 50 miles from reporting location. If available, housing will be at the cost of \$75 a month, require proof of renter's insurance, and be within a house owned by Cleveland Metroparks.

**Skills and Qualifications:** Must have a high school diploma or GED. Must have a valid driver's license, be insured, and have own transportation; eligible mileage will be reimbursed for service-related travel. Must successfully pass a comprehensive background and criminal investigation check. Must have an interest in or plan to pursue a career in biology, ecology, natural resources, forestry, wildlife management, environmental science, landscape architecture, planning, or similar. Must be in good health and capable of rigorous outdoor activity, including hiking over rough terrain and able to lift and carry 70 pounds. Must be self-motivated and able to work independently and in a team. Experience working with volunteers preferred. Must possess good organizational and communication skills and be

capable of working with little supervision. Usual hours of service will be M-Th. The ability to serve flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends, is needed. Scheduled hours may fluctuate, increase, or decrease in consideration of seasonal changes such as inclement weather or other extended activities.

- Must have valid driver's license
- Excellent field skills, must be able to work in more remote sections of the park, on and off trail, in all weather conditions, independently, if necessary
- Previous trail building experience preferred
- Ability to walk three miles on unimproved surfaces while carting up to 50 lbs. in pack weight
- Ability to use hand and small power tools to complete trail maintenance and improvement projects
- Proficient wayfinding abilities
- Experience with GIS, including entry and application
- Must be willing and able to work flexible hours, weekends, holidays, and evenings as required
- Demonstrated proficiency in software programs including all Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

The NOWCorps member will receive programmatic training in addition to site specific training. Programmatic training is provided monthly and covers a variety of topics. Training content may include, but is not limited to first aid, CPR, volunteer engagement, native species planting techniques, facilitating public involvement, environmental education, minimum control measures, and land management.

Location: ***Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation Management Center, Trails Division, 6100 West Canal Rd., Valley View, OH, 44125***

Reports to: ***Cleveland Metroparks Staff Ralph Protano***

Duties and Responsibilities of the AmeriCorps member serving this role:

*General Member Responsibilities*

- Promote the Northern Ohio Watershed Corps through education and outreach activities
- Enhance skills and knowledge applicable to position through participation in related workshops, conferences, and training
- Plan, Facilitate, and Participate in group service projects for National Days of Service
- Attend all NOWCorps required meetings and trainings
- Complete activity & data reports monthly, required timesheets weekly, and any other reporting in a timely manner in the OnCorps online system
- All other duties as assigned within the limitations of this member description

*Host Site Specific Member Responsibilities*

- Performs unskilled and, as capable, semi-skilled work in a responsible manner; typical duties including but not limited to:
  - Uses hand tools to assist in new trail building and finishing as well as decommissioning of unsustainable trails
  - Assists in the construction of bridges, staircases, retaining walls and boardwalks
  - Assists in the implementation of trail signage and wayfinding throughout the park district

- Organizes and plans volunteer days, trains volunteers in best work skills practices for trail building, and outreach of volunteers
- Assists with routine equipment maintenance particularly sharpening & re-hanging of hand tools
- Supports planning/reporting for trail projects, including data entry & generating maps using GIS
- Works full days under the forest canopy without regular access to amenities
- Working with and around the public and with other divisions of the Cleveland Metroparks while representing park district and division standards

Additional activities that fall within the goals of the program may be assigned with approval of the member, site supervisor, and NOWCorps staff.

Additional information: The Cleveland Metroparks office is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

**Cleveland Metroparks** will adhere to all regulations concerning nondiscrimination and equal opportunity regulations as outlined in federal and state law. This program will be made available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, marital or parental status, genetic information, military service, and religion.

#### *Physical Requirements and Work Environment*

The physical requirements and work environment described here are representative of those that must be met by an individual to successfully perform the essential functions of this position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

This position requires the following:

- manual dexterity sufficient to operate telephones, computers, and other office equipment
- physical ability to kneel, bend, and perform light lifting
- ability to write and speak clearly using the English language to convey information and be able to hear at normal speaking levels both in person and over the telephone
- specific vision abilities required include close vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus

Generally, the working conditions are good with little or no exposure to extremes in health, safety hazards, and/or hazardous materials. This person must have the ability to travel as required to work with Host Site staff/board, volunteers, other members, and the public, participate in conferences and outdoor activities such as but not limited to site visits, volunteer activities, and project meetings.

Benefits: Member position begins October 11, 2022 and ends September 30, 2023. The member will be provided with a mandatory orientation October 11-14, 21, and 28, 2022 and relevant training monthly. This position is a **full-time member** position and requires a minimum of 1,700 hours of service over the service period. The member will receive a stipend of no more than \$20,000.00, and the stipend will be paid biweekly. The member is also eligible for health insurance through this position and may qualify for childcare assistance. If the term of service is completed successfully, the member may be eligible for a **Segal AmeriCorps Education Award** of \$6,495.00. The member will not be an employee of the Cleveland Metroparks and is not entitled to any of the benefits or compensation Cleveland Metroparks provides to its employees.