

Flag Ponds Park Maintenance 2021 Report

Project Leader:

Taylor Williams taylor.williams@calvertcountymd.gov

410-586-1477

Calvert Stewards help maintain and improve our nature parks.

VOLUNTEER DUTIES

Get down to earth! Help clear trails, remove invasive plants, plant trees, maintain gardens, and assist with construction and maintenance projects.

Opportunities can be scheduled on a continuous basis or join one of our designated work days.

REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

- Work independently or in teams
- Remove debris and obstacles from trails
- Repair small boardwalks and piers over wet areas
- Install trail markers and wayfinding signs
- Most work will be performed outside under varying weather conditions.
- Frequent exposure to weather and temperature extremes, noise, dust, and dirt should be expected.
- Work also includes: exposure to poison ivy, ticks, mosquitos, snakes, spiders and other wildlife.

SKILLS NEEDED

- Ability to walk and bend to perform tasks and requires the exertion of moderate to heavy physical effort
- May involve lifting and moving objects up to 50 pounds.

Optional, but Preferred, Skills

- Basic carpentry
- Landscaping

TRAININGS

- Orientation through a workshop, in-person, or via phone to understand the project.
- On-going opportunities to join scheduled projects

EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS & SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Hand tools will be provided. Volunteers can bring their own as well.
- Volunteers provide their own work gloves, water bottles and any necessary trail snacks.

SUMMARY OF 2021 ACTIVITIES

- Trail Monitor: Andrew Miller volunteered as trail monitor/ volunteer park technician most weekends and holidays throughout the year. He monitored the trails, worked with staff to make improvements, assisted with other park maintenance projects as needed, and aided in visitor services. 705 hours
- Trail Monitor: Janet Barnes walked all park trails once a week, cleaning up trash and other debris along the way, and reported major issues or unusual conditions to park staff. 113.5 hours
- Trail Monitor: Warner Family walked park trails weekends throughout the summer, clearing debris and reporting issues to park staff. 25 hours
- Trail Monitor: “Tag along” volunteers that joined other regular trail monitors periodically. 148.5 hours.
- Earth Day Park Clean-up: 79 volunteers attended an Earth Day park clean-up event, removing trash from the beach and surrounding area. 104.5 hours
- Earth Day Landscaping Project: 1 volunteer helped park staff plant native shrubs and forbs around the park entrance. 2 hours
- Fall Landscaping Project: 5 volunteers helped remove invasive stilt grass and replant the area with native flowers and grasses. 10 hours
- Total hours logged: 1,110.5
- Staff involved: Trail monitor efforts coordinated by Taylor Williams, along with Fall Landscaping Project. Ranger Emma McCarthy coordinated park clean-up project. Park Technician Taylor Quinn coordinated Earth Day landscaping project. All staff (Jenny Yoder, Shelley Bailey, Abby Rieve, Connor MacKenzie) assisted volunteers, provided direction, and training as needed.

FUTURE PLANS

- Flag Ponds Trail Building, January 2022
- New Year Beach clean-up, January 1, 2022
- Offer equipment/safety workshops and skills training
- Offer quarterly work days to accomplish projects in the park



Jenny Yoder and volunteers with bags of removed stilt grass and flats of native plants



Taylor Quinn and a volunteer planting native plants at park entrance



Abby Rieve and Andrew Miller planting native plants at park entrance



A family of volunteers at the Earth Day clean-up event

Supporting Calvert County's nature parks and natural spaces



CALVERT STEWARDS

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

A partnership between Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division

2021 Annual Report

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CALVERT STEWARDS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
c/o Natural Resources Division
2880 Grays Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
(410) 535-5327

Volunteer Portal: <https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com/>

Calvert Nature Society: www.calvertparks.org

Calvert County Natural Resources Division:
www.calvertcountymd.gov/NaturalResources

