

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Overview

The Johnson Creek Volunteer Parks Naturalist program is a partnership between the Johnson Creek Watershed Council (JCWC) Volunteer Program and Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) Johnson Creek Watershed Natural Areas Stewardship Program. The purpose of the program is to assist JCWC and PP&R with collecting and reporting up-to-date and accurate information about what is happening in our natural areas. Parks Naturalists act as “eyes and ears”—reporting issues of concern or wildlife sightings—and as ambassadors, interacting positively with neighbors and visitors on site. Parks Naturalists also keep our natural areas clean through periodic litter patrol.

Expectations

Parks Naturalists are expected to:

- Attend required trainings and events
- Visit your site each month
- Interact positively with other park visitors and staff
- Complete the online Volunteer Parks Naturalist report form
- Report camps and dumpsites to the PP&R Rangers or RID
- Report feedback provided by other park visitors

Park Naturalists may also:

- Keep an observation log (lists) or other writings (poems, etc.) in a Naturalist notebook
- Photograph wildlife, flowers, plants or other observations
- Photograph from a particular location each visit, to document seasonal and annual site changes
- Document common and uncommon flora and fauna into the specified iNaturalist project
- Create a Bird list and post on eBird

Program Team Members

- **JCWC Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator – Courtney Beckel**
Recruits Volunteer Parks Naturalists, manages Volunteer Parks Naturalist Report forms, implements the end-of-year volunteer survey and JCWC volunteer recognition event. Together with PP&R Stewardship Coordinator, jointly implements the Volunteer Parks Naturalist Training and the Summer Volunteer Parks Naturalist Potluck.
- **PP&R Johnson Creek Watershed Stewardship Coordinator – Susan Hawes**
Your PP&R point-of-contact. Ensures that Report Form and iNat content is directed to appropriate PP&R staff for follow-up. Together with JCWC Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, jointly implements the Volunteer Parks Naturalist Training and the Summer Volunteer Parks Naturalist Potluck.
- **PP&R Ecologist – Christian Haaning**
Designates natural area location and scope of project for Volunteer Parks Naturalists. Works with PP&R staff to implement follow-up to Parks Naturalist reports.
- **Volunteer Stewards – You!**
Visits assigned site and reports observations.