



## Volunteers-In-Parks Service Description

**Position Title:** Piscataway Park Steward



### About the Accokeek Foundation

The Accokeek Foundation is a non-profit park partner organization dedicated to stewarding the land and educating the next generation. By actively working to cultivate passion for the cultural heritage of Piscataway Park, the Accokeek Foundation serves more than 100,000 park visitors every year while providing multi-disciplinary educational programming, careful stewardship of the Indigenous cultural landscape, and public outreach.

### About National Capital Parks - East:

The administrative National Park Service unit of National Capital Parks – East (NACE) contains fourteen park units and parkways, including Piscataway Park. The overall unit consists of 98 locations and over 8,000 acres of recreation areas, historic homes, natural areas, farms, parkways, historic forts, archeological sites, and private properties. The sites provide important green and recreation space amongst dense urbanization and educate visitors through stories and the historical information related to the area.

### Position Summary:

The Accokeek Foundation is seeking volunteers to support vital stewardship efforts to care for the abundance of culturally significant plants, animals, and waters throughout Piscataway Park. Volunteers serving as Piscataway Park Stewards will support the Accokeek Foundation's work to sustain mutually beneficial habitats and cultivate passion for the Indigenous cultural landscape of Piscataway Park through citizen science, shoreline cleanups, invasive plant management, and heritage livestock and plant care.

Volunteer tasks may include:

- Monitoring and Documenting Land (plant health, animal health, species counts, bluebird boxes, plant identification)
- Caring for plants and animals (watering, feeding, tending, health care, cleaning, weeding, pest removal, installing new plants)
- Careful use and upkeep/repair of infrastructure (fencing, gates, compost bins, tools, supplies, walkways, barn, barnyard, pasture)
- Disposing of unwanted materials (invasive plants, shoreline trash, visitor litter, cleaning pathways)
- Gardening (planting, watering, and tending plants; keeping pathways and gardens weed free/accessible; staking and trellising; maintaining compost bins; harvesting, processing, and saving seed; maintaining tools, and educating visitors)
- Lifting loads up to 50 lbs. (feed, hay, straw, etc.).
- Interacting with visitors (answering questions, sharing what you're work on, connecting visitors to staff and further resources)
- Event support and other applicable duties as assigned (event preparation, setup and takedown, admission/food sales, visitor counting, parking supervision/guidance, activity supervision, skill/art demonstration, providing programming and customer service)

**Physical Requirements of Work:**

- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds
- Ability to stand and walk for moderate to long amounts of time in outdoor environments

**Qualifications** (knowledge, skills, experience, ability):

All skill levels and experience accepted, as a variety of projects will be available. No previous experience is necessary, but volunteers must be comfortable working outdoors. Materials and tools will be provided. Some lifting may be required. Experience with data collection, animal care, plant care, organization and machinery are a plus. Volunteers must be able to communicate questions, follow instructions and training, and work in areas where visitors may be present.

**Required training, certifications, or licenses:**

Must participate in position orientation and training provided by volunteer supervisor before start of service.

**Time Requirements:**

Volunteer opportunities are available throughout the year and will be scheduled based on need/projects. Regular volunteers will develop a schedule with the shift supervisor for shiftwork, and one-time volunteers will attend a 'project day' or volunteer call for support.

**Location of Position:**

Piscataway Park

**Supervisory Controls:**

Volunteers will work under the guidance of Risharda Harley, Pam Brumbley, Val Proctor, Robby Adams, Jeff Fredrick

**Personal Property and Reimbursements:**

All supplies will be provided, and no use of personal equipment is necessary. No reimbursements authorized.

**Benefits:**

Volunteers will also receive a 10% discount at the museum gift shop and Visitor Center. Volunteers will also be enrolled in the National Park Service – wide Volunteers – In – Park (VIP) program by signing volunteer service agreements. The VIP program protects those volunteering on National Park Service land in case of accident or injury through the Federal Employees' Compensation Act and the Federal Tort Claims Act. Additionally, for every 250 hours served, volunteers are eligible to receive the America the Beautiful interagency pass which covers entrance fees to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites, including national parks and wildlife refuges, for one year.