



Volunteer Position Description: Garlic Mustard Mapping

Report To: Regional Natural Resource Steward

Goal of Position: Reduce the spread of garlic mustard, an invasive non-native plant, by documenting where it occurs, to what extent it has spread, and checking previously treated sites. We hope to gather additional information like the quality of the natural community they are occurring in, density of infestation, and other features whenever possible.

Timeframe: Early April thru June (ideally mid April to mid May)

Time Required: Time varies by your location and the site you are surveying, but please plan for a minimum of 5-10 hrs per site.

Equipment Needed: GPS unit, aerial map (or park map/brochure), markers/highlighters, and flagging (provided by Stewardship Unit, as needed).

Position Requirements:

- Ability to work independently.
- Know how to identify garlic mustard in various growth stages.
- Record all locations with a GPS unit. If GPS is not available, locations may be recorded using highlighters or markers on park brochures and/or aerial photos.
- Dispose of garlic mustard appropriately, if pulled.
- Complete and email required project paperwork and data by July 31st.
- Ability to comfortably walk/hike long distances occasionally, depending on site.
- Ability to work in variable, sometimes adverse site conditions (biting insects, mud, etc.)

Training Required:

- Learn how to identify garlic mustard plants. Plant identification information will be provided.
- Beginning Mappers will need to attend an organized workday first.
- Attend Stewardship Unit mapping training to learn how to capture GPS points.

How will a volunteer benefit from this position?

Volunteer Stewards can take pride in protecting our natural resources for future generations! Individual volunteers also have the flexibility to do so on their own schedule while enjoying fresh air, exercise and the reward of protecting our native landscapes. Volunteers will assist the DNR in natural resource management and become more familiar with their favorite parks and recreation areas while gaining valuable experience.

How will this help our state parks and recreation areas?

By documenting existing locations of garlic mustard, volunteers help us identify and prioritize work locations for restoration. This limits the spread of invasive, non-native plants and preserves native ecosystems. The Stewardship Unit focuses on restoration in Michigan's unique ecosystems and preservation of our native species. Volunteers can have a big impact on sustaining these natural resources for future generations to enjoy.