

What is a DEAPR Park and Conservation Steward?

Site Steward Qualifications

- Willing to monitor Orange County parks or preserves and gain a thorough knowledge and appreciation of the properties
- Willing and able to learn about diverse sites and good land stewardship practices
- Willing to perform duties of a Park and Conservation Steward as described below
- Willing to attend site specific training provided by DEAPR staff

Site Steward Responsibilities

- General property surveillance and observation
- Document any problems or potential problems (e.g., invasive species, pests and disease, downed or hanging trees across trails, encroachment from adjacent properties, trespassing, etc.)
- Remove any manageable trash and debris from the property
- Document unusual plant and animal sightings
- Assist DEAPR staff with boundary maintenance, if requested
- Assist DEAPR staff with field work, such as boundary maintenance, invasive species removal, plant surveys, trail construction/maintenance, plant and animal inventories, wildlife habitat improvement (*)
- Help serve as a liaison with neighbors and DEAPR staff
- Help recruit additional and replacement Site Stewards, if needed
- Wear DEAPR identification at all times while on site
- Weapons of any kind (except pocket knives) are prohibited from Orange County parks and preserves—concealed or otherwise

** Will occur only on specific properties and under staff supervision*

PARK AND CONSERVATION STEWARD RESPONSIBILITIES

GENERAL TASK LIST

1) Monitor the Property

Frequency: At least four times a year; preferably once per season (quarterly)

Reporting: Fill out a monitoring report for each site visit and send to DEAPR

2) Inspect boundaries

- Maintain and replace boundary markers as needed
- Note on monitoring report any sign of encroachment (e.g., removal/addition of vegetation, rocks, fences, signs, trash dump, shed, invasive exotic plants near/across boundary).
- Document any encroachment with photographs

3) Remove litter

- Pick up and remove litter from the site; if too large a quantity, note and locate on report. Recycle trash when appropriate
- Make particular note of dumping. If there is any evidence of the responsible party document evidence with notes and photographs
- Contact DEAPR staff to organize workdays for cleanup, if necessary

4) Inspect site for invasive species, pests, and disease

- Note on monitoring report any observable nonnative invasive species, signs and symptoms of pests and disease, and any other potential indication of effect of such to the natural environment within the bounds of County lands
- Consult with staff for field identification and confirmation, discuss options for timely removal/treatment options
- Assist DEAPR staff to organize workdays for removal of invasive species, if necessary
- Removal and/or management of invasive species, pests, or disease, shall only be conducted under the advisement and supervision of County staff, and only by methods approved by the same

5) Inspect trails, bridges, parking areas, roads and other facilities on the property

- Immediately report any problematic dead/dying trees, erosion, or other potential threat to visitors and/or significant resources
- Note any hazard(s) and any action(s) you have taken on the inspection report
- Site Stewards should not remove trees, branches or other potential threats, unless branches are blocking a trail, and can easily be moved

6) Inspect the site for habitat damage and removal of rocks, soil, wood, plants, etc.

- Note evidence and location of any property or habitat damage on the monitoring report; notify DEAPR staff of any damage that requires immediate attention
- Attempt to identify responsible parties
- Report evidence of unauthorized hunting, shooting, etc. to the DEAPR staff

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- Report any evidence of camping activity to DEAPR staff. Camping and fires are prohibited on the property.
- If off-road vehicles (including bicycles) are prohibited on the property. Attempt to identify responsible parties and note on the monitoring report. If caught in the act, use friendly persuasion to discourage these activities.
- Report and locate on the monitoring report any attempts to create new trails or any areas disturbed outside of designated trails or use areas. Visitors should remain on designated trails and roads.

NOTE: Tasks for individual sites are provided on a separate task list