

Become Involved

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Where are you interested in being an Urban EcoSteward?

- Frick Park
- Highland Park
- Riverview Park
- Schenley Park
- Nine Mile Run Watershed
- Grand View Scenic Byway Park
- Other: _____

Are you interested in being involved:

- as an individual
 - as a Group
- How large is your group? _____

How did you hear about the program?

Please mail or fax to:

Urban EcoSteward Coordinator
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
2000 Technology Drive, Suite #300
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Fax: 412 622 0160

For more information about becoming an Urban EcoSteward, contact one of the following organizations:



412 682 7275
info@pittsburghparks.org
www.pittsburghparks.org



412 422 6538
kathryn.hunninen@city.pittsburgh.pa.us



412 371 8779
info@ninemilerun.org
www.ninemilerun.org



412 481 3220
imanspeizer@mwc dc.org
www.mwc dc.org



**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE
URBAN ECOSYSTEMS
THROUGH
CITIZEN STEWARDSHIP**

Have you always wanted to learn how to take care of that special piece of green space in your life?

Become an Urban EcoSteward!

Background

Volunteers have an invaluable role in the protection of our urban green spaces. Urban EcoStewards take on the long-term stewardship of a section of green space and work to improve the natural value of that space. This can entail removing invasive plants, planting native plants, controlling erosion and spreading the word to passers-by about the value of these activities.



Photo: Kerry Gaydos

Urban Ecology Collaborative

The Urban EcoSteward program is part of the work of the Urban Ecology Collaborative of Pittsburgh. This is the local branch of a six-city effort with a mission to cultivate healthy, safe and vibrant cities through collective learning and united action. In Pittsburgh, EcoStewards work under the supervision of staff from the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association, the Frick Environmental Center, or the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation.



Photo: Jake Milofsky

Training

This program is special due to the fact that volunteers not only monitor issues on their site, but they are also actively involved in correcting them. In preparation for this work, Urban EcoStewards receive one-on-one training on their site and attend group trainings on relevant issues.

Training is voluntary and includes workshops on the following topics:

- Invasive plant identification
- Invasive plant removal techniques
- Spring wildflower identification
- Erosion Control
- Native shrub and tree identification
- Native seed collection



Photo: Janet Pazzynski

Site Visits

Urban EcoStewards are encouraged to visit their site as often as feasible through the year, but we require three site visits each year. Depending on your site, this could involve:

1. Mid-April to mid-May:
 - Initial site assessment
 - Garlic mustard removal
 - Spring plantings
 - Spring wildflowers identification
2. Early - late June:
 - Annual monitoring visit
 - Japanese knotweed management
 - Garlic mustard and non-native shrub removal
3. September - October:
 - Native seed collection and fall plantings
 - Continue invasive plant removal

Monitoring

Monitoring the progress of work done at each Urban EcoSteward site is an integral part of the program. Urban EcoStewards record the presence or absence of targeted invasive species, and the condition of any erosion on the site.

If your high school science classes or environmental clubs are interested in this program, more in-depth monitoring protocols can also be used.