



Ganaraska Forest Trail Maintenance Volunteer Recommended 40 hours per year

The Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) has developed a Ganaraska Forest Trail Maintenance (GFTM) volunteer opportunity to support the GRCA Ganaraska Forest trail recovery efforts, following the 2022 Derecho Storm and to engage in future volunteer trail maintenance activities.

This opportunity is open to volunteers, over 16 years of age working in groups of two or three, on GRCA mapped trails within the Ganaraska Forest as displayed while using GRCA's web mapping application. Persons under 18 must have a guardian present to participate and the guardian must be a volunteer.

All volunteers must participate in any training provided by GRCA, have and wear their own valid applicable personal protective equipment at all times while in the Ganaraska Forest and during the training event.

Once a volunteer has undergone the initial in person training and supervised practice session, provided by GRCA staff, volunteers will then work unsupervised with other trained volunteers in groups of two or three to complete the volunteer tasks outlined below.

Application Criteria

1. Individuals must be 16 years of age or older. Individuals under 18 must have a guardian present to participate and the guardian must be a volunteer
2. Individuals must have and wear their own valid applicable personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times while undertaking volunteer tasks. The required PPE is listed below.

Summary of Tasks

1. Remove tree debris such as branches and cut logs from the trail surface.
2. Identify and record trail blockages using web-based applications.
3. Remove trail blockages less than one meter high from the trail surface and less than 10 cm in diameter.

Please Note:

- Chainsaws **CANNOT** be utilized to remove a blockage.
- Areas where this volunteer work may occur may be areas that have **NOT** been inspected or deemed safe by GRCA staff prior to volunteer entry.

Summary of Qualifications

- Familiarity with the Ganaraska Forest trail network is an asset.
- Able to hike 2 to 12 kilometres of recreational trail, which is diverse in terrain (trail width, slope, tread conditions).
- Able to hike in all seasonal conditions while wearing required personal protective equipment and carrying equipment.
- Able to lift and move up to 50 pounds.
- Able to use tree-cutting tools other than a chainsaw.

- Able to use web-based applications on personal devices.
- Undertake tasks with one or two other approved volunteers.
- Must be able to work safely in accordance with all GRCA Health and Safety requirements.

Equipment and Materials

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - a. **Volunteer must provide and wear valid PPE at all times:**
 - i. CSA approved boot, gloves, type 2 class E hard hat, safety glasses or goggles, hi-vis safety vest.
 - b. Volunteer must wear long pants and weather appropriate clothing.
2. Equipment
 - a. **Volunteer must supply:**
 - i. A cellular device (does not require cellular data) to:
 1. Record information on web-based applications.
 2. Track their location on a mapping web application.
 3. Communicate with others including 911.
 4. Use What 3 Words application to support emergency services.
 - ii. Tree cutting devices other than a chainsaw to remove trail blockages.
3. Volunteers should have water, food and their own first aid kit available when undertaking tasks.

Commitment

1. Minimum 4 hours a day is suggested with a commitment of undertaking 40 hours.
2. Flexibility in number of days per week or month.
3. Activity can occur year-round.

Training

A one-day mandatory GRCA led training session is required in order to participate. Topics will include:

1. Learn how to use Quick Capture and mapping web application - instructions for download to be provided.
2. Learn how to undertake trail maintenance activities.
3. Complete health, safety, personal protective equipment and hazard training.
4. Complete in class and in field learning components.

To apply, please complete the Ganaraska Forest Trail Maintenance Volunteer Application and send it to the email address provided on the Application form. Applications are due by March 1, 2023.

We thank all applicants for their interest. However, only those candidates selected for the volunteer program will be contacted.

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