



Volunteer with Friends of the Carp Hills

The Value of One, The Power of Many.

Trail Steward

Friends of the Carp Hills (FCH) have opportunities for volunteers to participate in trail stewardship of the Crazy Horse Trail and Carp Barrens Trail. We are looking for people who would like to contribute to the sustainability of the Carp Hills and who will be committed to learning and to carrying out their responsibilities, hopefully over many years.

As a trail steward, you will enjoy the trails from a new perspective. You will learn more about the Carp Hills and help care for the trails in a sustainable way. Your work will have an impact on the trail experience of others and on the health of the area's ecology for future generations.

You will monitor trail conditions and record issues using a checklist. You will also act as an "ambassador" on the trail, representing Friends of the Carp Hills in a friendly manner when engaging with trail users. You will answer questions, provide directions, and offer basic information about the trail and its ecology.

Our current plan is to assign people to one trail in a year so that they develop knowledge of the trail and its issues. Volunteers may indicate a trail preference, but we may need to ask a volunteer to make another choice based on where we need the most help.

Monitoring on the Carp Barrens requires more time commitment, adherence to a monitoring schedule, use of a more stringent monitoring protocol, and more knowledge about the trail and ecology.

FCH will recognize the significant achievement of volunteers who become proficient stewards of both trails. Senior Trail Stewards will have at least one year of stewardship experience on each trail. They will be able to demonstrate competent monitoring of both trails and knowledge about them and their ecology.

Preparation:

- You will develop a basic knowledge of a trail and its ecology by studying the information on the web site. A list of references will be provided.
- You will receive training from an FCH board member, who will conduct at least one practice monitoring visit with you to provide guidance and information and answer your questions.

Activities:

- Wear a yellow vest and name tag to show association with Friends of the Carp Hills. FCH will provide these.
- Use a checklist to record appropriate use of the trail and adjacent area.
 - Identify areas with issues using GPS coordinates.
 - You may need to take photos.
- Provide the checklist report (with photos if needed) to the Trail Coordinator via email.
- Interact with people on the trail who ask questions and engage them in conversation.
- Keep up-to-date with current trail issues and activities.
- (Optional) Interact with people whose activities may be in violation of the trail rules (e.g. dog issues, off-trail exploration, collecting plants, etc).

Time Commitment:

- This will depend on your available time, the season, and the number of volunteers we call upon.
- We anticipate that walking a trail once a month, taking notes and photos, and submitting a report will take approximately 4 hours.
- Trail stewardship is conducted in all seasons, but there is more activity spring through fall.
- Monitoring on the Carp Barrens requires adherence to a schedule and more stringent protocol.

It is helpful if you:

- enjoy nature and physical activity;
- can devote at least 4 hours per month;
- are able to walk the entire trail;
- are comfortable engaging people in a friendly manner;
- can communicate effectively about the trail;
- have a desire to learn about the trail and its ecology;
- have a camera and GPS location equipment (this may be your smart phone);
- can submit a checklist and photos via email and using cloud storage like Dropbox or Google Drive.

If you're interested in learning more, please contact us at: info@carphills.com.

Tell us why you're interested and how you would like to contribute.