

Grafton Lakes State Park

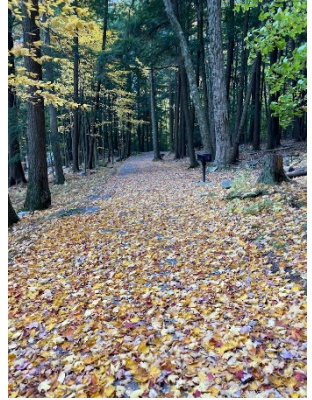
Volunteer Trail Ambassador

CATEGORY: Trained

SUPERVISOR: Volunteer Coordinator

LOCATION: On-site

Located on the Rensselaer Plateau, Grafton Lakes State Park consists of over 2,500 acres and over 25 miles of trails. The park is home to six ponds, serves as a sanctuary for nocturnal mammals, and includes diverse ecosystems. In addition to ecological significance, the park is an invaluable open space recreational and educational resource complete with a fire tower, 1,000-foot beach, and opportunities for boating and fishing. Trails in the park serve a wide variety of user groups including mountain bikers, hikers, horse-back riders, and snowmobile riders.



SUMMARY:

The Volunteer Trail Ambassadors are a friendly face out on the trails. Their main duty is to inform patrons about park opportunities such as other great hiking trails, environmental fun facts, events, programs, and volunteer opportunities. While hiking, trail ambassadors should be taking note of any hazardous trees or limbs while removing any light garbage or branches on the trail. Volunteers in this position are not expected to enforce rules or tell off rule breakers but are welcome to remind patrons of our rules of the trail. Serious offences should be reported to the volunteer coordinator (or another park employee or the park police if urgent). Volunteer Trail Ambassadors will annually adopt a trail or a loop (any length) which they commit to hiking once a month May-Sept. Volunteer Trail Ambassadors are encouraged to include other trails during their volunteer time or on other days.

DUTIES:

- Clear small, downed logs, light garbage, and other debris from trails
- Chat with patrons about upcoming park events, programs, other good hiking trails or environmental fun facts
- Carry and hand out brochures, trail maps, flyers, etc.
- Hike adopted trail or loop of choice monthly May-Sept (actual day is completely up to volunteer and can vary)
- Provide assistance and attend volunteer open house if possible
- Maintain strong communication with the volunteer coordinator of any trail or patron concerns

REQUIREMENTS:

- Successfully complete all volunteer trainings
- Must have access to a phone or email and a reliable source of transportation
- Environmental knowledge is not required
- Love for hiking, pride in overseeing adopted trail or loop
- Excellent interpersonal skills and a positive, outgoing attitude
- Work requires mild to moderate physical exertion (although can be modified to be handicap accessible)

For more information, or to apply, please contact:

Tamara Beal, Environmental Educator and Volunteer Coordinator
254 Grafton Lakes State Park Grafton, NY 12082
518-279-1155 or graffonlakesvolunteers@parks.ny.gov