

Forbes State Forest Trail Steward Program

The Trail Steward Program is a volunteer opportunity for individuals who want to assess, monitor, and implement trail improvements on specific trail(s) on Forbes State Forest. Individuals can adopt one or more trails to be routinely monitored and maintained throughout the year. This alternative volunteer opportunity will provide forest staff and management with insight on trail maintenance needs, while also providing forest visitors with quality trails to use in Forbes State Forest. Be the eyes and ears of the forest to help us improve recreation opportunities for all!

Trail Steward responsibilities include:

- Monitor adopted trail at least 2 times (3 times preferred – spring, summer, and fall) during the year and completing individual trail assessment forms per each individual assessment.
- Trail assessments and volunteer hours will be reported to the environmental education specialist – volunteer hours will also need to be recorded in the DCNR conservation volunteer database.
- Work alongside other forest staff and/or volunteers to implement trail improvement projects on adopted section of trail.

Guidelines for the Trail Steward include:

- Individuals must attend a Trail Steward training session that will take place after applications are reviewed and approved. Dates and Times for this training are TBD based on number of applicants and interest.
- Trail Stewards must be registered as a DCNR conservation volunteer and must fill out and submit a Trail Steward application to forestry staff.
 - All Trail Stewards must be preapproved by our forest staff through an easy application process.
- Trail stewards **MUST** receive pre-approval from Forbes State Forest staff prior to starting any trail improvement projects.
- Trail Stewards are **NOT**, under any circumstances, permitted to fell live, standing trees. Chainsaw use is **ONLY** permitted if the steward has taken Forbes State Forest's chainsaw training course and **ONLY** small, downed trees are permitted to be cut.
 - For safety, we encourage chainsaw use only when with another person. PPE must be used.
- Trail Stewards must wear PPE at all times if using tools and equipment for trail maintenance – this includes eye protection, work gloves, long pants, ear protection (if applicable), chainsaw chaps (if applicable), hard hat and face guard (if applicable).
- Trail Stewards must be at least 18 years old to participate in this program.

How can YOU become a Trail Steward?

- Fill out a Trail Steward application and submit to rmahony@pa.gov or mail to Attn: Rachael Mahony, PO Box 519, Laughlintown, PA 15655.
- If application is accepted, sign up to become a DCNR conservation volunteer at <https://www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us/VolunteerApplication.aspx>
- Attend Trail Steward training session – dates/times TBD.

Trail Steward Application

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

I agree to fulfill my duties as a Trail Steward and to only work on the trails that I've agreed upon. I will follow the guidelines for a Trail Steward; submit trail assessments in agreed upon timeframe, get pre-approval for any trail improvement projects, and log my volunteer hours into the DCNR conservation volunteer database.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please place a checkmark next to the trail(s) interested in adopting:

- Beam Run Trail
- Bill Alberts Trail
- Black Bear Trail
- Fish Run Trail
- Grove Run Trail
- Hemlock Trail
- Hobblebush Trail
- Lippos Loop
- Loop Trail
- Outcrop Trail
- Rocky Gap Trail
- Silvermine Trail
- Spruce Run Trail
- Summit Trail
- Towhee Trail
- Wolf Rocks Loop
- Wolf Rocks Trail
- Hillside Trail
- Jones Mill Run Trail
- Lookout Trail (includes Lookout Loop)
- McKenna Trail
- North Loop Trail
- Painter Rock Trail
- Roaring Run Trail
- South Loop Trail
- Tower Road Trail
- Mountain Streams Trail
- Hidden Valley Trail
- North Woods Trail
- Mountain View Loop
- Shafer Run Loop
- Trail Loop

Other Trail(s) _____

Why do you want to become a Forbes State Forest Trail Steward? _____